

Nissan downgrades forecasts as 9-month net profit plunges

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Japanese auto giant Nissan is struggling with weak demand and fallout from the arrest of former boss Carlos Ghosn

Crisis-hit Japanese automaker Nissan said Thursday its net profit plunged more than 87 percent for the nine months to December as it

struggles with weak demand and fallout from the arrest of former boss Carlos Ghosn.

Nissan revised downwards its full-year sales and profit forecasts but warned that the impact from the spreading coronavirus crisis was not yet included in their figures.

Net profit for April-December dropped 87.6 percent to 39.3 billion yen (\$358 million), on sales down 12.5 percent at 7.5 trillion yen for the period.

The profit decline was mainly due to weak sales in the United States as well as Japan, where the impact of the nation's sales tax hike hit auto demand, the company said in a statement.

Nissan, which downgraded annual forecasts three months ago, said its bottom-line [profit](#) was now forecast to be 65 billion yen for the [fiscal year](#) to March 2020, compared with an earlier estimate of 110 billion yen.

Full-year sales are estimated at 10.2 trillion yen, down from a previous forecast of 10.6 trillion yen.

It was Nissan's first earnings announcement since Ghosn dramatically jumped bail and fled Japan, where he was awaiting trial on financial misconduct charges.

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