

**Press Release OICA**

**Paris, 24 March 2021**

**Global auto production in 2020 severely hit by COVID-19 crisis with a 16% drop in world auto production**

After a bleak 2019, which already saw a marked decline of almost 5% in world auto production (down to less than 92.2 million cars, trucks and buses) and which ended 10 years of growth, the world auto industry faced a new, unprecedented challenge in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. With shutdowns of a large part of the auto industry and its many suppliers around the world during several weeks, 2020 marked "the worst crisis ever to impact the automotive industry, a key sector of the world economy", stated OICA's president, Mr FU Bingfeng.

The collected data show a 16% decline of the 2020 production, to less than 78 million vehicles, which is equivalent to 2010's sales levels. As noted by Mr Fu, "the 2020 results wipes off all the growth made over the last 10 years".

Europe as a whole saw a drop of more than 21% on average. All main producing countries had sharp declines, ranging from 11% to almost 40%. Europe represented an almost 22% share of the global production.

In America, the 2020 production of 15,7 million units represented a 20% share of the global production. The NAFTA region saw production declining by more than 20%, with U.S. manufacturing declining by 19%. South America dropped by more than 30%, with Brazil down by almost 32%.

The African continent also declined sharply, by more than 35%.

Meanwhile Asia resisted reasonably well, with a decline of only 10%. In particular, China, which was hit hard in 2020's first months, recovered very quickly; all in all, the Chinese reduction in production has been limited to only 2%. Asia remains by far the world's largest producing region, with 57% share of global production.

OICA also compiles sales/registration figures in its member countries. The 2020 sales trend shows a similar decline, however limited to around 12%. President Fu noted with satisfaction that "the last few months of 2020 globally showed a gradual recovery to the levels of 2019, such that the final results are clearly better than the originally expected decline of 20% or more". There are however marked differences, with sharp declines of more than 20% or even 30% in most major markets, except for China (-2%) and South Korea which increased by 6%; also the Turkish market performed extremely well, after 2 years of very strong declines in 2018 and 2019.

Mr Fu concluded that "demand for mobility for persons and goods is expected to remain high. But it is equally clear that the demand for mobility is not the same as in the past: the auto industry is facing up many challenges at the same time besides the need to recover economically, such as ever cleaner products and their production, ever safer vehicles,

connectivity, automation, ....Vehicle manufacturers and their vast supplier networks are taking up all these challenges and will continue to shape the future of clean and sustainable mobility.”

*Note: For 2020, not all truck data are available due to legal restrictions in some regions, although this information would not substantially change general trends*

**About OICA:**

*The world association OICA was founded in 1919 and gathers 36 national trade associations around the world, including all major automobile manufacturing countries in Europe, America, and Asia. OICA is the only non-governmental car and truck manufacturers’ organization accredited to the United Nations and represents the technical interests in international institutions and organizations.*

*The OICA activities contribute to the worldwide diffusion of technology, experience and know-how, to the benefit of all countries. The member countries are committed to the improvement of road safety and environmental protection, and they actively contribute to the global harmonization of technical regulations and standards. OICA also collects and publishes international statistics and coordinates the yearly calendar of motor shows all over the world.*

For further information: **[www.oica.net](http://www.oica.net)**

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