



Good day,

The vehicle sales statistics for April 2019 show that total unit sales are down by 10 units (-1.07%) on a monthly basis, totaling 926 units. On year-on-year basis, vehicle sales posted growth for the first time in six months at 12.2%. Long term contractions persist as total units sold year-to-date are 618 fewer compared to the same period last year. However, signs of short-term recovery are visible as the three-month moving average has been trending upward since the start of the year and now stands at 868 units.

The two largest categories for sales, passenger vehicles and light commercial vehicles, are up year-on-year, by 24.4% and 2.8% respectively. Light commercial vehicles recorded year-on-year growth for the first time in ten months.

Last month saw a substantial increase in vehicle acquisitions by rental companies; who bought 5, 6, and 48 units in the first three months of 2019 and bought a further 160 units in April alone. Year-to-date purchases for rental companies now stand at 219 units, 100 units fewer than the corresponding period last year.

The fiscal consolidation drive by Government has had adverse impacts on vehicle sales. Government is yet to purchase new vehicles this year, with the last purchase on record being a single unit purchased in November 2018. Fiscal consolidation was introduced mid-2016 with the budget for new vehicles subsequently being cut by 63.8% in FY2015/16, with further cuts of 75.1% and 75.9% in FY2016/17 and FY2017/18 respectively.

A short-term improvement in economic activities might be on the cards as total commercial vehicles posted 2.2% year-on-year growth after a four-month contraction.

Growth and sales by category:

- Passenger Vehicles: 10.0% m/m and 24.4% y/y (464 units)
- Light Commercial Vehicles: -15.5% m/m and 2.8% y/y (408 units)
- Medium Commercial Vehicles: 6.7% m/m and -36.0% y/y (16 units)
- Heavy Commercial Vehicles: -25.0% m/m and -14.3% y/y (6 units)
- Extra-Heavy Vehicles (XHV): 271.4% m/m and 23.8% y/y (26 units)
- Buses (BUS): 500.0% m/m and 200.0% y/y (6 units)

