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In July 2020, registrations of new passenger cars in the European Union saw a relatively small decline of 5.7% compared to the same month last year. Seven of the 27 member states posted growth in July, including France (+3.9%) and Spain (+1.1%). Outside the EU perimeter, the United Kingdom (+11.3%), Iceland (+44.5%) and Norway (+6.5%) also showed first signs of recovery.

During the month of August, however, the EU car market posted a stronger decline (-18.9%) again, although less dramatic than earlier in the year. With the exception of Cyprus

(+14.1%), all countries in the region recorded losses compared to August 2019. Looking at the four major EU markets, Italy performed best, with a slight drop of 0.4%, while the strongest declines were seen in Germany (-20.0%) and France (-19.8%).

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