

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

**Report to the Subcommittee on Trade,
Committee on Ways and Means,
on Investigation No. 332-207
Under Section 332 of the
Tariff Act of 1930**



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This report was prepared principally by

Jim McElroy and Gary Cohen

Transportation Branch
Machinery and Equipment Division

Office of Industries
Erland Heginbotham, Director

Address all communications to
Kenneth R. Mason, Secretary to the Commission
United States International Trade Commission
Washington, DC 20436

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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, September 1985–August 1987

Item	(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)				
	1986–87			1985–86	
	July 1987	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1986– Aug. 1987	Aug. 1986	Sept. 1985– Aug. 1986
Retail sales of domestic production:					
Subcompact.....	121	131	1,516	129	1,957
Compact.....	135	125	1,747	150	1,557
Intermediate.....	221	239	2,672	233	2,670
Standard.....	86	99	1,085	105	946
Luxury.....	48	60	631	56	819
Total.....	611	654	7,651	673	7,949
Production:					
Subcompact.....	68	76	1,380	113	1,566
Compact.....	77	88	1,772	120	2,013
Intermediate.....	144	162	2,841	127	2,778
Standard.....	50	50	872	66	570
Luxury.....	16	36	686	51	752
Total.....	356	413	7,552	477	7,679
Inventory:					
Subcompact.....	322	275	1/	305	1/
Compact.....	354	293	1/	342	1/
Intermediate.....	792	719	1/	651	1/
Standard.....	236	206	1/	233	1/
Luxury.....	197	165	1/	186	1/
Total.....	1,900	1,658	1/	1,726	1/
Days' supply: 2/					
Subcompact.....	61	59	1/	61	1/
Compact.....	63	56	1/	62	1/
Intermediate.....	90	85	1/	73	1/
Standard.....	69	62	1/	74	1/
Luxury.....	93	89	1/	80	1/
Average.....	75	71	1/	69	1/
Employment: 3/					
Total employees.....	4/ 850	5/ 803	1/	6/ 822	1/
Production workers...	4/ 664	5/ 615	1/	6/ 625	1/

1/ Not applicable.

2/ Days' supply is an average for each class size which is determined by the previous month's retail sales.

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

4/ Data are for June 1987, revised.

5/ Data are for July 1987.

6/ Data are for July 1986.

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

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

Table 2.—New passenger automobiles: U.S. imports for consumption, by principal sources and by specified periods, August 1985–July 1987 ^{1/}

Source	1986–87			1985–86	
	June 1987	July 1987	August 1986– July 1987	July 1986	August 1985– July 1986
Quantity (units)					
Japan.....	219,856	220,825	2,406,813	289,263	2,720,051
Canada.....	88,976	51,807	1,014,064	52,189	1,185,350
West Germany.....	30,892	28,746	409,809	37,142	442,979
Korea.....	48,497	51,392	318,393	22,066	81,345
Sweden.....	13,447	10,653	144,117	16,648	150,519
Mexico.....	15,190	11,827	70,048	5,109	31,306
Yugoslavia.....	7,276	5,336	52,724	6,424	25,786
United Kingdom...	4,566	5,968	40,260	2,467	26,578
Italy.....	498	661	22,915	1,706	11,415
France.....	2,699	866	28,233	695	9,821
Brazil.....	2,160	3,535	16,858	3	81
All other.....	1,151	1,490	15,578	1,973	6,542
Total.....	435,208	393,106	4,539,812	435,685	4,691,773
Value (1,000 dollars)					
Japan.....	1,914,778	1,953,303	20,939,929	2,391,467	19,550,173
Canada.....	924,053	556,461	10,780,405	527,936	11,741,750
West Germany.....	757,607	727,330	8,881,130	716,709	7,076,208
Korea.....	248,467	262,846	1,585,625	103,816	374,905
Sweden.....	183,350	150,060	1,913,236	200,636	1,787,665
Mexico.....	149,890	113,843	709,711	53,631	295,051
Yugoslavia.....	17,850	13,071	288,553	16,237	63,770
United Kingdom...	98,436	138,116	855,703	66,155	672,303
Italy.....	13,572	16,059	283,872	20,975	167,231
France.....	25,636	7,996	206,130	7,695	131,796
Brazil.....	10,423	16,939	79,517	25	344
All other.....	17,103	22,282	231,776	26,606	109,521
Total.....	4,361,165	3,978,306	46,755,587	4,131,888	41,970,717

^{1/} Data include imports into Puerto Rico and TSUSA items 692.1005–692.1008; data do not include automobiles assembled in U.S. foreign trade zones.

