

# AID NEWSLETTER

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France's June electric car sales slow to a mere trickle  
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Mercedes first luxury car brand to feel the pinch - global cooling  
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Lexus' new GS slips quietly into UK showrooms  
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Western Europe

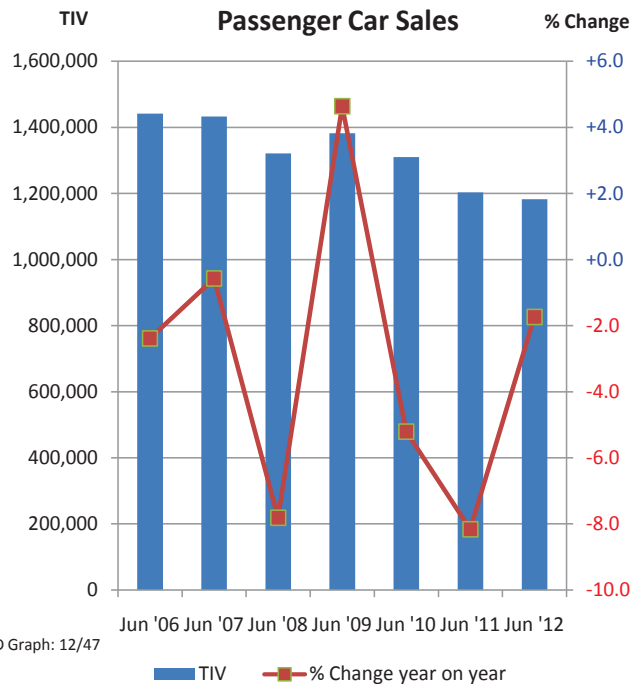
## June car sales fall less than industry feared

ALTHOUGH at first sight June car sales in Western Europe fell at a much slower pace than generally feared, offering first glimmers of hope to dispirited autoindustry members and dealers alike, the warm glow sparked by the implied improvement in underlying conditions is deceiving and not quite what it seems.

June car sales may have fallen for the ninth month in a row, but the rate of decline - 1.7 per cent - was the second lowest of that stretch, kindling faint glimmers of hope that the very worst of the region's entrenched downturn was finally over and that from now on the market could conceivably witness further signs of a moderating decline.

The not so good news is however, that the implied underlying improvement in market conditions is deceptive. That's partly because of a bullish 52 per cent June sales jump in the Netherlands, where the onset of stiffer CO<sub>2</sub> related vehicle taxes - effective from July 1 - has prompted hordes of cunning new

Western Europe  
Passenger Car Sales



AID Graph: 12/47

Legend: TIV (Blue Bar), % Change year on year (Red Line)

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