

2016 a record-breaking year for Volvo sales

Volvo Cars reported a record-breaking year in sales for 2016 with an increase of 6.2 percent compared to 2015 to 534,332 cars driven by solid growth in all major sales regions, including double-digit increases in its two largest markets, China and the United States, and a strong performance in Western Europe.



[Image Source: Volvo Car UK](#) - New Volvo S90

Sales of the new top-of-the-line 90 series cars were the main growth drivers globally, led by the Volvo XC90 large premium SUV for which sales rose 125 percent versus 2015, highlighting the success of the company's new design and engineering direction and boding well for the future as more new models are revealed in the coming years.

Meanwhile, the evergreen XC60 mid-size premium SUV established another new annual sales record of 161,092 cars in its ninth year on the market, having increased sales every year since it was introduced in 2008.

Volvo's largest markets

Volvo's largest market in 2016 was China, with total sales of 90,930 cars, an increase of 11.5 percent. The best-selling models in the world's largest car market were the locally-produced Volvo XC60 and S60L premium sedan.

In the United States, Volvo gained market share in 2016 with growth of 18.1 percent, making it one of the fastest-growing premium brands in a broadly flat market. Total sales for the year amounted to 82,726 cars, with the Volvo XC90 and XC60

leading sales performances.

Sales in Western Europe increased 4.1 percent, boosted by strong performances in key markets such as Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Italy. Total sales in the region amounted to 206,144 cars.

Continued global transformation

The new sales record in 2016 tops off another year in which Volvo Cars continued its global transformation and the repositioning of the brand to compete with its global premium rivals. During the course of the year, the company strengthened its leadership in areas such as autonomous drive (AD), electrification and safety, forged new business alliances, continued the renewal of its entire product range and expanded its global manufacturing footprint.

In 2016 Volvo continued construction work on a new USD500m manufacturing plant in South Carolina, its first in the United States. The plant will build new cars based on its modular Scalable Product Architecture (SPA) and will initially employ up to 2,000 people. The new plant in South Carolina underlines Volvo's long-term and strong commitment to the United States.

Volvo Cars also unveiled a new manufacturing strategy for China in which production capacity will be increased and China will be developed into a global manufacturing export hub. Its top-of-the-range S90 models will be built in Daqing in northern China while existing and future 60-series cars will be built in Chengdu. Cars in its planned new 40-series, based on its Compact Modular Architecture (CMA), will be built at a plant under construction in Luqiao, 350 km south of Shanghai.

With the introduction of the V90 Cross Country premium estate in September 2016, Volvo completed the launch of a completely new 90 series line-up. These new cars have highlighted the transformational effect of the SPA platform in terms of design, technology and brand, a feat underlined by the over 120 awards won by the XC90 SUV.

In the coming years, Volvo Cars will continue to replace its entire model range. During the course of 2017, it will launch a completely new version of the successful XC60 mid-size SUV based on the SPA architecture, as well as the new XC40 compact SUV, the first in an all-new range of 40-series cars based on the CMA platform that underpins its global small car strategy.

Volvo Cars also last year announced one of the auto industry's most comprehensive electrification strategies in which plug-in hybrids will be introduced across its entire range. It will also introduce its first fully-electric car by 2019. By 2025, Volvo aims to have sold a total of up to 1 million electrified cars.

New partnerships

New partnerships forged during 2016 also place Volvo Cars at the forefront of the significant change currently underway in the auto industry.

Volvo Cars and Uber agreed to set up and finance a joint development project that will develop and manufacture base vehicles on the SPA architecture, able to incorporate the latest AD technologies up to and including fully autonomous cars.

It also established a joint venture with Autoliv, named Zenuity, to design and develop AD software and advanced driver assist systems (ADAS) for sales to third party OEMs. Zenuity will be a new entrant in the fast-growing global market for autonomous driving software systems and marks the first time a leading premium car maker has joined forces with a tier one supplier to develop these systems.

Volvo Cars will in 2017 start the world's most advanced and ambitious autonomous vehicle experiment in Gothenburg, with real families using AD XC90 cars in everyday life, paving the way for it to be a global leader in autonomous driving technologies. It will start similar tests with real people behind the wheel of its self-driving cars in London and China in the coming years as well.

As a result of these and other partnerships that are transforming its business model, Volvo Cars is no longer just a car maker, it is now a global premium mobility company.

Full-year retail sales status (deliveries to end customers) for Volvo Car Group is as follows:

	December			January - December (full year)		
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
China	9 822	10 171	3,6%	81 588	90 930	11,5%
USA	9 341	10 129	8,4%	70 047	82 726	18,1%
Sweden	9 081	7 726	-14,9%	71 200	70 268	-1,3%
Western Europe	24 451	23 769	-2,8%	198 049	206 144	4,1%
Other markets	9 430	9 009	-4,5%	82 243	84 264	2,5%
TOTAL	62 125	60 804	-2,1%	503 127	534 332	6,2%

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