Class 8 truck sales hit 2650 in April, surpassing last year’s total, a noteworthy feat considering the squeeze the Western Canada economy is currently facing. Sales for the month were more than 300 above the five-year average. This was the sixth best April since 1999. Freightliner, Volvo and International experienced considerable gains in their monthly sales compared to the previous year. After a very strong march closed the first quarter, this bodes well for a good second quarter.

Class 8 truck sales closed out the first quarter 22.5% ahead of last year and 28.5% ahead of the five-year average, making for the fifth strongest first quarter since 1999. A good start to the second quarter is keeping Class 8 truck sales in 2015 on track. Sales are almost 2,000 above the five-year average despite a less than stellar economy.

It’s now 14 straight months with sales above 2,000 for the Canadian Class 8 truck market, although April experienced a drop from the 3,000 mark. Prior to this 14-month streak the Canadian market enjoyed a 10 month period of sales coming in above the 2,000 mark. The strong and steady numbers are reminiscent of but not as strong as the industry’s capacity boom years. Market analysts remain optimistic about continued growth into 2016.

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Market leader Freightliner retains a commanding 29% share of the Canadian Class 8 truck market heading into the second quarter. Also showing impressive numbers for the first quarter is Volvo which continues to hang on to a narrow lead over Kenworth for second place. Peterbilt meanwhile is at 11% share while Mack remains tied with Western Star with each OEM enjoying a 7% slice of the market.