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 3.—Lightweight automobile trucks 1/ and bodies and cab/chassis for lightweight automobile trucks: U.S. imports for consumption, by principal sources and by specified periods, August 1985–July 1987 2/

Source	1986–87			1985–86	
	June 1987	July 1987	August 1986– July 1987	July 1986	August 1985– July 1986
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Japan.....	65,557	60,034	888,477	110,675	953,105
Canada.....	16,932	8,141	191,899	17,917	315,579
Mexico.....	2,031	1,936	17,053	2,145	22,028
All other.....	1	4	1,007	6	1,351
Total.....	84,521	70,115	1,098,436	130,743	1,292,063
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan.....	366,548	333,995	4,800,884	567,649	4,465,618
Canada.....	142,874	77,749	1,772,545	161,113	2,585,864
Mexico.....	16,284	15,661	131,817	16,123	159,083
All other.....	7,753	2,887	51,213	2,793	77,177
Total.....	533,459	430,292	6,756,459	747,678	7,287,742

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

2/ Partially estimated, all data include imports into Puerto Rico.

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

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce, except as noted.

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

Table 4.—New passenger automobiles: U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by principal markets and by specified periods, August 1985–July 1987

Market	1986–87			1985–86	
	June 1987	July 1987	August 1986– July 1987	July 1986	August 1985– July 1986
Quantity (units)					
Canada.....	72,299	20,113	553,825	36,633	671,910
Japan.....	196	261	51,266	249	1,949
All other.....	4,859	5,466	3,319	2,510	24,796
Total.....	77,354	25,840	608,410	39,392	698,655
Value (1,000 dollars)					
Canada.....	697,331	208,826	5,316,581	352,124	5,964,905
Japan.....	2,958	3,988	52,987	3,555	31,541
All other.....	64,803	74,170	683,902	31,704	328,962
Total.....	765,092	286,984	6,053,470	387,383	6,325,408

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 by specified periods, August 1985–July 1987 ^{2/}

Market	1986–87		August 1986– June 1987	1985–86	
	June 1987	July 1987		July 1986	August 1985– June 1986
	Quantity (units) ^{3/}				
Canada.....	18,294	9,974	155,117	10,743	164,686
All other.....	1,040	1,521	13,852	567	8,626
Total.....	19,334	11,495	168,969	11,310	173,312
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada.....	177,111	97,170	1,439,724	100,779	1,454,454
All other.....	12,276	19,203	164,187	6,631	93,465
Total.....	189,387	116,373	1,603,911	107,410	1,547,919

^{1/} Defined as not over 10,000 pounds gvwt.

^{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, except as noted.

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

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, 1986 and 1987

Period	Sales of—		Imported		Total U.S.		Ratio of im-	
	Domestic		automobiles 2/		sales		port sales to	
	1987	1986	1987	1986	1987	1986	1987	1986
	automobiles 1/						total sales	
							Percent	
January..	427,678	635,904	197,941	237,281	625,619	873,185	31.6	27.2
February.	556,953	613,371	220,162	218,096	777,115	832,467	28.3	26.3
Jan-Feb..	984,631	1,249,275	418,103	456,377	1,402,734	1,705,652	29.8	26.8
March....	682,117	649,351	247,966	247,487	930,083	896,838	26.7	27.6
Jan-Mar..	1,666,748	1,898,626	666,069	703,864	2,332,817	2,602,490	28.6	27.0
April....	691,803	719,563	242,374	252,607	934,197	972,172	25.9	26.0
Jan-Apr..	2,358,551	2,618,189	908,463	956,473	3,267,014	3,574,662	27.8	26.8
May.....	622,303	786,268	260,514	286,194	882,817	1,072,462	29.6	26.7
Jan-May..	2,980,854	3,404,457	1,168,977	1,242,667	4,149,831	4,647,124	28.2	26.7
June.....	656,727	736,261	281,555	264,954	938,282	1,001,215	30.0	26.5
Jan-June.	3,637,581	4,140,718	1,450,532	1,507,621	5,088,113	5,648,339	28.5	26.7
July.....	611,035	648,667	304,795	305,188	915,830	953,855	33.3	32.0
Jan-July.	4,248,616	4,789,385	1,755,327	1,812,809	6,003,943	6,602,194	29.2	27.5
August...	653,974	673,311	308,641	278,951	962,615	952,262	32.1	29.3
Jan-Aug..	4,902,590	5,462,696	2,063,968	2,091,760	6,966,558	7,554,456	29.6	27.7

