

# PRESS RELEASE

9:30 GMT, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018

London, UK

## EUROPEAN CAR MARKET REGISTERS BEST H1 PERFORMANCE OF THE CENTURY, AS SUVs CONTINUE TO DRIVE GROWTH

- **8.66 million cars were registered between January and June 2018**
- **VW Group is now the top-selling SUV maker in Europe**
- **The SUV boom shows no signs of slowing down, with volume up by 24%**

The European car market is more dynamic than ever before, recording its best H1 performance of the century. There were 8.6 million car registrations between January and June – a year on year increase of 2.7%. Despite uncertainty in the UK, where the market was down 6.3% on H1 2017, the growth recorded in Germany, France and Spain allowed the overall market to keep growing. But it was the positive economic situation across the continent that boosted results, as midsize markets like the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden all posted increases, and smaller markets like Hungary, Greece, Romania, Croatia and Lithuania similarly posted significant increases.

The growth is also a result of car makers continuing to launch new models – giving consumers more choice than ever before. “It was certainly a good first half for the European market and this is due to the choice that consumers now have. Car makers continue to update and modernise their traditional models, while the range of SUVs on offer continues to grow and appeal to all kinds of budgets and needs. The diesel crisis certainly affected the speed of growth in the market, but consumers are overcoming this by turning to more attractive gasoline and AFV solutions,” explains Felipe Munoz, JATO’s global analyst.

### Europe-27 Car Regs.

## H1-18



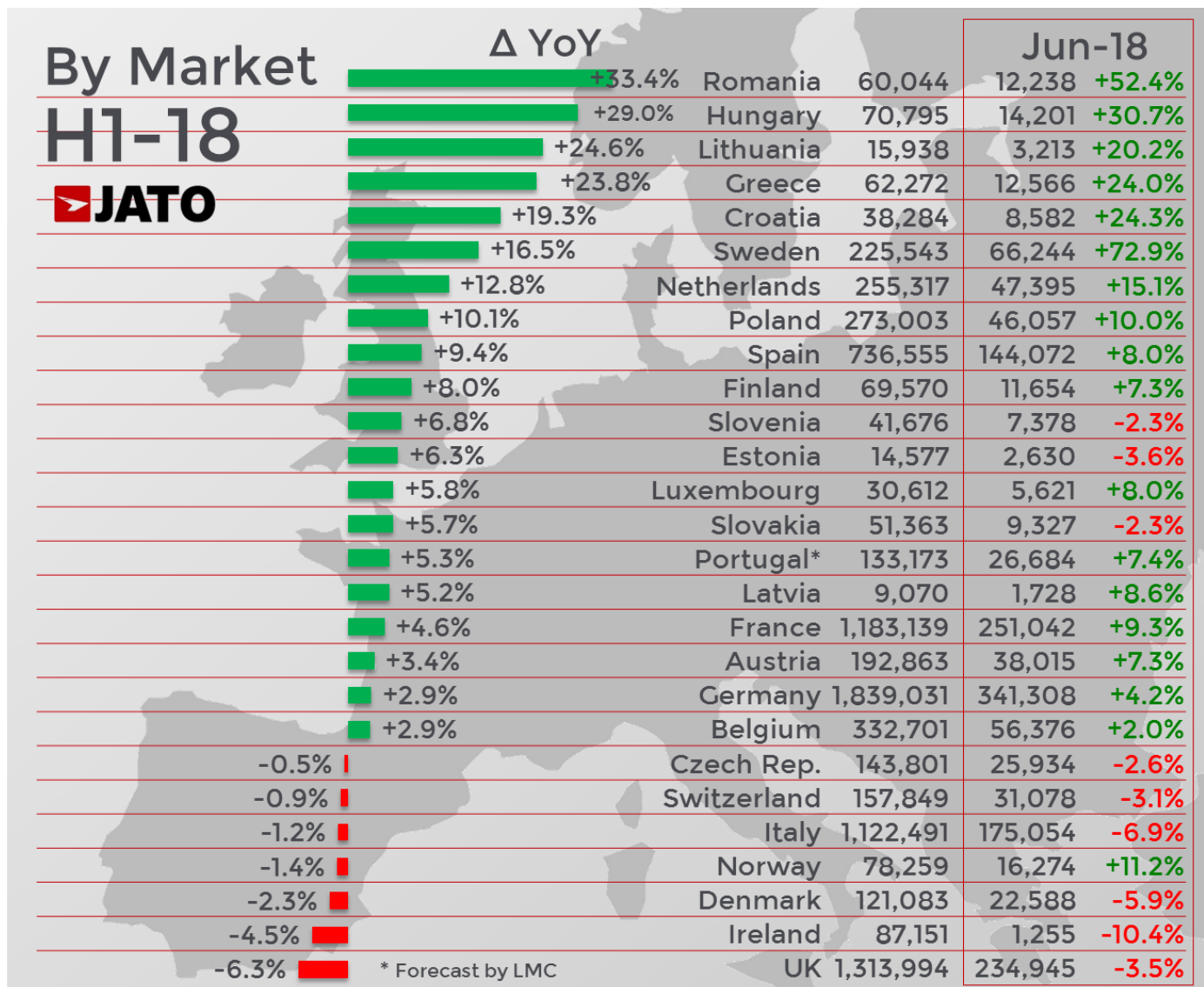
Month	2017	2018	Δ YoY
June	1.53m	1.61m	+5.2%



