

# THE U.S. AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY: MONTHLY REPORT ON SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS

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Committee on Ways and Means,  
in Investigation No. 332-136  
under Section 332  
of the Tariff Act of 1930



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Table 1.—New passenger automobiles: U.S. retail sales of domestic production, production, inventory, days' supply, and employment, by specified periods, 1980, 1981, and 1982

(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)						
Item	1981 and 1982			1980 and 1981		
	Jan. 1982	Feb. 1982	Mar. 1981- Feb. 1982	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980- Feb. 1981	
Retail sales of domestic production:						
Subcompact-----	95	132	1,607	161		1,660
Compact-----	84	115	1,472	137		1,632
Intermediate-----	107	121	1,682	148		1,809
Standard-----	59	62	927	72		1,003
Luxury-----	23	27	329	26		310
Total-----	368	456	6,018	544		6,413
Production:						
Subcompact-----	68	81	1,780	123		1,762
Compact-----	48	54	1,431	138		1,727
Intermediate-----	68	90	1,528	109		1,586
Standard-----	45	44	764	78		799
Luxury-----	29	26	343	30		295
Total-----	257	295	5,846	478		6,168
Inventory:						
Subcompact-----	448	423	1/	293		1/
Compact-----	350	336	1/	421		1/
Intermediate-----	435	433	1/	459		1/
Standard-----	157	154	1/	178		1/
Luxury-----	81	86	1/	70		1/
Total-----	1,471	1,432	1/	1,421		1/
Days' supply: <sup>2/</sup>						
Subcompact-----	178	120	1/	77		1/
Compact-----	105	92	1/	83		1/
Intermediate-----	104	127	1/	98		1/
Standard-----	79	73	1/	71		1/
Luxury-----	67	77	1/	89		1/
Total-----	107	97	1/	79		1/
Employment: <sup>3/</sup>						
Total employees-----	<sup>4/</sup> 667	<sup>5/</sup> 650	1/	<sup>6/</sup> 743		1/
Production workers--	<sup>4/</sup> 487	<sup>5/</sup> 475	1/	<sup>6/</sup> 551		1/
Layoffs <sup>7/</sup> -----	229	246	1/	195		1/

<sup>1/</sup> Not applicable.

<sup>2/</sup> Days' supply is an average for each class size which is determined by dividing total inventory by the previous month's retail sales.

<sup>3/</sup> Employment data are for SIC 371 (motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment).

<sup>4/</sup> Data are for December 1981.

<sup>5/</sup> Data are for January 1982.

<sup>6/</sup> Data are for January 1981.

<sup>7/</sup> Layoffs are the number of UAW members on indefinite layoff as of the end of each specified period.

Source: Retail sales, production, and days' supply, Ward's Auto Information Bank; inventory, Automotive News; and employment, U.S. Department of Labor.

Note.--Because of rounding, figures may not add to totals shown.

Table 4.—New passenger automobiles: U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by principal markets and specified periods, 1980 and 1981

Market	1981 and 1982			1980 and 1981	
	Dec. 1981	Jan. 1982	Feb. 1981- Jan. 1982	Jan. 1981	Feb. 1980- Jan. 1981
	Quantity (units)				
Canada-----	22,224	13,318	458,948	23,650	493,948
Saudi Arabia-----	2,579	1,244	13,764	1,077	18,727
Kuwait-----	912	362	7,723	1,559	14,507
Japan-----	239	146	4,151	196	5,803
West Germany-----	229	180	3,371	457	4,976
Belgium-----	41	19	1,987	273	4,786
Venezuela-----	360	131	8,814	429	4,200
Switzerland-----	6	14	1,177	328	3,725
All other-----	2,812	1,849	30,682	3,841	43,914
Total-----	29,402	17,263	530,617	31,810	594,586
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada-----	162,086	105,768	3,094,054	165,797	2,986,551
Saudi Arabia-----	35,814	16,299	176,744	12,818	188,033
Kuwait-----	11,047	4,194	84,362	14,654	134,842
Japan-----	2,975	1,751	46,267	2,034	51,875
West Germany-----	2,183	1,766	31,069	4,172	41,423
Belgium-----	494	237	16,440	2,277	33,497
Venezuela-----	3,367	1,394	79,999	3,779	35,847
Switzerland-----	62	171	46,964	2,685	28,452
All other-----	29,871	18,333	251,660	33,664	341,998
Total-----	247,899	149,913	3,827,559	241,880	3,842,518

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Note.--Because of rounding, figures may not add to the totals shown.

