

Cars and Commercial Vehicles - UK - July 2018

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“The cars and commercial vehicle market contracted in 2017 amidst political and economic uncertainty and the decline of diesel. This followed two years of bumper sales and production. Last year’s slump was underpinned by low domestic demand, which fell in line with wavering business and consumer confidence.”
– Marco Amasanti, B2B Analyst

This report looks at the following areas:

- **Brexit and potential trade barriers**
- **Demonisation of diesel**

Automotive registrations and production both fell in 2017, the culmination of Brexit uncertainties, a lull in consumer confidence and the ongoing shift away from diesel. Nonetheless, both these figures remain historically high, among the highest recorded in recent decades.

The image of vehicles on British roads continues to change, driven by the shift towards hybrid and alternatively-fuelled vehicles (AFV). However, despite growing at an inexorable rate since the turn of the decade, the AFV sector remains in its infancy, though this should change considerably in the coming years, with many upholding electric as the future of the British and global automotive industry.

The market is set to enter a period of significant uncertainty in the coming years, underpinned by the need to renegotiate international trade deals across the global marketplace, alongside access to the European single market. Exports remain fundamental to the market’s prosperity, so the need for immediate action and a transitional deal is pivotal. The latter was agreed in principle in March 2018, to run to December 2020; however, it remains conditional on both sides (the UK government and the EU) agreeing a final withdrawal treaty.

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DID YOU KNOW?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market

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