Top Market Share winner June  
Volkswagen T-Roc

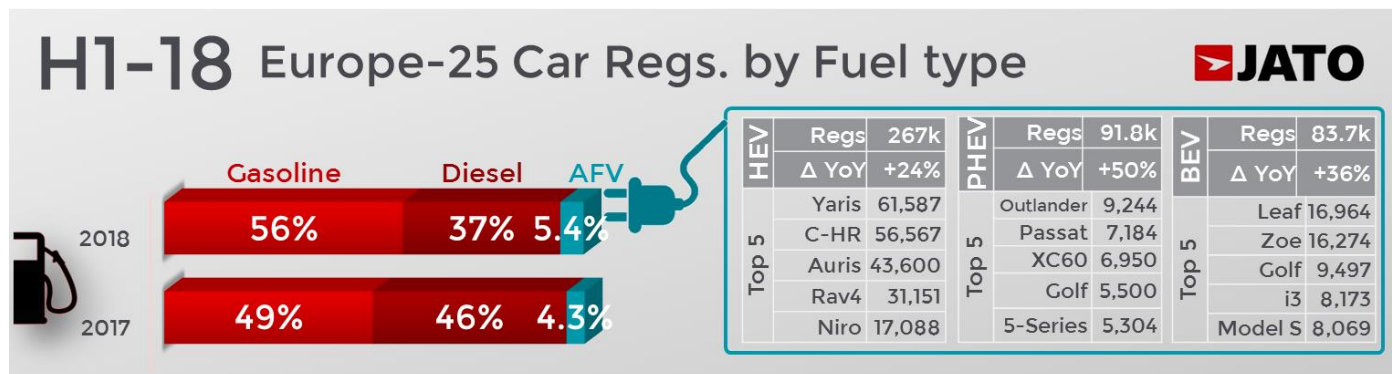
The diesel decline continued during the first six months of 2018, as registrations were down by 17%. The fuel type accounted for just 37% of the total market – its lowest share since 2001. Diesel's biggest declines took place in Norway (-32%), the UK (-30%), Slovenia (-28%), Finland (-20%) and Belgium (-20%).

Alternative Fuelled Vehicles performed well, as electrics, hybrids and plug-ins posted an increase of 31% and recorded 450,200 registrations, making up 5.4% of total registrations. They accounted for 56% of the total market in Norway, 13% in Finland and 11% in Sweden. However, AFVs only made up 3.4% of the German market.

