

# **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  
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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, April 1990-March 1992  
(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)

Item	1991-92			1990-91	
	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992	Apr. 1991- Mar. 1992	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990- Mar. 1991
<b>Retail sales of domestic production:</b>					
Subcompact.....	71	73	1,107	68	1,171
Compact.....	125	147	1,637	145	1,742
Intermediate.....	167	183	2,057	181	2,312
Standard.....	79	81	1,109	92	1,212
Luxury.....	51	54	628	54	691
Total.....	492	537	6,538	539	7,128
<b>Production:</b>					
Subcompact.....	63	70	800	72	961
Compact.....	128	150	1,709	119	1,869
Intermediate.....	152	170	1,864	160	2,204
Standard.....	39	50	1,374	34	1,456
Luxury.....	59	57	695	49	725
Total.....	440	498	6,442	433	7,215
<b>Inventory</b>					
Subcompact.....	210	183	1/	193	1/
Compact.....	310	321	1/	336	1/
Intermediate.....	392	429	1/	446	1/
Standard.....	222	203	1/	184	1/
Luxury.....	125	131	1/	140	1/
Total.....	1,257	1,265	1/	1,301	1/
<b>Days' supply: 2/</b>					
Subcompact.....	74	65	1/	74	1/
Compact.....	62	57	1/	60	1/
Intermediate.....	59	61	1/	64	1/
Standard.....	70	65	1/	52	1/
Luxury.....	61	63	1/	67	1/
Average.....	64	61	1/	63	1/
<b>Employment: 3/</b>					
Total employees.....	4/ 746	5/ 783	1/	6/ 727	1/
Production workers...	4/ 566	5/ 598	1/	6/ 546	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 January 1991, revised.

5/ Data are for February 1992.

6/ Data are for February 1991.

Source: Production and retail sales, 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, by principal sources and by specified periods, March 1990-February 1992 <sup>1/</sup>

Source	1991-92			1990-91	
	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991- Feb. 1992	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990- Feb. 1991
Quantity (units)					
Japan.....	155,781	145,708	1,745,693	169,500	1,922,741
Canada.....	85,084	100,207	1,232,550	67,657	1,197,396
Germany.....	10,563	9,765	165,974	15,153	234,687
Korea, South.....	14,322	5,979	176,406	13,550	206,597
Sweden.....	5,518	6,872	62,931	4,896	89,142
Mexico.....	21,044	16,124	252,205	14,486	234,796
Yugoslavia.....	0	0	2,064	1	2,633
United Kingdom...	464	616	12,694	1,999	25,818
Italy.....	120	123	2,065	359	10,581
France.....	37	0	915	601	2,697
Brazil.....	1,013	0	7,394	2,245	10,617
All other.....	3,312	159	38,768	4,112	51,326
Total.....	297,258	285,553	3,699,659	294,559	3,989,031
Value (1,000 dollars)					
Japan.....	1,858,136	1,673,574	20,363,638	1,873,839	20,387,426
Canada.....	921,050	1,182,540	14,576,364	728,882	13,445,514
Germany.....	307,557	269,373	4,579,866	466,352	5,702,850
Korea, South.....	81,825	36,815	992,098	74,874	1,145,876
Sweden.....	100,714	128,649	1,143,645	84,023	1,469,759
Mexico.....	213,886	169,585	2,619,439	145,423	2,348,672
Yugoslavia.....	0	0	4,813	4	7,682
United Kingdom...	15,444	24,146	448,704	64,045	858,862
Italy.....	9,077	9,969	143,013	10,376	279,978
France.....	477	0	11,504	7,093	32,674
Brazil.....	6,202	0	46,188	13,879	65,684
All other.....	38,737	2,958	492,269	44,166	644,879
Total.....	3,553,104	3,497,609	45,421,541	3,512,956	46,389,859

<sup>1/</sup> Data include imports into Puerto Rico; 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, by principal sources and by specified periods, March 1990-February 1992 2/

Source	1991-92			1990-91	
	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991- Feb. 1992	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990- Feb. 1991
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Japan.....	16,985	17,710	269,504	22,999	311,228
Canada.....	38,357	45,089	422,189	28,008	400,670
Mexico.....	1,540	2,008	15,055	356	15,981
All other.....	3	2	74	0	417
Total.....	57,065	64,809	706,824	51,363	728,296
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan.....	114,345	118,119	1,660,957	136,881	1,775,665
Canada.....	514,860	595,291	5,798,093	386,148	5,347,870
Mexico.....	27,670	36,586	257,714	4,617	198,648
All other.....	690	217	4,623	2,551	52,686
Total.....	657,566	749,777	7,704,625	530,197	7,374,869

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

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, March 1990-February 1992

Market	1991-92			1990-91	
	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991- Feb. 1992	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990- Feb. 1991
	Quantity (units)				
Canada.....	18,443	37,649	467,777	39,559	507,432
Japan.....	2,256	2,858	28,299	2,402	33,124
All other.....	2,299	28,277	247,687	11,695	211,162
Total.....	41,998	68,819	743,798	53,656	751,718
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada.....	233,219	468,053	5,882,746	483,014	5,952,290
Japan.....	41,807	52,083	505,628	39,622	575,523
All other.....	309,494	408,740	3,457,020	147,615	2,588,543
Total.....	584,520	929,470	9,845,988	670,251	9,116,357

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 <sup>1/</sup> and bodies and cab/chassis for lightweight automobile trucks: U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by principal markets and by specified periods, March 1990-February 1992 <sup>2/</sup>

Market	1991-92			1990-91	
	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991- Feb. 1992	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990- Feb. 1991
	Quantity (units) <sup>3/</sup>				
Canada.....	4,658	10,396	125,471	10,762	113,810
All other.....	1,615	1,100	46,992	896	19,097
Total.....	6,273	11,495	172,463	11,658	132,908
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada.....	61,245	130,889	1,651,811	139,321	1,381,886
All other.....	22,011	10,153	543,073	12,465	267,648
Total.....	83,256	141,041	2,194,885	151,786	1,649,534

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

<sup>2/</sup> Partially estimated.

