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Electric cars in crisis: Half of all electric car owners regret their purchase

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The market for electric cars is stagnating. Many Germans are unsettled by the lack of funding. There is no recovery in sight in the short term.

Flensburg – The electric car is in crisis. According to a [YouGov survey, more than half of all Germans regret](#) buying or leasing their [electric car](#) . Rising electricity prices are primarily responsible for this. The other car segments, on the other hand, are on the rise - this is shown by current figures from the Federal Motor Transport Authority in Flensburg.

Registrations for electric cars are stagnating

Registrations of [new cars increased significantly in April](#) . According to current figures from the Federal Motor Transport Authority, the volume increased by around 19.8 percent compared to April 2023. New private registrations increased more sharply than commercial ones (plus 20.8 percent compared to plus 19.3 percent). When it comes to electric cars, however, there is a clear lull. 29,668 new electric cars were registered, a decrease of 0.2 percent compared to the same month last year.



Electric car charging (symbolic photo). The market for electric cars is stagnating. Many Germans are unsettled by the lack of funding. © IMAGO / Sven Simon

Overall, the share of electric car registrations in the “car mix” was 12.2 percent. Hybrid vehicles bucked the trend; A significant increase was observed here, with an increase of 28.4 percent. The verdict: “BEVs in particular [continue to develop undynamically](#) ,” wrote the Association of the German Automotive Industry (VDA). “The market stagnated in April.” The level of registered vehicles is at the same level as the previous year, while [new registrations are “significantly” behind](#) in the current year .

Slack in electric cars – no quick recovery in sight

A recovery in demand is unlikely this year. “We are seeing increasing uncertainty in the market when it comes to the ramp-up of electromobility,” the *German Press Agency* quoted traffic expert Constantin Gall from the consulting firm EY as saying. Customers would doubt the prospects of electric cars if politicians were not prepared to support them. Reinhard Zirpel, President of the Association of International Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (VBIK), saw it the same way: “The BEV segment is currently suffering a crisis of confidence, which was primarily caused by the decision to abolish the electric bonus at short notice.”

At the car giant Volkswagen, however, there is more optimism. “The euphoria at the beginning is followed by a pause, and then the big growth actually comes,” Carsten Intra told the *Reuters* news agency on Tuesday (May 7th). Intra is the head of the Volkswagen subsidiary [VW N](#). Although the current discussion about openness to technology is not helpful, in the long term there will be “no alternative” to electric mobility, he predicted.

Fewer and fewer Germans want to buy electric cars

But the Germans seem [to be less optimistic](#) . Fewer and fewer people in Germany can imagine buying an electric car. In 2024, only 17 percent said yes when asked whether an electric car would be an option for them. This was evaluated by the Allensbach Institute's current mobility monitor on behalf of the German Academy of Engineering Sciences (acatech). In 2021 it was 24 percent.

“In the long-term trend, e-mobility has always been in the minority, but now [we have reached a new low](#) ,” explained study leader Renate Töpfer, managing director of the Allensbach Institute for Demoscopy, at a press conference at the end of April. One of the triggers for this lull was the [traffic light coalition](#) 's decision to no longer support electric cars. This led to a massive loss of trust, especially around the turn of the year. (*with dpa and Reuters*)

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