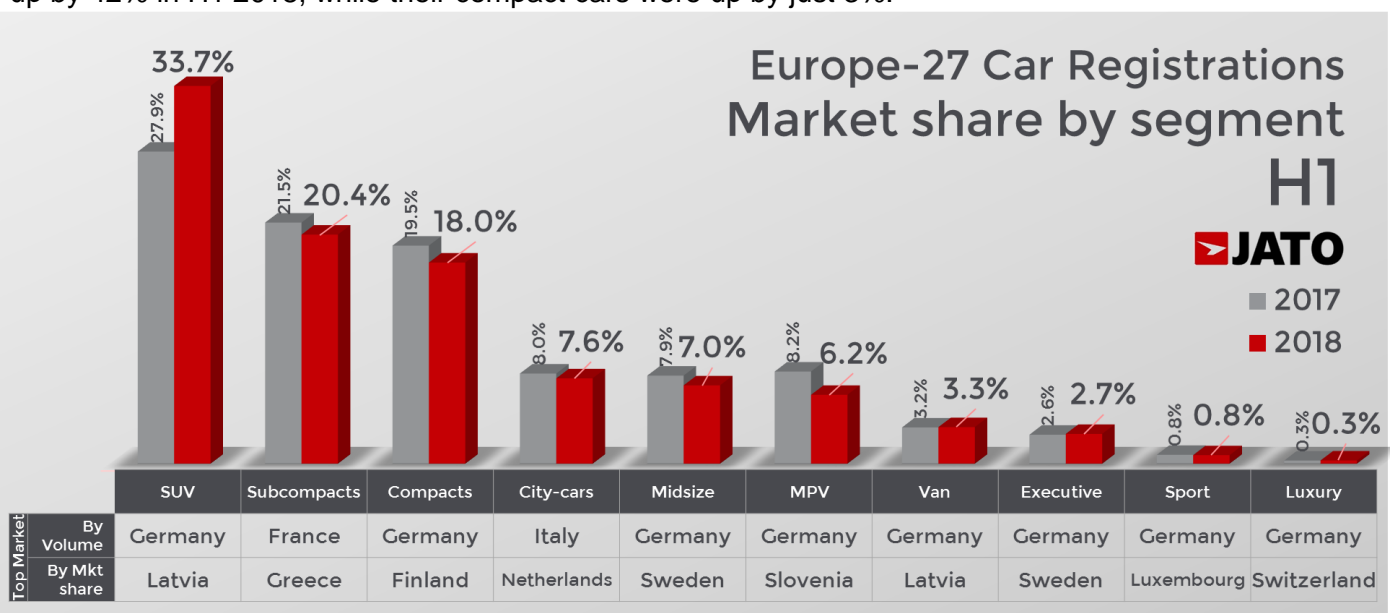


There were 2.92 million SUV registrations in H1 2018, a result that marks the best-ever performance for the segment in Europe. SUVs grew by 24% in H1 and by 30% in June, signifying that the boom won't be slowing down anytime soon. Most of the growth in H1 was driven by the small SUV sub-segment, which saw a record 1.08 million registrations. Compact SUVs and midsize SUVs also posted increases and contributed to the result, recording 1.24 million and 455,400 registrations, respectively. Only large SUVs saw a decrease, recording a 9% decline to 141,000 registrations.

Consumers continued to shift towards SUVs at the expense of traditional cars, as registrations for cars (ranging from city-cars to luxury cars) fell by almost 4% to 4.85 million. Subcompacts recorded the highest volume with 1.77 million registrations, but this was still a year on year decline of 2%. Meanwhile compacts recorded 1.55 million registrations but recorded a decline of 5%. However, the biggest victim of the SUV boom was the MPV segment, which saw registrations down by 23% to just 532,600 – one of the lowest results of the last ten years.



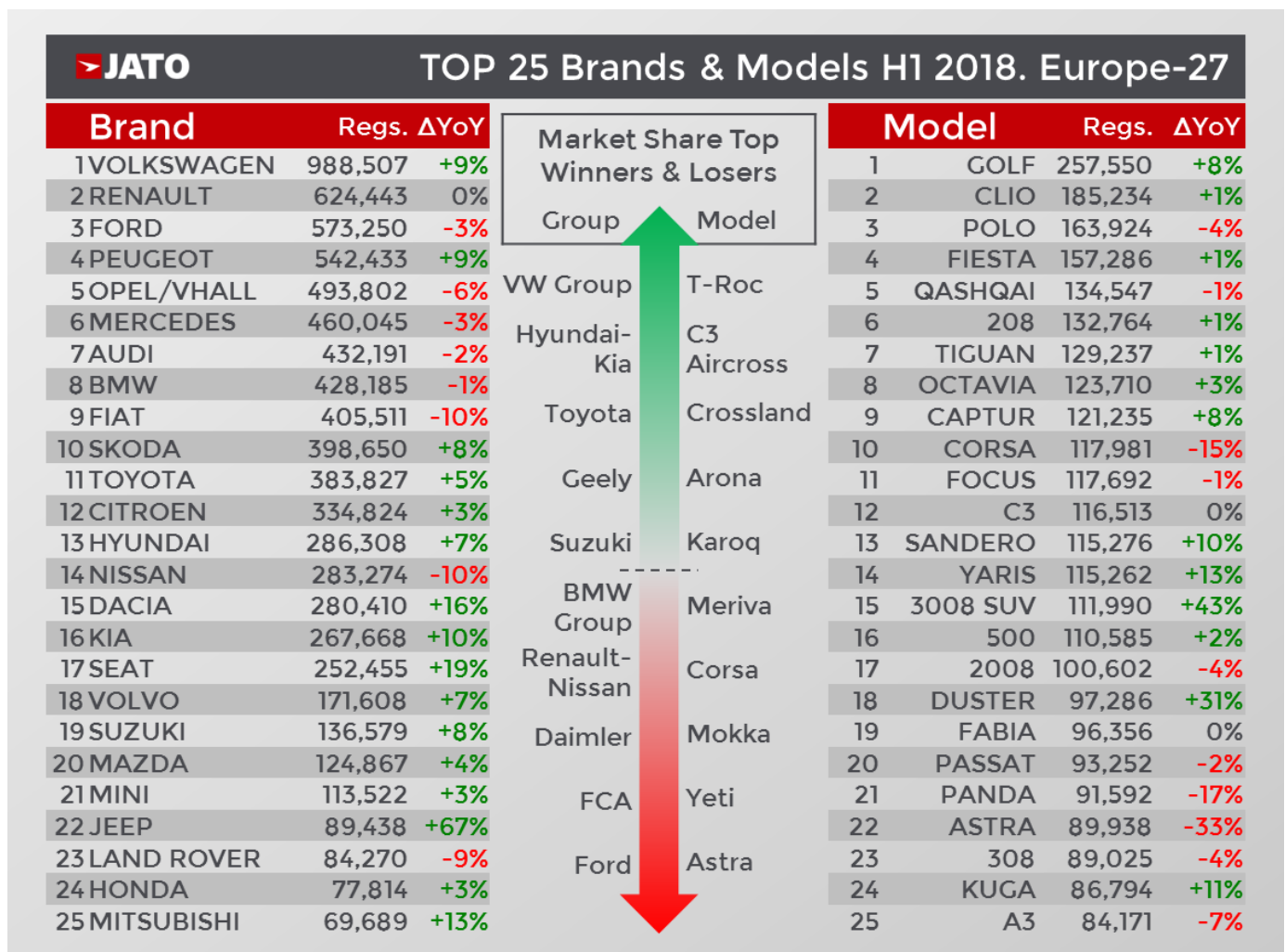
The VW Group was once again the top-selling carmaker in Europe, but for the first time also became the top-selling SUV maker. “The VW Group is making the most of the positive landscape created by SUVs. Although the VW brand arrived late to the segment, the impressive and large array of SUVs they are offering the market is paying off. As expected, the T-Roc is hugely successful and is fast becoming one of the top-selling cars in Europe. VW’s other brands are also performing well due to their SUV ranges, meaning that SUVs rescued VW Group from the diesel crisis,” states Munoz. Registrations for VW Group’s SUVs were up by 42% in H1 2018, while their compact cars were up by just 3%.



