About Leaseurope

Leaseurope brings together 44 member associations in 33 European countries representing the leasing, long term and/or short term automotive rental industries. In 2012, these associations represented more than 1,400 leasing firms and over 580 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 2012.

New leasing volumes per cluster in 2012 (in Bil €)

- Germany 45.0
- France 39.0
- UK 44.7
- Italy 18.5
- Austria, Benelux & Switzerland 30.2
- Nordic & Baltic Countries 28.7

The European leasing market in 2012

In 2012, total new leasing volumes worth €252.6 billion were granted by the firms represented through Leaseurope’s members. This represents a decrease of 2.6% compared to 2011. The portfolio of leased assets (outstandings) in Europe declined by 1.4%, reaching €731.8 billion at the end of 2012.

Germany remained the largest European leasing market in 2012, with new volumes worth €45.0 billion, followed by the UK (€44.7 billion) and France (€39.0 billion). The performance of individual European markets diverged, with the Baltic countries, Sweden, Turkey and the Netherlands posting double digit growth, whereas Southern European markets, Austria, Ukraine and Slovenia experienced a considerable downturn in new volumes.

1. Leaseurope conducts a yearly survey of European leasing activities and the figures represented here are based on the results of the Federation’s 2012 Annual Statistical Enquiry of the following members reporting: 34 members in 29 countries reporting leasing data and 7 members in 7 countries providing short term rental data. Leaseurope members not reporting in this survey: Cyprus: Cyprus Finance and Leasing Association; Denmark: DANSKE BILUDLEJERE; Germany: Bundesverband der Autovermieter Deutschlands; Greece: Greek Car Rental Companies Association; Luxembourg: Fédération Luxembourgeoise des Loueurs de Véhicules; Malta: Rent A Car Association Malta; Tunisia: Association Professionelle Tunisienne des Banques et des Etablissements Financiers. All growth rates reported here are calculated based on a homogenous sample of members reporting in Leaseurope’s Annual Statistical Enquiries and are adjusted for exchange rate fluctuations from 2007 onwards. Growth rates are adjusted for exchange rate fluctuations unless otherwise stated.
During the year, European lessors granted new equipment (including vehicles) volumes of €236.0 billion and new real estate volumes of €16.6 billion. The equipment sector remained stable compared to the previous year, growing by 0.6%. However, real estate leasing saw a significant dip in new volumes, contracting by 32.3%.

In 2012, Leaseurope’s total penetration rate, measured as the amount of overall new leasing volumes granted to businesses divided by investment in the 22 countries reporting, decreased slightly from the previous year from 12.9% to 12.4%. When restricted to equipment and vehicles (i.e. excluding real estate from the calculation), the penetration rate increased reaching 19.7% compared to 19.5% in 2011.

**Equipment and vehicle leasing**

Automotive assets, i.e. passenger cars and commercial vehicles, accounted for 60% (€151.6 billion) of total new volumes granted during 2012, remaining the largest individual asset segment of the European leasing market. New leasing volumes for passenger cars continued growing, gaining 5.7% and, according to Leaseurope estimates, European leasing and rental companies purchased some 6.3 million passenger cars in 2012. As opposed to passenger cars, the commercial vehicle sector underwent a downturn, contracting by 3.5% in 2012 to reach new leasing volumes of €43.3 billion.

The machinery and industrial equipment segment (making up 17% of new equipment volumes with new contracts worth €40.5 billion) grew slightly by 1.1%. Similarly, the leasing of smaller ticket items (computers and business machines) remained relatively flat. The ships, aircraft, railway, and rolling stock segment and “other types of equipment”, which includes energy generating assets such as photovoltaic panels, each experienced a contraction of just over 11%.
Just over three quarters of new leasing volumes for equipment (including vehicles) were made to the private sector, with 20% granted to consumers and 4% to public authorities. Leasing to consumers was the only client category, which grew in 2012.

As in the previous years, the vast majority of new equipment and vehicle contracts (71.2%) were made for an original contract term between 2 to 5 years and the average contract size was about €28,500, a 2% decrease compared to 20116.

Real estate leasing

For the second consecutive year, real estate leasing underwent a downturn in new volumes, contracting by 32.3% in 2012 to reach €16.6 billion. The number of new contracts7 granted also declined by 42.3%.

New leases of all types of buildings experienced double digit declines. The largest segment of all property leases was industrial buildings, comprising over 30% of total new real estate leasing volumes. In 2012, new business in this segment dropped by nearly 30%. Leases of retail outlets and office buildings contracted at a similar rate, while hotels and leisure buildings and utilities each lost over 50%.

Short term car rental

The short term car rental members reporting in the Leaseurope 2012 Annual Enquiry purchased around 556,000 cars during the year and, at year end, owned a fleet of approximately 523,000 cars. In total, the firms represented through these members made nearly 21 million individual rental contracts during the course of the year.

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.