

The Volkswagen ID.3 continued to drive registrations in December, becoming the second top-selling car in Europe

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- The electric hatchback was outsold only by the Volkswagen Golf
- Demand for pure electric and plug-in hybrid cars almost quadrupled in December, when compared to December 2019
- Full year registrations dropped by 24% to 11.94 million units, the lowest since 1993

The European new car market closed 2020 with further decline. According to data for 27 markets, the volume fell by 3.8% in December 2020 to 1,212,858 units. While this demonstrates a smaller decrease than seen in previous months, this did not offset the overall trend as cumulative registrations for the full year totalled 11,941,633 units, down by 24%.

The last time the industry registered less than 12 million units was in 1993, when volume totalled 11.82 million. Felipe Munoz, global analyst at JATO Dynamics, commented: "While the industry was already showing signs of decline in the last months of 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated these existing trends – moving the market into an unprecedented environment, with consumers in lockdown unable to purchase vehicles."

December's decline in registrations was driven by double-digit decreases for SUVs in Italy, France and the UK. Despite strong increases posted by pure electric and plug-in hybrid cars, the total market continued to demonstrate decline due to this fall in demand alongside poor results across diesel and petrol car registrations.

Percentage decrease

3.8%

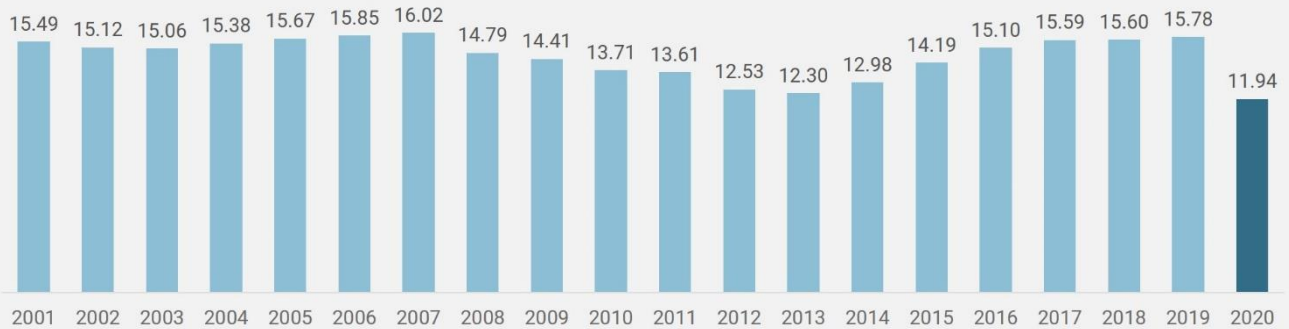
less vehicles registered in December 2020 compared to December 2019

Million units December

1.21 - 2020

1.26 - 2019

New Passenger cars registrations in Europe-27 (million units)



Last month, the market share of SUVs decreased when compared with results from December 2019 – the percentage dropping from 41.7% to 40.2%. Registrations totalled 487,560 units, marking a decrease of 7.2%, following an 11% drop across compact SUVs (the largest subsegment). Munoz continued: “Two key factors have contributed to the recent stagnation in SUV growth. Firstly, after several months of continuous growth it was always likely that new SUV registrations would start to level out. Secondly, the new electrification push from governments across Europe has drawn market interest away from SUVs – particularly as there are still very few pure electric SUVs available to buy”.

Demand for gasoline and diesel cars (including hybrids and mild-hybrids) fell by 23% each, in contrast with a 271% increase in pure electric cars and plug-in hybrids (EVs). These results close the gap between EVs and diesel cars, with EVs registering a 24.1% market share, compared to the 24.7% share seen for diesel cars. This is particularly significant when compared to December 2019 – when EVs made up only 6.3% of total registrations.