Table 5.--Lightweight automobile trucks 1/ and bodies and cab/chassis for lightweight automobile trucks: U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by principal markets and specified periods, 1980 and 1981 2/

Market	1981 and 1982			1980 and 1981	
	Dec. 1981	Jan. 1982	Feb. 1981- Jan. 1982	Jan. 1981	Feb. 1980- Jan. 1981
	Quantity (units)				
Canada-----	2,987	2,352	55,286	1,512	61,107
Saudi Arabia-----	844	1,981	21,318	3,175	26,786
Argentina-----	1	2	2,272	1,163	11,914
Kuwait-----	285	160	2,964	514	4,885
Ecuador-----	138	151	1,968	351	4,989
Venezuela-----	218	16	3,142	415	4,013
Mexico-----	148	135	3,613	302	3,507
Colombia-----	56	23	1,132	68	4,845
All other-----	1,508	1,723	21,445	1,707	27,620
Total-----	6,185	6,543	113,140	9,207	149,666
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada-----	21,025	17,203	396,372	9,277	503,677
Saudi Arabia-----	9,980	25,076	194,796	25,494	192,063
Argentina-----	2	15	15,835	7,349	72,172
Kuwait-----	2,676	1,517	24,712	3,859	34,123
Ecuador-----	1,213	1,303	15,848	2,624	38,637
Venezuela-----	1,744	124	27,144	3,664	37,822
Mexico-----	550	284	27,266	2,372	25,705
Colombia-----	449	121	9,999	530	41,544
All other-----	15,461	15,941	190,268	13,561	228,837
Total-----	53,100	61,584	902,240	68,730	1,174,580

1/ Defined as not over 10,000 pounds gw.

2/ Partially estimated.

3/ Quantity data include complete trucks and cab/chassis, but exclude bodies.

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Table 6.--New passenger automobiles: Sales of domestic and imported passenger automobiles and sales of imported passenger automobiles as a percent of total U.S. sales, by specified periods, 1981 and 1982

Period	Sales of--				Total U.S. sales		Ratio of import sales to total sales	
	Domestic automobiles 1/		Imported automobiles 2/		1982	1981	1982	1981
	1982	1981	1982	1981				
								---Percent---
January---	368,138	469,832	166,172	177,365	534,310	647,197	31.1	27.4
February--	456,942	543,593	175,261	219,164	632,203	762,757	27.7	28.7
Jan.-Feb--	825,080	1,013,425	341,433	396,529	1,166,513	1,409,954	29.3	28.1

1/ Domestic automobile sales include U.S. and Canadian-built automobiles sold in the United States.

2/ Does not include automobiles imported from Canada.

Source: Automotive News.

Table 7.--New passenger automobiles: Price indexes, by specified periods, 1981 and 1982

(1967 = 100)

Item	1981 and 1982			1981 and 1982		
	December	January	Percent	January	January	Percent
	1981	1982	change	1981	1982	change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted----	197.0	197.4	+0.2	185.3	197.4	+6.5
Seasonally adjusted----	195.8	196.0	+0.1	183.5	196.0	+6.8
Producer Price Index:						
Unadjusted----	214.9	215.3	+0.2	199.6	215.3	+7.9
Seasonally adjusted----	213.6	213.0	-0.3	197.4	213.0	+7.9

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.



Table 8.--New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the U.S. market, February 1982

(In dollars)

Source and size category	:	Retail price changes, February 1982 (+ or -)
U.S. producers-----	:	No change
Japanese producers-----	:	No change
European Economic Community producers:	:	
Subcompact-----	:	No change
Compact-----	:	+200 to 335
Luxury-----	:	No change

Source: Automotive News, January 1982.

