

INDIA'S EXPORT RUSH

The auto industry's export tally this year has been higher than ever before with every segment scoring significant growth

— ET AutoMania

Indian auto exports have been on a high for a while now and with six months gone, the trends suggest this will be a bumper year across the board. According to the monthly sales stats announced by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), car exports alone is up nearly 13% in the first six months of this financial year at 98,405 units compared to 87,262 units in the same period last year. Including utility vehicles and multi-purpose vehicles, the total tally at 101,701 units is up 13% over the 89,880 units clocked last year.

Overall automotive exports too seem to be witnessing a surge. Total vehicle exports are up 27.43% at 518,688 units compared to 407,028 units last year. In other words vehicle exports have hit half a million units in the first six months of this year and there is every indication that the current growth trend will hold up for the rest of the year. In strictly growth terms, three wheelers are top of the heap this year at nearly 58% clip but the total numbers are still relatively small at 61,591 units compared to 39,065 units last year. (The real top scorer, passenger carrier commercial vehicles are up 77.5% but their numbers are just over 2000 units).

Commercial vehicles too have managed to retain their growth trot in exports at nearly 28% with trucks cornering most of the volumes. Total CV exports at 23,340 units comprise a large light truck segment which contributed 13,042 units in the first six months of the fiscal year. Of course in sheer volume terms it's the motorcycles and stepthroughs that rule, clocking 286,749 units compared to 188,237 units totted up last year. The only segment to drop export volumes are scooters and scooterettes which mimiced a totally stagnant domestic market. The scooter and scooterette segment sold 441,542 units at home this half year compared to 441,023 units last year. But exports of scooters and scooterettes slumped from 47,724 units last year to 23,911 units this year, down by nearly half.

Mopeds also came down though not as sharply as scooters and scooterettes. Moped exports dropped by over 10% from 23,859 units to 21,396 units. These two, along with the goods carrier threewheeler, are the only three segments that didn't clock positive growth on the export front.

