ICRA

INDIAN TRACTOR INDUSTRY

Sector sustains strong momentum in May 2026

JUNE 2026

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Highlights

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Wholesale volumes reported strong growth of 19.3% YoY in May 2026, driven by a low base effect and improved affordability following the GST reduction on tractors.

Following a robust rise of 23.5% YoY in FY2026, wholesale volume growth is likely to soften to 1-4% in FY2027 owing to a high base effect and the IMD's forecast of a below-normal monsoon.

- **Tractor demand remained strong in May 2026:** Wholesale volumes rose sharply by 19.3% YoY, while retail volumes increased by 13.6% YoY in May 2026, driven by a low base effect, steady farm cash flows and improved affordability following the GST rate cut. However, volume growth is expected to slow down, as the Government has deferred and staggered the implementation for the revised emission norms (led to pre-buying in FY2026) for the key 30-50 HP segment to April 2028 from April 2026.

- **IMD forecasts below-normal rainfall in FY2027:** The IMD's first-stage Long Range Forecast (LRF) for the 2026 Southwest (SW) Monsoon reflects a below-normal rainfall at 90% +/- 4% of the Long Period Average (LPA), driven by likely development of El Niño conditions during the monsoon season. A deficient precipitation is likely to have adverse implications on agricultural output and, consequently, tractor sales.

- **Domestic wholesale volumes likely to record modest growth in FY2027:** As per the second advance estimates released by MA&FW* in March 2026, both kharif and rabi foodgrain output for AY2025-26 increased by 3% YoY, supported by healthy rainfall in CY2025. While strong crop output in AY2025-26, MSP support and Government subsidies continue to underpin farm cash flows and tractor volumes, the risk of El Niño conditions could weigh on the industry growth with the likely moderation to 1-4% in FY2027, given an elevated base.

- **Tractor original equipment manufacturers (OEM) maintain strong credit profiles:** The margins of tractor manufacturers are likely to remain healthy, aided by operating leverage and stable raw material costs. Credit profiles of the manufacturers are expected to remain comfortable, supported by healthy profitability, low leverage and adequate liquidity.

**MA&FW: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare; GST: Goods and Services Tax; HP: Horsepower; IMD: India Meteorological Department; MSP: Minimal Support Price*

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