<sup>3/</sup> 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, 1991 and 1992

Period	Sales of-		Imported		Total U.S.		Ratio of import	
	Domestic		automobiles 2/		sales 1/ 2/		sales to total	
	automobiles 1/		1992	1991	1992	1991	sales 1/ 2/	1991
	1992	1991	Quantity (units)		1992	1991	--Percent--	
January....	413,605	416,645	146,518	137,733	560,123	554,378	26.2	24.8
February...	492,454	472,524	158,545	149,073	650,999	621,597	24.4	24.0
Jan.-Feb...	905,872	889,169	305,063	286,806	1,210,935	1,175,975	25.2	24.4
March.....	536,932	538,857	183,675	191,105	720,607	729,962	25.5	26.2
Jan.-Mar...	1,442,804	1,428,026	488,738	477,900	1,931,542	1,905,926	25.3	25.1

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

2/ Does not include automobiles imported from Canada and Mexico.

Source: Automotive News.

Table 7

New passenger automobiles: Price indexes, by specified periods, 1991 and 1992 1/

Item	1991-92			1991-92		
	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1992	Percent change	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1992	Percent change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted..	128.1	128.2	+0.1	125.4	128.2	+2.2
Seasonally adjusted..	126.7	127.2	+0.4	115.5	127.2	+10.1
Producer Priced Index:						
Unadjusted..	127.7	127.5	-0.2	125.0	127.5	+2.0
Seasonally adjusted..	126.9	127.6	+0.6	125.5	127.6	+1.7

1/ Consumer price index, 1982-1984 = 100. Producer price index, 1982 = 100.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

Table 8  
 New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the U.S. market during  
 March 1992 <sup>1/</sup>

Country source/make	Retail price changes March 1992 (+ or -)
U.S. producers:	
General Motors.....	No change.
Ford.....	No change.
Chrysler.....	No change.
Japanese producers:	
Toyota Motors.....	No change.
Mazda.....	+5.1 percent
American Honda.....	No change.
Subaru.....	+2.1 percent
European producers:	
Volkswagen.....	No change.
BMW.....	No change.
Audi.....	No change.
Porsche.....	No change.
Mercedes-Benz.....	No change.
Korean producer:	
Hyundai.....	No change.

<sup>1/</sup> Average retail price change for all models.

Source: Automotive News, March 1992.

Table 9

Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981-April 1992 1/

Company, model, and options 2/	April 1, 1981		April 1, 1992		Percent change in optionally equipped model Jan. 1992- Apr. 1992	Apr. 1981- Apr. 1992
	Base model 3/	Optionally equipped model 3/	Base model 3/	Optionally equipped model 3/		
<b>General Motors:</b>						
Cavalier, 2 door.....	4/ \$6,966	4/ \$6,966	\$8,899	\$8,899	0.0	+27.7
De Ville, 4 door.....	14,198	14,198	31,740	31,740	0.0	+123.6
<b>Ford:</b>						
Escort Pony 2 door HB (RWD, TG).....	5,556	5,857	8,720	8,840	0.0	+50.9
Tempo GL 4 door (RWD, AT, TG) 5/.....	6,421	6,953	10,589	11,441	0.0	+64.5
LTD Crown Victoria, 4 door.....	8,519	10,102	19,563	19,563	0.0	+93.7
<b>Chrysler:</b>						
Dynasty, 4 door (AC) 6/.....	6,672	7,502	14,564	15,364	0.0	+104.8
<b>Toyota:</b>						
Corolla, Deluxe, 4 door (R).....	5,688	5,793	10,564	10,788	+1.5	+86.2
Cressida, 4 door.....	11,599	11,599	23,228	23,228	+1.1	+100.3
<b>Nissan (Datsun):</b>						
Sentra E, 2 door 7/.....	5,369	5,369	8,495	8,495	0.0	+58.2
Stanza GXE, 4 door (AT) 7/.....	6,839	7,749	16,255	17,070	0.0	+120.3
Maxima GXE, 4 door.....	10,379	10,379	19,695	19,695	0.0	+89.8
<b>Honda:</b>						
Civic 1500, 2 door HB (R) 8/.....	4,599	4,694	8,100	8,550	+14.2	+82.1
Accord DX, 4 door (R).....	7,645	7,950	13,500	13,880	+2.1	+74.6

1/ Suggested retail prices do not include any dealer incentives, below-market financing or rebates.

2/ The following codes apply: RWD = rear window defroster; TG = tinted glass; HB = hatchback; AT = automatic transmission; AC = air conditioning; R = radio.

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 not sold until May 21, 1981.

5/ Tempo replaced the Fairmont Futura.

6/ Dynasty replaced the Diplomat.

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

8/ Civic 1500 replaced the Civic 1300.

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

Note: Some 1981-92 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.