

GM reports record sales in July

But curbs to limit car purchases may slam brakes on industry

By LI FANGFANG
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General Motors, the largest foreign automaker in China measured by sales, reported record monthly sales numbers for the sixth consecutive time.

But a growing national trend to limit automobile ownership locally looms as a possible hindrance to sales in the future.

The US automaker said on Monday that it set a July record by delivering 199,503 vehicles in China, a 15.1 percent increase from last year's previous high for the month. It was the sixth such report General Motors has made since February.

Shanghai GM's sales in China rose 5.7 percent on an annual basis to a July record of 97,064 units. SAIC-GM-Wuling's sales reached 98,694 units, an all-time high for July and an increase of 26.6 percent year-on-year.

FAW-GM's sales were up 3.1 percent to 3,379 units, the US auto company said.

For the first seven months of 2012, sales by General Motors and its joint ventures in China were up 11.7 percent on an annual basis to 1.62 million units, surpassing last year's record for the period.

Kevin Wale, president and managing director of the General Motors China Group, said last month that General Motors expected sales increases to remain steady in the second half, driven by demand in China's interior provinces, as



General Motor Co's Buick booth at the Beijing International Auto Show in April. The US automaker sold 199,503 vehicles in China in July, a 15.1 percent year-on-year increase.

demand for its products in all important segments are strong despite signs of slowing economic growth in China.

General Motors' strong market performance showed strong monthly sales in July around the country, just as Rao Da, secretary-general of China Passenger Car Association, predicted.

"Domestic sales in July will be similar with the number in June, which will speed up the recovery of China's passenger vehicle market over the coming months," Rao said.

However, China's still-growing automobile market is facing difficulties as more major cities are launching strict policies to limit the number of vehicles in response to traffic and environ-

mental concerns.

Guangzhou recently became the fourth city to limit car purchases by restricting vehicle registrations, following Beijing, Shanghai and Guiyang, in Guizhou province.

Analysts said the vehicle purchase limits in Guangzhou won't seriously affect the local market in the short term, but will inspire more cities to follow suit.

Xian, capital city of Shaanxi province and one of the fastest-growing vehicle markets in China, said last week that it is considering putting caps on automobile sales as it issued a traffic policy draft to collect public opinions.

Dong Yang, general secre-

tary of the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, strongly disagreed with the local governments' sales curbs.

"The policies go against the central government's appeal for China's stable growing economy, and it's unfair to citizens who don't yet have their first car," Dong said.

Statistics show that Beijing's sales cap, which started in December 2010, has lowered the national vehicle sales growth rate by 3 percentage points.

"If other big cities, like Hangzhou, Tianjin, and Nanjing all follow suit, China's vehicle market will stop growing in the coming years," said Jia Xing-guang, an auto analyst in Beijing.

Lenovo's ThinkPad to target high-end, mainstream markets

By TUO YANNAN
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Seven years after acquiring the US-based IBM Corp's personal-computer business, Lenovo Group Ltd released its latest ThinkPad X1Carbon and announced it will concentrate solely on high-end and mainstream markets.

TECH Lenovo has since become the second-largest PC maker globally and introduced a 1.36 kg carbon-fiber ultrathin ThinkPad notebook on Monday.

This year marked the 20th for the ThinkPad, after the first IBM portable PC was made by that company in Japan in 1984.

When the first 13.6 kg bricklike box was invented, Chen Xudong, senior president of Lenovo and president of Lenovo China, had just graduated from college.

Now, this brand's product commands about one-third of the company's laptop sales in China.

When the Chinese company bought the ThinkPad brand in 2005, Naitoh Arimasa, vice-president of Lenovo in charge of ThinkPad notebooks, research and development in Japan, received many questions from his old business partners, such as, "Can a Chinese company carry on this business after the acquisition?" and "Will Lenovo change ThinkPad products?"

Naitoh, known as "the father of the ThinkPad", told his clients, "Don't worry, ThinkPad's philosophy won't change." Now the company doesn't hear those questions anymore, he said at ThinkPad's 20th-anniversary ceremony on Monday.

