

Brazilian News

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VW Announces Recall Due to Improper Fastening of Ball Joint



Earlier this March, the subsidiary of Volkswagen in Brazil announced a recall involving the compact models Gol, Voyage and Up, year model 2018, to a maintenance service due to improper attachments

on front suspensions. The service will take about 30 minutes. According to the automaker, there is a possibility of ball joint loosening and evident risk of accidents. However, the recall this time involves only 15 units.

Steelworks Unit Reactivated at Mogi das Cruzes After Recession

The Gerdau Group announced the unit in Mogi das Cruzes, a town located in the metropolitan region of São Paulo, has been in operation since earlier this March, which also immediately opens 110 direct new jobs. Driven by the recovery of the local automotive production, the steelworks has an installed capacity to make 375 thousand tons of special steels per year. Also, Gerdau has two other special steel mills: one in Pindamonhangaba town (SP state) and another in Charqueadas town (Rio Grande do Sul state), totaling an annual installed capacity of 1.4 million tons, with full conditions to meet the expanding demand of the automotive industry.

In 2015, there were around 350 direct employees in this unit, in which around 250 were laid off later and the furnaces were turned off, keeping just 100 employees to work in other divisions, such as maintenance and commercial operations. However, at the end of 2017, the company scheduled the restart under the trust on a new economic phase in Brazil.

Ultimately, not just in Gerdau, several industries and automakers have also begun to hire new employees as a routine. In the second week of March 2018, the industrial plant of Mercedes-Benz in São Bernardo do Campo city - SP, announced the opening of 400 jobs to assembly lines for trucks and buses.



GERDAU

Confirmed Increase in Automotive Production and Licensing

In a press release, the Brazilian national automakers association (Anfavea) reported that the domestic automotive production reached 431.6 thousand units of vehicles in Feb./Mar. 2018, which is 15% up from the 375.1 thousand units in the same corresponding period of 2017. At the same time, 338.2 thousand units of vehicles were licensed in the domestic market, which means an increase of 19.5% from the record of 282.9 thousand units in February/March last year.



The export showed a growth of 7.2% as well: 112.7 thousand units against 105.1 thousand units in 2017. In the production of trucks and buses, it ended with 14.5 thousand units of trucks in the two months, 47.8% higher than the 9.8 thousand units produced in the same corresponding period last year.

BRAZILIAN AUTOMOTIVE MARKET 2018	Passengers cars, light commercial vehicles, trucks and buses (by thousand units during February/March)		
	2017	2018	Variation
Production	375.1	431.6	15,00%
Domestic licensing	282.9	338.2	19.5%
Export	105,1	112.7	7,20%

Fastener Export Shows Growth in Feb./Mar. 2018

According to the Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services (MDIC) of Brazil, Brazilian companies exported US\$ 18.29 million worth of fasteners in Feb./Mar. 2018, 41.5% up from the total value recorded in the same corresponding period of 2017. 4,064.45 tons (an 89.2% increase) of bolts, screws, nuts and similar articles were sold to other countries. The average FOB price was US\$ 4.50 per Kg, a fall of 25.2%.

In terms of import, the result was superior, which shows US\$ 112.47 million worth of products were bought (an increase of 11.1%). Among these products, fasteners represented more than 20.8 thousand tons, an increase of 20.8%. The FOB price was US\$ 5.38 per kg, dropping by 8.2%.

Brazilian Fastener Market (Febr./Mar. 2018)	Value	Quantity	FOB price average
Export	US\$ 18.29 million	4,064,45 tons	US\$ 4.5 p/kg
Import	US\$ 112.47 million	20.880,15 tons	US\$ 5.386 p/kg

Ciser Releases New Fasteners for Solar Energy Installations

The South American fastener manufacturing giant, the Ciser, places on market all its know-how of almost 60 year for service of clean energy from the sun (It has been in operation since 1959). At the end of February 2018, the Ciser started the sales of a new line of metallic fasteners intended for solar energy installations, made of stainless steel (AISI 304/A2 70) and characteristic of high corrosion resistance, according to the Jackson Ferreira Comuni, the coordinator of Marketing and New Business of the Company. "This fastener line consists of a single piece without welding that ensures greater safety," said the executive. ■

