

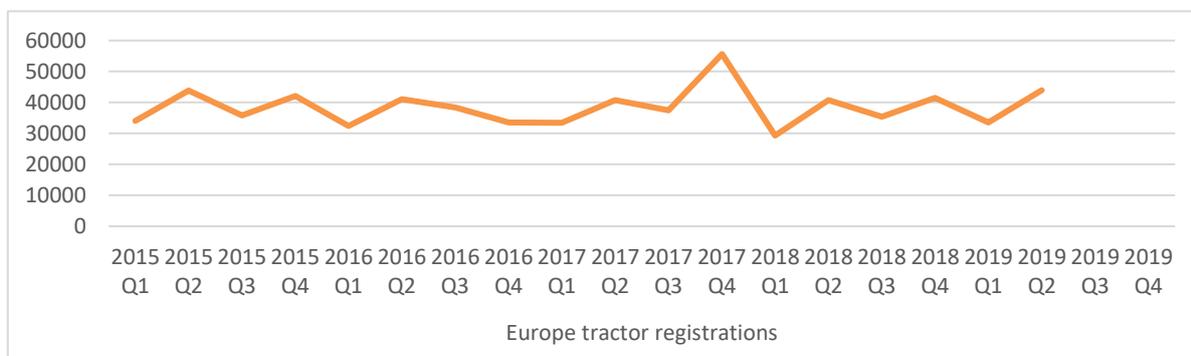
**PRESS RELEASE**

**Positive first six months for tractor registrations in 2019**

*Demand for tractors remains stable, but industry barometer tempers expectations for the second half of the year*

**Brussels, 16 September 2019** - Overall, some 96,428 tractors were registered across Europe in the first six months of 2019, according to numbers sourced from national authorities. Of these registrations, 21,285 tractors were 37kW (50 hp) and under, and 75,143 were 38kW and above. CEMA considers that 77,383 of these vehicles are agricultural tractors, the rest being quads, telehandlers or other equipment. An overview of the total tractor registrations in each country can be found in the annex.

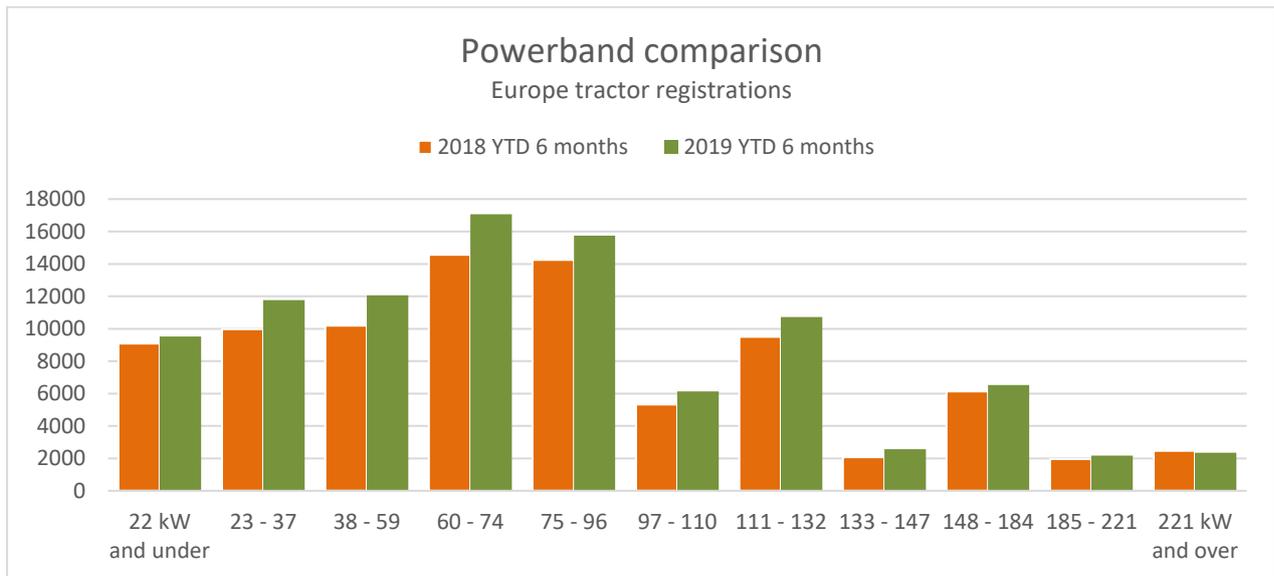
Agricultural tractor registrations for the first semester increased by around 10% in comparison with the first six months of 2018. One should however remember that registrations in 2018 were impacted by new legislation coming into force on 1 January 2018, which resulted in a high number of pre-registered tractors in December 2017 without an increase in underlying demand. The current increase should therefore take this phenomenon into account, since 2018 is otherwise considered to have been a positive year for tractor sales. Graph 1 clearly shows that registrations in December 2017 peaked and, subsequently, were relatively low in the first quarter of 2018. When estimating the trend without this unusual peak, the first semester in 2019 continues the slight recovery for demand in tractors seen in 2018.