Wei Jianglei, vice-president and chief marketing officer of Lenovo China, said that while IBM never sold ThinkPad products in retail stores, Lenovo has.

"It is a trend that the lines between commercial and consumer products is getting blurry," Wei said.

Chen said Lenovo will mainly try to sell ThinkPad products in high-end and mainstream markets.

The company's consumer product lines such as ideaPad laptops already use the technology from ThinkPad lab.

However, the ideaPad product line has not been as successful as the ThinkPad.

Another difficulty for the consumer laptop industry is the growing use of smartphones and tablet PCs, he added.

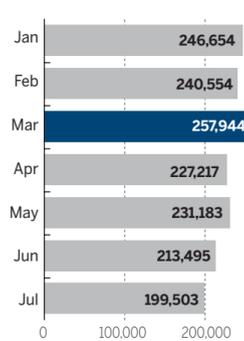
Dilip Bhatia, vice-president of Lenovo Group and general manager of the Lenovo Global Business Department, said smartphones and tablet PCs are affecting the notebook market.

Tablets and smartphones continued to take market share from PCs, whose sales remained flat during the second quarter of 2012, according to the US-based research company Gartner Inc.

Consumers are spending less on laptops and desktops but more on mobile Internet devices, Mikako Kitagawa, Gartner analyst, said in a statement.

"People want lighter, thinner and faster laptops, and in the future, laptops will have more touch, talk and gestures functions to fit customers' needs," Bhatia said.

