

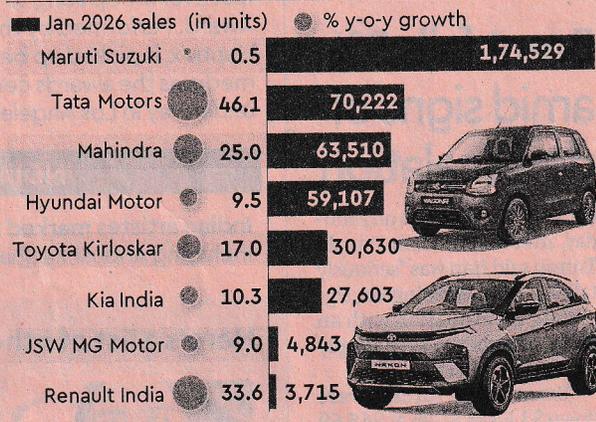
Car sales up 12.5% in January

AKBAR MERCHANT
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PASSENGER VEHICLE WHOLESALERS rose 12.5% year-on-year in January to an estimated 456,272 units, compared with 405,522 units in the same month last year, marking a strong start to the calendar year for the domestic auto industry as demand remained skewed towards SUVs.

Maruti Suzuki reported domestic passenger vehicle sales of 174,529 units, a marginal 0.54% increase from 173,599 units in January 2025. Volumes were lower than December levels, reflecting normal seasonality following year-end dispatches. The entry-level mini segment, comprising Alto and S-Presso models, posted 14,268 units, largely flat year-on-year. Demand indicators remained supportive, with the company reporting a nearly 25% rise in

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bookings and pending orders of around 175,000 units. Supply constraints persisted, with plants operating close to full capacity and effective dealer inventory at about three days. In the mid-SUV segment, cumulative sales of the Victoris crossed the 50,000-unit, signalling a deeper push into

higher-priced categories.

Tata Motors posted a sharp increase in volumes, with domestic passenger vehicle sales rising 46.1% year-on-year to 70,222 units. Growth was driven by strong traction in its SUV portfolio. Nexon sales crossed 23,000 units in January, taking cumulative

volumes beyond the one-million mark, while Punch volumes exceeded 19,000 units, with cumulative sales crossing 700,000 units.

Mahindra & Mahindra continued to benefit from sustained demand for utility vehicles, reporting domestic passenger vehicle sales of 63,510 units, up 25% year-on-year. The company said interest across its SUV range remained strong, with bookings for upcoming models indicating continued momentum. Hyundai Motor India reported domestic sales of 59,107 units, a 9.5% increase over a year earlier. The Venue compact SUV and Aura sedan recorded their highest-ever monthly sales at 12,413 units and 7,978 units, respectively.

Two-wheeler sales also strengthened at the start of calendar year 2026. Hero Moto-Corp reported domestic dispatches of 520,208 units, up 26% year-on-year.