Graph 1 - Source Systematics International, formatted by CEMA

**Trends per power categories**

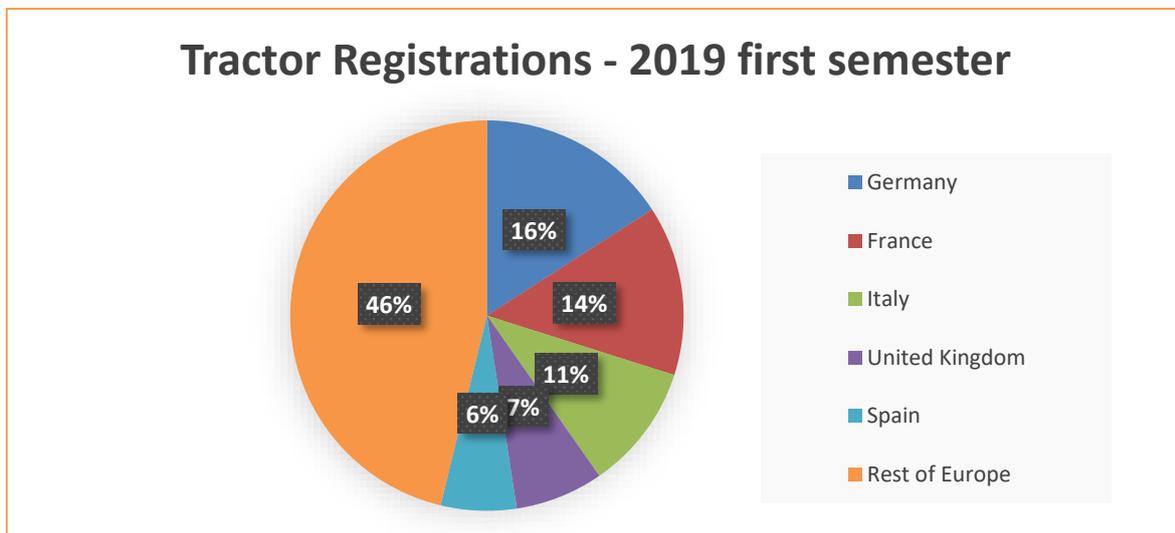
When comparing the trends per power category, registrations for all tractors increased in the first six months of 2019 compared with 2018, with the notable exception of tractors above 221 kW (Graph 2). It is commonly acknowledged that there was a higher number of late 2017 pre-registrations in the lowest power categories. Overall, half of all tractors registered are below 75 kW and only one out of four is above 110 kW.