Meanwhile, PSA recorded only moderate growth, due to the negative results posted by Opel/Vauxhall, which saw a 6% decline during the first six months of the year. As was the case with VW Group, SUVs drove growth for PSA, with volume up by 62%, compared to a 6% decline for subcompacts and 21% decline for compacts.

Renault-Nissan was the third best-selling car maker in Europe, but lost market share due to stagnating registrations within the Renault and Nissan brands. However, they were boosted by the Dacia range, of which the new Duster and Sandero models performed very well. It was the first time that Renault-Nissan didn't lead the SUV ranking, losing out on the top spot to VW Group.

Despite being launched in 2011, the current generation of Volkswagen Golf continued to be Europe's top-selling model and increased its registrations by 9% – an impressive accomplishment for a vehicle that has been on the market for seven years. Although there was a 26% drop in the Golf's diesel registrations, this was offset by a 29% increase in its gasoline registrations. It also recorded more registrations of its alternative fuel types, which counted for 6% of its total volume. The Golf was the top-selling car in Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Latvia and Belgium.



The Nissan Qashqai continued to perform well, as it climbed one spot to enter the top 5 best-selling models and maintained its position as the best-selling SUV in Europe. However, its registrations fell by 1% while its closest rival, the Tiguan (excluding Allspace), grew by 1% and was just 5,300 registrations behind. The Captur was the top-selling small SUV with 121,200 registrations – ahead of both the Peugeot 2008 and Dacia Duster.

The most improved performance came from the Peugeot 3008, while the new Duster, Ford Ecosport, Mercedes GLC, Opel/Vauxhall Insignia and Toyota Yaris all continued to grow as well.

The Volkswagen T-Roc was the standout amongst the newest launches, recording 71,000 registrations and becoming the 32<sup>nd</sup> best-selling car in Europe. It was also a positive first half for the Citroen C3 Aircross, Opel/Vauxhall Crossland, Seat Arona, Skoda Karoq and Jeep Compass.

More details and rankings are available on the [JATO Blog](#).

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### About JATO

JATO was founded in 1984 and provides the world's most timely, accurate and up-to-date information on vehicle specifications and pricing, sales and registrations, news and incentives.

The company has representation in over 40 countries, providing unique local market expertise. The JATO client base includes all of the world's volume vehicle manufacturers; giving them the ability to react to short-term market movements, plan for long-term developments and ultimately to meet consumers' needs.

JATO's intelligence has also been adapted for consumer use in motoring web portals where customers can see the advantages and disadvantages of a specified model against any other.

Major leasing companies use JATO's intelligence to drive the vehicle quotation process. Visit JATO at [www.jato.com](http://www.jato.com) for more information.

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