

New passenger cars June 2022

Challenging first half of the year for Swiss car market

Bern, 1 July 2022

Ukraine war, chip crisis, shortage of raw materials: these are just three of the numerous challenges that the automotive market in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein had to face in the first half of 2022. With 109,600 newly registered passenger cars after six months, the decline compared to the previous year's figure of 124,547 was at least limited to 12 percent. That the problems are far from over is shown above all by the market trend in June, with a drop of 18.2 percent to 21,277 registrations (previous year: 26,005). Every fourth passenger car that has hit the roads since the beginning of the year can be charged via the power grid - an expansion of the charging infrastructure and a permanent safeguarding of the power supply are urgently indicated.

"The half-year balance is anything but satisfactory. However, due to the challenging circumstances, it could well have been even worse." This is how auto-suisse media spokesman Christoph Wolnik sums up developments in the Swiss car market in the first six months of 2022. "Unfortunately, we will still have to deal with various problems for some time, first and foremost the terrible war in Ukraine. Above all, we hope for peace soon." The supply of the factories with many vendor parts, also from Ukraine, is still problematic, Wolnik continued. Customers who are waiting hopefully for their ordered vehicle could only be asked for patience.

Market share of plug-in vehicles grows faster than charging infrastructure

About one in four new cars put on the road in the first half of the year can drive electric at least some of the time. Battery-electric vehicles accounted for 17,992 or 16.4 percent of new registrations. 9,421 or 8.6 percent are plug-in hybrids. A year ago, the number and market share of new electric cars was significantly lower at 12,319 and 9.9 per cent respectively.

"Unfortunately, the growth in public charging infrastructure cannot keep up with the percentage increases in plug-in vehicles," says Albert Rösti, president of auto-suisse. He also said that the current discussion about a possible electricity shortage as early as next winter is discouraging many customers from ordering an electric model. "This is all the more regrettable as our members have shown what would be possible in terms of market growth for e-models by achieving the 2021 average CO₂ targets," Rösti concluded. The Swiss automotive industry does not seem to be running out of challenges any time soon.

The detailed figures by brand are available at www.auto.swiss.

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