The strong demand for EVs resulted in two electric models securing places in the top 3 European best-selling cars. Behind the popular Volkswagen Golf, the Volkswagen ID.3 registered almost 28,000 units and became the second most registered car in Europe, during December. This significant achievement was possible due to positive results

Top 10 Best-Selling Europe-27 December 2020

Model Ranking				Group Ranking		
1	Volkswagen Golf	30,073	-2%	Volkswagen Group	319,492	+10%
2	Volkswagen ID.3	27,997	New	PSA	161,638	+1%
3	Tesla Model 3	24,567	+11%	Renault Group	126,146	-15%
4	Renault Clio	22,399	-19%	BMW Group	88,095	-9%
5	Peugeot 208	20,690	+17%	Daimler	77,742	-14%
6	Toyota Yaris	20,465	+45%	Hyundai-Kia	75,079	-7%
7	Skoda Octavia	18,853	+18%	FCA	71,351	+7%
8	Renault Captur	18,688	-8%	Toyota	68,301	+24%
9	Fiat 500	18,680	+66%	Ford	61,831	-22%
10	Peugeot 2008	17,948	+62%	Geely	36,849	+10%



posted in the Netherlands, Sweden and Austria – where it led the overall rankings. The ID.3 was Germany’s third best-selling car, the 4th best-selling in the UK, and the 2nd best-seller in Denmark, Norway and Luxembourg. [Click here to see the ranking for the full year.](#)

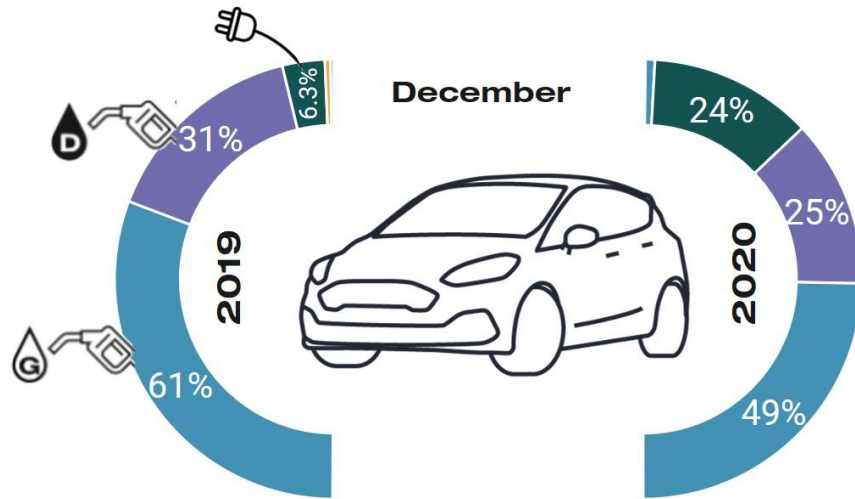
This electric hatchback was followed by the electric Tesla Model 3 in the overall rankings for December. Munoz

stated: “Europe is getting ready for an EV revolution and last month’s results are a clear indicator that when these cars have the right price attached to them, they can lure consumer demand away from popular gasoline and diesel models.”

Other models which have benefitted from recent EV growth include the Fiat 500 (boosted by the pure electric version) the Peugeot 2008, the Hyundai Kona, the Opel/Vauxhall Corsa and the Renault Zoe. Further down the rankings, other models that performed well include: Seat Leon (+66%), Volvo XC40 (+67%), Skoda Kamiq (+58%), Volkswagen Up (+58%), Kia Niro (+99%), Nissan Juke (+90%), Nissan Leaf (+94%).

Among the latest launches the Ford Puma registered 12,874 units, Volkswagen registered 4,714 units of the ID.4, Mercedes registered 4,013 units of the GLB; Mazda registered 3,327 units of the MX-30, Polestar registered 3,117 units for its model 2; Citroen registered 2,314 units of the C4, Audi registered 1,962 units of the E-Tron Sportback, and Porsche registered 1,912 units of the Taycan.

Europe-22 New Car Registrations by Fuel Type



Top 10 Best-Selling Europe-22 December 2020

Plug-in Hybrid Ranking				Pure Electric Ranking		
1	Renault Captur	6,112	New	Volkswagen ID.3	27,924	New
2	Mercedes A-Class	5,460	New	Tesla Model 3	24,481	+11%
3	Seat Leon	5,127	New	Renault Zoe	16,280	+237%
4	Volkswagen Golf	4,106	+1388%	Hyundai Kona	11,150	+396%
5	Mercedes E-Class	4,044	+175%	Nissan Leaf	5,263	93%
6	Volvo XC40	3,956	New	Fiat 500	5,051	New
7	Volkswagen Passat	3,847	+123%	Volkswagen ID.4	4,710	New
8	BMW X1	3,702	New	Jaguar I-Pace	4,575	299%
9	BMW 3-Series	3,629	+23%	Volkswagen Up	3,723	New
10	Mercedes GLC	3,313	New	Kia Niro	3,599	New





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