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, 1986 and 1987

Item	(1967 = 100)					
	1987		Percent change	1986 and 1987		
	May 1987	June 1987		June 1986	June 1987	Percent change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted....	232.0	232.7	+0.3	224.7	232.7	+3.6
Seasonally adjusted....	232.0	233.2	+0.5	225.2	233.2	+3.6
Producer Price Index:						
Unadjusted....	239.7	239.7	—	233.9	239.7	+2.5
Seasonally adjusted....	239.5	239.5	—	233.9	239.5	+2.4

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

Table 8.—New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the U.S. market during August 1987 ^{1/}

Country source/make	Retail price changes in dollars, August 1987 (+ or -)
U.S. producers:	
General Motors.....	No change.
Ford.....	No change.
Chrysler.....	No change.
Japanese producers:	
Isuzu.....	+440
Suzuki.....	+500
European producers:	
Ford (West Germany).....	+800

^{1/} Average retail price change for all models.

Source: Automotive News, August 1987.

Table 9.—Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981–September 1987 1/

Company, model, and options 2/	April 1, 1981		September 1, 1987		Percent change in optionally equipped model	
	Base model 3/	Optionally equipped model 3/	Base model 3/	Optionally equipped model 3/	August 1987–September 1987	April 1981–September 1987
General Motors:						
Cavalier, 2 door	4/ \$6,966	4/ \$6,966	\$7,255	\$7,255	0.0	+4.1
Camaro, 4 door (AT)	4/ 12,131	4/ 12,501	15,032	15,447	0.0	+23.6
Ford:						
Escort GL 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG)	5,556	5,857	6,949	7,199	0.0	+22.9
Tempo GL 4 door (RWD, AT, TG) 5/	6,421	6,953	8,310	9,057	0.0	+30.3
LTD Crown Victoria, 4 door (RWD, TG, ILG, AC)	8,519	10,102	15,410	15,555	0.0	+54.0
Chrysler:						
Plymouth Turismo, 2 door HB (RWD)	5,938	6,188	7,199	7,199	0.0	+16.3
Reliant, 4 door (RWD, TG, R, AT)	5,980	6,680	8,364	9,161	0.0	+37.1
Dodge 600, 4 door (RWD, AC) 6/	6,672	7,502	10,672	11,646	0.0	+55.2
Toyota:						
Corolla, Deluxe, 4 door (R)	5,688	5,793	8,478	8,778	0.0	+51.5
Cressida, 4 door	11,599	11,599	20,250	20,250	0.0	+74.6
Nissan (Datsun):						
Sentra E, 2 door 7/	5,369	5,369	7,599	7,599	0.0	+41.5
Stanza GXE, 4 door (AT) 7/	6,839	7,749	12,899	13,594	0.0	+75.4
Maxima GXE, 4 door	10,379	10,379	16,799	16,799	0.0	+61.9
Honda:						
Civic 1300, 2 door HB (R)	4,599	4,694	5,799	5,966	0.0	+27.1
Accord DX, 4 door (R, AT)	7,645	7,950	10,625	11,283	0.0	+41.9
Mazda:						
323 Deluxe, 2 door HB (R) 8/	5,495	5,650	7,749	8,129	0.0	+43.9

1/ Suggested retail prices 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; ILG = interior luxury group.

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/ Cavalier and Camaro not sold until May 21, 1981.

5/ Tempo replaced the Fairmont Futura.

6/ Dodge 600 replaced the Diplomat.

7/ Sentra replaced the 210; Stanza replaced the 510.

8/ 323 replaced the GLC.

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

Note: Some 1981–86 models have been discontinued; these models have been replaced by comparable models where possible. In addition, some equipment that was optional on prior models is now included in the base price or equipment that was standard has been deleted, making price comparisons of prior-year models difficult.