

Exports of leisure vehicles down sharply in the first half-year due to Corona

Caravanning industry expects recovery in second half of the year

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Exports of caravans and motor caravans fell sharply in the first half of the year due to the drastic measures taken in many European countries to combat the corona pandemic. Around 22,500 leisure vehicles left the plants of German manufacturers for foreign markets in this period. This is 22 percent less than in the previous year. Due to temporary plant closures and collapsed supply chains, production also fell by 18 percent in the first six months. The industry expects a strong recovery in production and exports in the second half of the year.

The corona crisis did little to dampen demand for caravans and motor caravans in Germany, but new registration figures in many European countries fell sharply in the first half of the year. Accordingly, exports of leisure vehicles "Made in Germany" also developed negatively. 22,467 makes exported in the first six months represent a drop of 22.0 percent compared to 2019. 13,910 motor caravans (down 19.7 percent) and 8,557 caravans (down 25.5 percent) were exported between January and June. The export ratio fell slightly to 40.2 percent. "While the German market has so far developed positively overall in 2020, most European markets are still well below the previous year's level due to the corona pandemic. This caused German exports to drop sharply," explains Daniel Onggowinarso, Managing Director of the caravanning industry association CIVD. "With the gradual easing of the drastic corona measures in countries such as Italy and Spain, an enormous catch-up effect has already begun throughout Europe in June. We therefore expect a strong second half of the year. As a result, exports of German leisure vehicles should also increase again – provided the high level of domestic demand allows this," Onggowinarso said optimistically.

Reduced production due to temporary plant closures

To protect employees from a corona infection and because of supply chain delays, almost all German manufacturers had to temporarily cut back production or close their plants in April and May. This meant that the record level of previous years could not be maintained. Motor caravan production fell by 12.6 percent to 36,066 vehicles, while caravan production fell by 25.5 percent to 19,870 units. A total of 55,936 leisure vehicles have rolled off the assembly lines in Germany so far in 2020 – a drop of 18.3 percent compared to the first half of 2019: "We lost about a month's output due to the Corona-related plant closures, but the lines are running at full capacity again everywhere. If the recovery continues as expected in the second half of the year, manufacturers will also be looking for new personnel again, especially with manual and technical skills," Onggowinarso explains.

For further information about caravanning, please visit our web sites:

caravanning-info.de or www.civd.de, where there are also photos available for downloading.

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About Caravanning Industrie Verband e. V.

Caravanning Industrie Verband (CIVD) is the trade association for the industrial arm of the German leisure vehicle sector. Our members include German and European leisure vehicle manufacturers, numerous leisure-vehicle supply vendors and service providers, as well as public institutions and associations. Founded in 1962, CIVD represents the interests of the German leisure vehicle industry for all matters of concern to its members, through lobbying and other communication measures directed at German and European political institutions and government authorities. The CIVD is also the ideal sponsor for CARAVAN SALON, the world's largest vehicle leisure industry trade show. In this capacity CIVD plays a pivotal role in promoting the progress and development of the European leisure vehicle industry.