About Leaseurope

Leaseurope brings together 44 member associations in 32 European countries representing the leasing, long term and/or short term automotive rental industries. In 2011, these associations represented more than 2,000 leasing firms and over 600 short term rental companies.

The scope of products covered by Leaseurope members’ ranges from hire purchase to finance and operating leases of all asset types (automotive, equipment and real estate) and also includes the rental of cars, vans and trucks. It is estimated that Leaseurope represented approximately 92% of the European leasing market in 2011.

New leasing volumes per cluster in 2011 (in Bil €)

Germany
47.6
France
39.6
UK
38.1
Italy
27.4
Austria, Benelux & Switzerland
30.8
Russia
18.1

The European leasing market in 2011

In 2011, total new leasing volumes worth €256.6 billion were granted by the firms represented through Leaseurope’s members. This represents an increase of 7.4% compared to 2010. The portfolio of leased assets (outstandings) in Europe grew by 1.1%, reaching €712.3 billion at the end of 2011.

Germany remained the largest European leasing market in 2011, with new volumes worth €47.6 billion, followed by France (€39.6 billion) and the UK (€38.1 billion). Most European markets witnessed steady growth in 2011, which was particularly strong in the Baltic countries, Ukraine and Russia. However, Southern European markets experienced a considerable downturn in new volumes.
During the year, European lessors granted new equipment (including vehicles) volumes of €232.3 billion and new real estate volumes of €24.3 billion. The equipment sector gained further ground compared to the previous year, growing by 11.2%. However, real estate leasing saw a significant dip in new volumes, contracting by 18.6%.

In 2011, Leaseurope’s total penetration rate, measured as the amount of overall new leasing volumes granted to businesses divided by investment in the 24 countries reporting, increased slightly from the previous year from 12.9% to 13.0%. When restricted to equipment and vehicles (i.e. excluding real estate from the calculation), the penetration rate reached 20.8% compared to 20.3% in 2010.

Equipment and vehicle leasing

Automotive assets, i.e. passenger cars and commercial vehicles, accounted for about 57% (€145.2 billion) of total new volumes granted during 2011, remaining the largest individual asset segment of the European leasing market. New leasing volumes for passenger cars picked up markedly, gaining 10.5% and, according to Leaseurope estimates, European leasing and rental companies purchased some 6.0 million passenger cars in 2011. The commercial vehicle sector also performed particularly well, growing by 17.0% in 2011 to reach new leasing volumes of €44.0 billion.

Other key growth areas included the machinery and industrial equipment segment (making up 17% of new equipment volumes with new contracts worth €39.9 billion), which grew by 6.7%. Similarly, the “other types of equipment” which includes energy generating assets such as photovoltaic panels showed an increase of 8.1%. The leasing of smaller ticket items (computers and business machines) remained relatively flat. The ships, aircraft, railway, and rolling stock segment was the only category among all types of equipment experiencing a contraction (-25.5%).

New leased equipment volumes per asset type in 2011

- Passenger cars: 44% of new leasing volumes worth €256 billion
- Commercial vehicles: 17%
- Equipment: 34%
- Real estate: 9%
- Other types of equipment: -25.5%
- Machinery & industrial equipment: 19%
- Big/other: 13%
- Computers & business machines: 7%
- Maritime, transport, and rolling stock: 1.2%
- Real estate: 9%
- CEE: 55%
- Russia: 16%
- Nordic & Baltic countries: 17.0%
- UK: 13%
- Austria, Benelux, & Switzerland: 14%
- Germany: 15%
- Italy: 14%
- France: 16%
- Greece, Portugal, Spain & Cyprus: 40%
- CEE: 44%
- Russia: 16%
- Nordic & Baltic countries: 17.0%
- UK: 13%
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Just over three quarters of new leasing volumes for equipment (including vehicles) were made to the private sector, with 17% granted to consumers and 4% to public authorities. Although leasing to public sector clients remained a small portion of the overall market, it has been steadily increasing since 2010.

As in the previous years, the vast majority of new equipment and vehicle contracts (71.5%) were made for an original contract term between 2 to 5 years and the average contract size was about €29,400, a 4% increase compared to 2010.

Real estate leasing

After the growth seen during the previous year, real estate leasing underwent a downturn in new volumes, contracting by 18.6% in 2011 to reach €24.3 billion. The number of new contracts granted also slightly declined by 2.9%.

New leases of almost all types of buildings decreased, with the exception of the utilities segment, which grew by 9.8% to reach €4.3 billion, largely due to the impact of renewable energy installations in some countries such as Italy. The largest segment of all property leases was industrial buildings, comprising over 30% of total new real estate leasing volumes. In 2011, new business in this segment dropped by 14.2%. Other types of buildings also followed this downward path with leases of hotels and leisure buildings losing 4.1%, retail outlets 17.5% and office buildings 47.8%.

Longer term real estate leasing contracts of between 16 to 20 years declined by 15.7% and contracts granted for a term of 8 to 16 years decreased by 23.9% compared to the previous year.

Short term car rental

The short term car rental members reporting in the Leaseurope 2011 Annual Enquiry purchased around 554,000 cars during the year and, at year end, owned a fleet of approximately 520,000 cars. In total, the firms represented through these members made nearly 20 million individual rental contracts during the course of the year.

New real estate leasing volumes per building type in 2011

Visit the Leaseurope website at www.leaseurope.org for more information on the Federation's members and activities.

Further details on our statistics and research publications can be found on the Market Trends and Research section of our website.