Table 9.--Sales and profits (loss) on major U.S. automobile manufacturers' operations, by specified periods, 1981 and 1982 <sup>1/</sup>

(In millions of dollars)

Item and firm	1981		1980	
	October- December	January- December	October- December	January- December
Sales:				
General Motors-----	15,640	62,700	16,200	57,700
Ford-----	9,000	38,200	10,190	37,090
Chrysler-----	2,700	10,800	2,800	9,230
American Motors-----	620	2,600	658	2,600
Total-----	27,960	114,300	29,848	106,620
Profits:				
General Motors-----	97	333	62	(763)
Ford-----	(346)	(1,060)	(316)	(1,540)
Chrysler-----	(67)	(476)	(235)	(1,710)
American Motors-----	(47)	(137)	(29)	(198)
Total-----	(363)	(1,340)	(518)	(4,211)

<sup>1/</sup> Data are for world operations.

Source: Automotive News and Ward's Automotive Reports.

Table 10.--Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981-March 1982 1/

Company, model, and options 2/	April 1, 1981		March 1, 1982		Percent change in	
	Base model 3/	Option-ally equipped model 3/	Base model 3/	Option-ally equipped model 3/	Feb. 1982-Mar. 1982	April 1981-Mar. 1982
<b>General Motors:</b>						
Chevette, 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG)-----	5,155	5,405	5,513	5,778	0	+6.9
Citation, 4 door HB (PB, RWD, TG, AT)-----	6,404	7,014	6,899	7,554	0	+7.7
Cimarron, 4 door (AT)-----	4/ 12,131	4/ 12,501	12,181	12,551	0	+0.4
<b>Ford:</b>						
Escort, L, 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG, RS)-----	5,556	5,857	6,046	6,406	0	+9.4
Fairmont Futura, 4 door (RWD, TG,)-----	6,421	6,953	6,419	7,042	0	+1.3
LTD Crown Victoria, 4 door (RWD, TG, AC, R)-----	8,519	10,102	9,294	11,022	0	+9.1
<b>Chrysler:</b>						
Plymouth TC3, 2 door HB (PB, RWD)-----	5,938	6,188	6,421	6,634	0	+7.2
Reliant, 4 door (PB, RWD, TG, R, AT)-----	5,980	6,680	6,629	7,464	0	+11.7
Dodge 400, 2 door (RWD, AC) 5/-----	6,672	7,502	8,043	8,844	0	+17.9
<b>Toyota:</b>						
Corolla, Deluxe, 2 door (R)-----	5,688	5,793	6,018	6,129	0	+5.8
Corona LE, 4 door (R, AT)-----	8,254	8,254	8,939	8,939	0	+8.3
Cressida, 4 door-----	11,599	11,599	12,249	12,249	0	+5.6
<b>Nissan (Datsun):</b>						
210, Deluxe 2 door (R)-----	5,369	5,494	5,819	5,899	0	+7.4
Stanza, 4 door (R, AT) 5/-----	6,839	7,224	7,154	7,574	0	+3.5
Maxima, 4 door-----	10,379	10,379	11,379	11,379	0	+9.6
<b>Honda:</b>						
Civic, 1300, 2 door HB (R)-----	4,599	4,694	4,799	4,894	0	+4.3
Accord, 4 door (R, AT)-----	7,645	7,950	7,829	8,176	0	+2.8
<b>Mazda:</b>						
GLC Custom, 2 door HB (R)-----	5,495	5,650	5,695	5,850	0	+3.5

1/ Suggested retail prices, East Coast; do not include any dealer incentives, below-market financing or rebates offered by manufacturers or importers.

2/ The following codes apply: PB = power brakes; RWD = rear window defroster; TG = tinted glass; HB = hatchback; AT = automatic transmission; AC = air conditioning; R = radio; RS = reclining front seats.

3/ Base models are 2 door or 2 door hatchback and 4 door or 4 door hatchback models. Optionally equipped models are base models which have been equipped with the options listed in parenthesis.

4/ Cimarron not sold until May 21, 1981.

5/ Dodge 400 has replaced the Diplomat; Stanza has replaced the 510.

Source: Compiled from data supplied by U.S. manufacturers and Japanese importers.

Note: Some 1981 models have been discontinued, thus some 1981 models have been replaced by comparable 1982 models.



