

INDIAN AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY – TWO-WHEELERS

Industry hopeful of sustained recovery, going forward

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What's Inside...



Trends in Domestic Two-Wheeler Industry











Highlights





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Wholesale volumes reported a healthy YoY growth of ~26% in January 2024, aided by steady improvement in demand; volumes represented a strong growth on sequential basis with wholesales curtailed by OEMs in December 2023



Retails record a healthy YoY growth — Retail sales in January 2024 represented a healthy YoY growth of ~15%, raising hopes of a sustained recovery in the industry. Retail sales had remained at healthy levels during the recently-concluded festive season, representing a YoY growth of ~21%.



Domestic two-wheeler (2W) wholesale volumes grow at a healthy pace – In January 2024, domestic wholesale volumes, at 1.44 million units, represented a healthy growth of ~22% on a sequential basis, with OEMs limiting their production in December 2023 due to the end of the calendar year. Concerns continue to persist regarding sustained demand recovery amid material rise in the cost of ownership.



E2W sales continue to improve – Electric two-wheeler (e2W) retail volumes, after declining to ~45,000 units in June 2023 (post pre-buying in May 2023), improved to ~82,000 units in January 2024. Despite the improvement, the volumes remained impacted to an extent by material price hikes by e2W OEMs to help offset the impact of the reduction in the FAME II subsidy from June 1, 2023.



Exports outlook continues to be weak – Export volumes remain weak, with shortage of forex and inflationary pressures in key African markets, impacting 2W affordability. The OEMs expect export demand to remain impacted for at least another quarter.



Recovery pace still uncertain; improvement in rural demand remains key — ICRA is cautiously optimistic of a sustained demand recovery, amid multiple headwinds (elevated ownership cost, persisting inflationary pressures and rise in financing rates). Amid the impact of uneven precipitation on farm cash flows and, consequently, rural demand, concerns of a sustained demand recovery for the industry persist.



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