MONTHLY SALES OF GM AUTOMOBILES IN CHINA IN 2012



Source: General Motors Co
SHEN WEI / CHINA DAILY

Joanna Real Estate

Yosemite - 伏山美地 ID: 6967 358sqm, 4bedrooms ¥49,000 type C9, townhouse, big garden, sizable balcony	Beijing Riviera - 香江花园 ID: 7365 450sqm, 5bedrooms ¥53,000 type A, phase I, detached, big garden, big balcony	Rose and Ginkgo - 龙湖滟澜山 ID: 12379 360sqm, 5bedrooms ¥40,000 big garden, big balcony, under floor heating	Orchid Garden - 卓锦万代 ID: 1082 310sqm, 4bedrooms ¥36,000 townhouse, 60sqm garden, under floor heating
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SanlitunSOHO - 三里屯SOHO ID: 16111 158sqm, 2+1bedrooms ¥19,000 high floor, good view, value for money	Central Park - 新城国际 ID: 1030 320sqm, 4bedrooms ¥47,000 phase I, south facing, garden view	Park Avenue - 公园大道 ID: 7920 210sqm, 3bedrooms ¥96,000 1st floor, nice garden	Upper East Side(V) - 阳光上东-安徒生花园 ID: 4389 200sqm, 3bedrooms ¥94,000 south facing, garden view, nice balcony
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Apartment for Rent in Beijing CBD Area Central Park - 新城国际 (I-II) 2Br. 132sqm south facing ¥17,000 3Br. 188sqm south facing ¥25,000 4Br. 265sqm garden view ¥42,000 4Br. 320sqm high floor ¥45,000 Central Park - 新城国际(III) 2Br. 140sqm garden view ¥18,000 3Br. 171sqm south facing ¥25,000 3Br. 185sqm high floor ¥26,000 3+1Br. 220sqm good view ¥35,000 Central Park - 新城国际(IV) 2Br. 138sqm garden view ¥20,000 3Br. 188sqm high floor ¥28,000 4Br. 264sqm south facing ¥42,000 4Br. 285sqm good view ¥45,000 Global Trade Mansion - 世贸国际 3Br. 180sqm good view ¥22,000 3Br. 259sqm garden view ¥24,000 3Br. 267sqm high floor ¥25,000 Fortune Plaza - 财富中心 2Br. 140sqm middle floor ¥15,000 2Br. 167sqm high floor ¥18,000 CBD Private Castle - 圣世一品 2Br. 105sqm middle floor ¥12,000 3Br. 170sqm good view ¥17,000 Sanlitun Area GuangCai Int'l Apartment - 光彩国际公寓 3Br. 217sqm good view ¥24,000 4Br. 270sqm high floor ¥33,000 SanlitunSOHO - 三里屯SOHO 2Br. 147sqm middle floor ¥18,000 3Br. 209sqm high floor ¥28,000 3Br. 250sqm middle floor ¥30,000 4Br. 483sqm penthouse ¥70,000 Chang'an Avenue China Center Place - 华贸中心 2Br. 155sqm middle floor ¥13,000 3Br. 211sqm high floor ¥22,000 Gemdale Int'l Garden - 金地国际花园 2Br. 148sqm middle floor ¥13,000 3Br. 200sqm south facing ¥23,000	Lido Area Upper East Side - 阳光上东 3Br. 160sqm high floor ¥12,000 3Br. 220sqm south facing ¥20,000 4Br. 248sqm high floor ¥23,000 4Br. 270sqm garden view ¥30,000 Upper East Side(II) - 阳光上东(滨河) 3Br. 218sqm middle floor ¥25,000 3Br. 230sqm 1st floor, nice garden ¥30,000 Upper East Side(IV) - 阳光上东-安徒生花园 3Br. 239sqm middle floor ¥23,000 4Br. 253sqm south facing ¥24,000 4Br. 280sqm good view ¥30,000 Richmond Park - 丽都水岸 2Br. 121sqm middle floor ¥12,000 3Br. 180sqm good view ¥17,000 3Br. 217sqm south facing ¥25,000 4Br. 339sqm big balcony ¥38,000 Chaoyang Park Area Greenlake Place - 观湖国际 3Br. 180sqm nice furniture ¥13,000 4Br. 225sqm high floor ¥20,000 4Br. 260sqm middle floor ¥23,000 4Br. 298sqm garden view ¥30,000 Palm Springs - 棕榈泉 2Br. 138sqm south facing ¥15,000 3Br. 180sqm high floor ¥24,000 3Br. 225sqm good view ¥28,000 3Br. 230sqm high floor ¥30,000 4Br. 370sqm good view ¥45,000 Park Avenue - 公园大道 3Br. 170sqm nice balcony ¥20,000 3Br. 193sqm high floor ¥22,000 3Br. 256sqm park view ¥33,000 3+1Br. 212sqm high floor ¥28,000 4Br. 370sqm park view ¥45,000 Oceanwide Int'l Residential District - 泛海国际 3Br. 185sqm spacious layout ¥15,000 4Br. 245sqm high floor ¥24,000 4Br. 300sqm high floor ¥33,000 Boya Garden - 博雅园 2Br. 135sqm good view ¥11,000 3Br. 170sqm middle floor ¥14,000 4Br. 228sqm high floor ¥20,000 Star River - 星河湾 3Br. 260sqm garden view ¥23,000 3+1Br. 