

**Malaysia auto sales gain 8.7 percent in February**  
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Malaysia's auto sales rose 8.7 percent year-on-year in February, an industry group said Monday, as demand picked up in Southeast Asia's biggest passenger car market after the global downturn.

The Malaysian Automotive Association (MAA) said sales of new motor vehicles increased to 40,654 units in February, up from 37,386 sold in the same month last year.

The group added that it expected sales to continue to rise.

"Sales volume for March 2010 would be better than February 2010 due to seasonal factors" and would "continue the year-on-year sales volume expansion recorded in the first two months of this year," the MAA said in a statement.

Auto sales in January jumped 33 percent year-on-year. The industry group said the smaller rise in February was due to the shorter working month and the Lunar New Year holiday.

- AFP

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