Graph 2 - Source Systematics International, formatted by CEMA

**Significant country differences**

The two biggest tractor markets in Europe remain Germany and France (Graph 3). All tractor registrations in these countries significantly increased by 21% and 47 % respectively in the first 6 months in 2019 versus 2018. Italy saw a more modest increase of registrations (+6%) while Spain benefited from a solid +19%. In the United Kingdom however, registrations fell by 3.5%. There were otherwise notable increases in Finland, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia and notable decreases in the Netherlands, Belgium and Slovakia.



Graph 3 - Source Systematics International, formatted by CEMA

## **In reviewing the Registration numbers across Europe, CEMA economic experts commented:**

In **Germany**, inventory build-up continued in 2018 and 2019 with a pull-forward effect probably linked to the coming into force of several regulatory and legislative changes. Therefore, manufacturer's sales repeatedly increased last year but are now no longer able to maintain such high levels. End-customer markets however only slightly increased, with stability largely due to certain dealer pressure and a continued overall willingness to invest. Registrations, which had decreased strongly last year, were significantly higher in the first half-year of 2019 compared to the same period in 2018 (tractors over 50hp: +18 percent), as a result of the "Mother Regulation" effect. Significantly lower growth rates are now expected for the second half of the year. But all in all, tractor registrations >50 hp for the full 2019 might still be 8 to 10 percent above the previous year's level.

In **France**, tractor registrations are currently booming. In the first half of the year, they increased by + 47%. In fact, if we correct the data by smoothing out the unusual peaks of registrations that occurred in December 2017 and December 2018, the growth would be around +25%. This strong growth is linked to the increase in agricultural income in France, and the rebound of investments in French farms after several years of parsimonious expenditure in agricultural equipment. A slowdown in growth is expected in the second half. Tractor registrations are expected to grow approximatively by + 25% over the year as a whole.

In **Italy**, registrations indicate a 6.5% growth (10,024 units YTD in June 2019), a positive sign even though in the last years the market is showing a substantial standstill in favor of second-hand vehicles. In 2018, sales of second-hand tractors have been more than double those of new ones (37,807, with a 7.4% growth compared to the previous year). For the first five months of 2019, 19,590 used tractors were sold in Italy, an increase of 5.9% comparing to the same period of 2018. The trend is worrying, as this figure already exceeds by over a thousand machines the total registrations of new tractors for the whole year 2018.

In the **United Kingdom**, the market is being heavily influenced by the ongoing Brexit process. This has led to some volatility, as farmers react to the uncertainty ahead, despite farm incomes remaining fairly strong. Although machinery deliveries started the year quite well, orders have started to slow down and the second half of the year looks likely to be more challenging, at least until there is more clarity about how, and when, the UK will leave the EU. The Brexit-related volatility is reflected in Agricultural tractor registrations, which were down in the first quarter, up sharply in April but then down in May and June. Overall, tractor registrations were down 4% in the first half of the year.

In **Spain**, the number of tractor registrations has been surprisingly increasing until July adding monthly increases up which led to a total variation of +19,5% (18,2% for standard; 16,5% for NTT, 51,1% for crawlers and +60,4% for ATVs and ATUs). But nevertheless, such increase is not expected to continue the whole year since external factors driving the demand of tractor are not behaving positively and the imports dropped in June in such a way that the cumulative total changed from +11% in May to +3% in June. Second-hand markets are decreasing for NTT

(-4,3%) and increasing for standard tractors (+2,9%). We are estimating a shrinkage in the next months so the yearly change would be around the +10%.

In **Belgium**, total of tractors registrations declined by 3% during first semester 2019. The evolution covers two different trends, mainly a 5% increase in tractors <50 hp registrations and a 7% decrease in tractors >50 hp registrations. The market <50hp has been growing the last years because the target group (gardeners, municipalities, hobby farmers...) is growing and increasingly uses these tractors. The evolutions on the market >50hp should be correlated with the following factors: on one hand, a moderate enthusiasm amongst the arable farmers because of the prices outlook and on the other hand, the disposable income of dairy farmers should decrease because of the drought. All in all, tractor registrations for the year 2019 are expected to be stable.

