

The caravanning market is growing in Europe

New registrations of recreational vehicles in Europe have risen by 1.5 percent

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The European market for recreational vehicles rose slightly in the first half of 2005 according to the first estimates of the European Caravan Federation (ECF) . The total market for recreational vehicles rose by 1.5 percent to 126,108 units. This consisted of approximately 51,128 new registrations of motor caravans which increased significantly by 7.5 percent in comparison with the same period in the previous year. The ECF has calculated a slight downturn in the caravan market, however. It showed a downturn of 2.3 percent at 74,980 newly registered caravans.

The half-year status report for touring motor caravans in Europe is on a positive note. The three largest motor caravan markets - Germany, France and Italy - turned in positive registration figures as in the past. The strongest growth rate of these three countries was achieved by the French market, with touring vehicle sales rising by 14.5 percent to approximately 13,000 vehicles in the first half of 2005. The German market increased by 4.9 percent to 14,195 vehicles and the Italian motor caravan market nonetheless by 1.1 percent to approximately 9,800 vehicles.

The downturn of 2.3 percent in the caravan sector was mainly attributable to the results in The Netherlands, Great Britain and Germany. Sales in The Netherlands receded sharply by 15.7 percent to approximately 13,400 units. With a small downturn of 1.9 percent, the market in Great Britain also terminated its strong growth phases of the last few years and stabilized at approximately 18,700 newly registered caravans. The German caravan market which has been showing slightly negative figures since February

2005 again showed a positive development in June 2005 with a plus of 10.8 percent. But this was not sufficient to turn the half-yearly results into a positive position for the whole period. 14,185 newly registered caravans in the first six months of 2005 denotes a slight downturn of 1.8 percent on the German caravan market

The caravan market in Europe has grown consistently since 2001 and increased its volume by almost 17 percent up to 2004. The market for touring vehicles in Europe has increased by more than 27 percent in the last five years.

Photographs and additional information on caravanning are to be found under www.civd.de