320sqm nice garden ¥33,000 4Br. 500sqm duplex ¥60,000	Lufthansa Area United Apartment - US联邦公寓 2Br. 166sqm high floor ¥15,000 3Br. 200sqm high floor ¥18,000 4Br. 230sqm high floor ¥22,000 Chevalier - 裘马都 3Br. 220sqm garden view ¥22,000 4Br. 290sqm high floor ¥25,000 Mixion Residence - 九都汇 1Br. 92sqm good view ¥10,000 1+1Br. 110sqm brand new ¥13,000 2Br. 140sqm open kitchen ¥15,000 3Br. 180sqm good view ¥25,000 Dongzhimen Area Seasons Park - 海晟名苑 2+1Br. 140sqm good view ¥13,000 3Br. 150sqm garden view ¥14,000 4Br. 250sqm garden view ¥33,000 MOMA - MOMA 3Br. 230sqm high floor ¥22,000 3Br. 245sqm special offer ¥25,000 4Br. 303sqm south facing ¥32,000 POP MOMA - 当代MOMA 2Br. 147sqm high floor ¥13,000 3Br. 210sqm south facing ¥25,000 Villas for Rent in Beijing Airport Expressway Area Chateau Regalia - 丽高王府 3Br. 250sqm nice garden ¥20,000 4Br. 323sqm viscount ¥30,000 5Br. 465sqm earl ¥38,000 Dynasty Garden - 丽都花园 3Br. D 286sqm 50sqm garden ¥21,000 4Br. D 400sqm two gardens ¥25,000 4Br. B 365sqm special offer ¥35,000 5Br. H 600sqm big garden ¥45,000 Rits Garden - 丽嘉花园 4Br. 410sqm nice garden ¥40,000 4Br. 450sqm big garden ¥45,000 5Br. 500sqm full furniture ¥50,000 Australian Garden - 澳景园 4Br. 450sqm 400sqm garden ¥38,000 5Br. 600sqm nice garden ¥55,000 LA GRANDE VILLA - 誉天下 4Br. 275sqm nice garden ¥18,000 4Br. 375sqm full furniture ¥20,000	Jing Shun Road Close to ISB Yosemite - 伏山美地 4Br. B1 498sqm detached ¥48,000 4Br. B2 570sqm nice garden ¥55,000 4Br. B6 508sqm big garden ¥53,000 4Br. C6 453sqm nice garden ¥52,000 4Br. C9 358sqm big garden ¥38,000 Beijing Garden Villa - 裕京花园 4Br. 252sqm big garden ¥25,000 4Br. 280sqm nice garden ¥27,000 Le Leman Lake Villas - 莱蒙湖别墅 4Br. A 682sqm big garden ¥50,000 4Br. B 578sqm big garden ¥45,000 4Br. C 516sqm 100sqm garden ¥40,000 3Br. F 285sqm full furniture Capital Paradise - 名都园 3Br. 159sqm semi-detached ¥13,000 3Br. 196sqm nice garden ¥17,000 4Br. 229sqm detached ¥23,000 River Garden Villa - 裕京花园 3Br. A 200sqm 20sqm garden ¥25,000 4Br. B 247sqm big garden ¥30,000 4Br. C 260sqm nice garden ¥32,000 Dragon Bay Villa - 龙湾别墅 3Br. 290sqm special offer ¥25,000 4Br. 370sqm 100sqm garden ¥30,000 Rose and Ginkgo Villas - 龙湖滟澜山 4Br. 350sqm big garden ¥34,000 4Br. 400sqm luxury decoration ¥40,000 Jing Shun Road Close to WAB Beijing Riviera - 香江花园 4Br. A 403sqm big garden ¥42,000 4Br. B 406sqm detached ¥45,000 4Br. C 294sqm nice garden ¥40,000 3Br. E 240sqm modern furniture ¥35,000 4Br. F 465sqm big garden ¥65,000 Lane Bridge Villa - 长岛澜桥 3Br. 295sqm nice garden ¥28,000 4Br. C 502sqm big garden ¥36,000 Orchid Garden - 卓锦万代 4Br. 350sqm big garden ¥35,000 4Br. 400sqm nice garden ¥40,000 Grand Hills - 大湖山庄 4Br. C 502sqm big garden ¥55,000 4Br. K 480sqm big garden ¥50,000 5Br. J 711sqm big garden ¥75,000 Quan Fa Garden - 泉发别墅 4Br. 280sqm special offer ¥25,000 6Br. 650sqm nice garden ¥40,000
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River Garden Villa : 5Br 4Ba 220sqm ¥30,000 ID:0904 This fully furnished detached villa comes with modern decor, a big garden, a sunroom and under floor heating throughout.	Palm Springs : 3Br 2Ba 175sqm ¥23,000 value for money ID:5907 This beautiful apartment situated on the 11th floor comes with wooden flooring throughout, brand new modern furniture, and a stunning view of the compounds garden and lake. Perfect for individuals and families alike.
Four Seasons : 3Br 2Ba 256sqm ¥48,000 ID:11176 This lovely apartment comes with a spacious living room, brand new modern furniture, and a stunning garden/river view. Four Seasons is a brand new property in walking distance of Kempinski Hotel.	<p>Hotline: 010-8458 5475/ 137 0108 0877</p>