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Nissan plays winning game in Europe page 4

"Bright new upstart" VW's new up! pages 12 - 13



17.01.2012

Western Europe

December car sales slide 4.3%

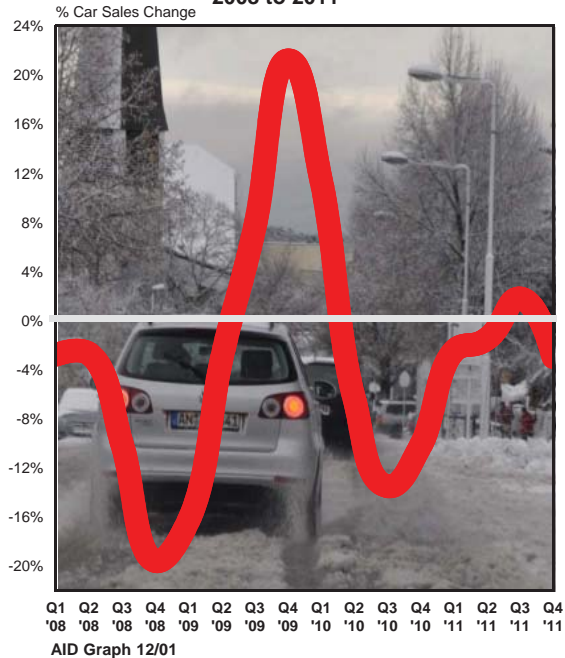
Consumers, shocked by the fallout from the eurozone debt-crisis, have lost appetite for new cars

WITH the year barely two weeks old, consensus has emerged that 2012 will not be a good one. Evidence of an intensifying slowdown in West Europe's new car market was given added weight this week with ACEA compiled figures showing that December's new car sales in the region had tumbled by just over 4 per cent, thus widening the year-on-year sales shortfall for the whole of last year to 1.3 per cent.

Last year's West European overall car market, gripped of late by the seemingly unrelenting eurozone debt crisis, eased back to 12.8m units from just under 13m in 2010, with sales falling in all but one of the region's major markets.

December's 4.3 per cent dip in sales, providing yet another clue as to which way this year's car market will be heading, has prompted yet another sharp downward revision for this year's eventual turnout. Today's consensus view in forecasting circles is for a fall of between 3 to 10 per cent. In

Western Europe
Year-on-year % Quarterly Change in Car Sales
2008 to 2011



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