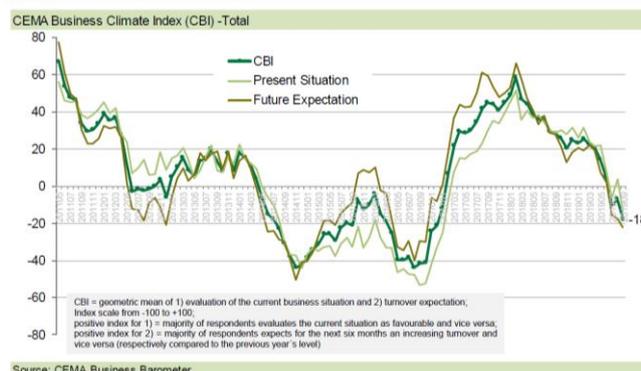
In **Turkey**, after a total sales record was achieved in 2017, the tractor market began to decline sharply in the second half of 2018 and has increasingly continued to fall in the first half of 2019. After closing the year 2017 with 72.909 units, the domestic sales stood at 48,356 units in 2018. According to current provisional reports, the market declined 62% in the first five months of 2019 compared to the same period of the previous year, and the downturn is expected to continue all year long. Main causes are the downtrend in the Turkish economy, which started in the second half of 2018, the notable rise in interest rates and currency levels, and the significant increase in agricultural input prices, which cannot be tolerated by product prices. (note: tractor unit numbers for Turkey are not included in the European registration numbers).

### CEMA Barometer confirms negative trend

As indicated by the September CEMA barometer, the general business climate index of the agricultural machinery industry in Europe is now in negative range for the third time in a row, with both current and future business expectations evaluated as negative. The expected slowdown in incoming orders is also confirmed, as 44% of the companies now foresee that their order intake would decrease within the coming 6 months (compared to 33% last month).

France now remains the only positive exception where a majority of respondents expect an increasing turnover for the next 6 months compared to last year, while Switzerland, Italy and Spain have now joined the negative indexes. Survey respondents also reflect the ongoing Brexit process developments, with a significant drop of expectations for the UK.

### Business Climate Index Development



- ENDS -

**For further information, please contact:**

Beatriz Arribas - CEMA Communications Officer

Tel. +32 2 706 81 73

[secretariat@cema-agri.org](mailto:secretariat@cema-agri.org)

Annex:

Country	YTD		
	2019	2018	% Change
Austria	3322	2745	21,02%
Belgium	2526	2811	-10,14%
Bosnia Herzegovina	161	158	1,90%
Croatia	1505	922	63,23%
Czech Republic	2114	1969	7,36%
Denmark	1086	987	10,03%
Estonia	635	578	9,86%
Finland	5202	3785	37,44%
France	13563	9216	47,17%
Germany	15292	12589	21,47%
Greece	512	625	-18,08%
Hungary	1715	1529	12,16%
Iceland	163	251	-35,06%
Ireland	2020	1911	5,70%
Italy	10024	9415	6,47%
Latvia	350	408	-14,22%
Lithuania	730	1041	-29,88%
Luxembourg	433	329	31,61%
Moldova	695	772	-9,97%
Netherlands	1644	1861	-11,66%
Norway	1677	1468	14,24%
Poland	4965	5005	-0,80%
Portugal	1757	1558	12,77%
Serbia & Montenegro	1494	702	112,82%
Slovakia	1259	2869	-56,12%
Slovenia	883	879	0,46%
Spain	5987	5024	19,17%
Sweden	4783	3848	24,30%
Switzerland	2932	2773	5,73%
United Kingdom	6999	7259	-3,58%
<b>Total Registrations</b>	<b>96428</b>	<b>85287</b>	<b>13,06%</b>
<b>Agricultural Tractors</b>	<b>77383</b>	<b>70107</b>	<b>10,38%</b>
<b>37kW and under</b>	<b>21285</b>	<b>19056</b>	<b>11,70%</b>

Source : Systematics International –  
formatted by CEMA