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**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. 332-121
Under Section 332
of the Tariff Act of 1930

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UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

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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, 1981, 1980 and 1979

(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)						
Item	1980-81			1979-80		
	December: 1980	January: 1981	February 1980- January 1981	January: 1980	February 1979- January 1980	
Retail sales of domestic production:						
Subcompact-----	117	121	1,665	141		1,789
Compact-----	122	113	1,651	143		1,940
Intermediate-----	131	139	1,820	160		2,347
Standard-----	74	73	1,065	110		1,704
Luxury-----	26	23	317	34		479
Total-----	471	470	6,518	588		8,259
Production:						
Subcompact-----	123	117	1,873	125		2,003
Compact-----	103	100	1,647	157		1,976
Intermediate-----	131	118	1,483	118		2,125
Standard-----	71	78	851	92		1,707
Luxury-----	28	33	307	35		548
Total-----	457	446	6,161	527		8,359
Inventory:						
Subcompact-----	341	322	1/	274		1/
Compact-----	443	432	1/	396		1/
Intermediate-----	430	462	1/	547		1/
Standard-----	166	170	1/	348		1/
Luxury-----	60	62	1/	97		1/
Total-----	1,440	1,448	1/	1,662		1/
Days' supply: 2/						
Subcompact-----	82	88	1/	84		1/
Compact-----	70	86	1/	64		1/
Intermediate-----	83	100	1/	97		1/
Standard-----	59	75	1/	93		1/
Luxury-----	57	66	1/	55		1/
Total-----	80	65	1/	75		1/
Employment: 3/						
Total employees-----	4/ 783	5/ 768	1/	6/ 960		1/
Production workers----	4/ 587	5/ 569	1/	6/ 741		1/
Layoffs 6/-----	190	198	1/	153		1/

1/ Not applicable.

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

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

4/ Data are for November 1980.

5/ Data are for December 1980.

6/ Data are for December 1979.

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

Source: Retail sales and production compiled by Office of International Sectoral Policy, U.S. Department of Commerce; inventory and days' supply, Automotive News; employment, U.S. Department of Labor.

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

Table 2.--New passenger automobiles: U.S. imports for consumption,
by principal sources and specified periods, 1980 and 1979 ^{1/}

Source	1980			1979	
	November	December	January- December	December	January- December
	Quantity (Units)				
Japan-----	161,782	145,174	1,991,502	144,579	1,617,328
Canada-----	63,283	49,889	594,770	48,471	677,008
West Germany-----	37,681	42,968	532,923	44,540	495,565
Sweden-----	4,511	4,720	61,496	6,714	65,907
Italy-----	580	3,042	46,899	5,745	72,456
United Kingdom-----	238	737	32,517	3,002	46,880
France-----	3,463	6,506	47,386	4,188	27,887
Finland-----	-	-	1,227	320	767
All other-----	8	8	1,940	190	1,725
Total-----	271,546	253,044	3,310,660	257,749	3,005,523
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan-----	737,737	669,764	8,228,789	530,460	6,471,054
Canada-----	461,187	364,425	3,798,275	291,790	3,869,794
West Germany-----	242,779	272,790	3,666,095	335,976	3,190,751
Sweden-----	35,505	37,260	465,616	47,337	433,279
Italy-----	6,284	18,920	327,811	38,633	441,151
United Kingdom-----	4,732	17,160	292,996	23,006	314,522
France-----	25,165	44,825	257,401	14,965	118,020
Finland-----	-	-	9,682	1,902	4,332
All other-----	114	71	8,586	503	8,810
Total-----	1,513,503	1,425,215	17,055,251	1,284,572	14,851,713

^{1/} Partially estimated.

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 specified periods, 1980 and 1979 2/

Source	1980			1979		
	November	December	January- December	December	January- December	
	Quantity (Units) <u>3/</u>					
Japan-----	33,648	22,405	480,117	41,589	388,702	
Canada-----	20,938	18,862	200,014	15,609	194,050	
All other-----	245	238	3,439	332	1,750	
Total-----	54,831	41,505	683,570	57,530	584,502	
	Value (1,000 dollars)					
Japan-----	125,059	87,692	1,799,221	145,246	1,397,124	
Canada-----	143,472	122,721	1,176,488	92,509	1,181,621	
All other-----	3,500	4,236	42,419	3,481	24,424	
Total-----	272,031	214,649	3,018,128	241,236	2,603,169	

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

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.

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 specified periods, 1980 and 1979 1/

Market	1980			1979	
	November	December	January- December	December	January- December
	Quantity (units)				
Canada-----	39,640	32,291	507,413	40,557	594,405
Saudi Arabia-----	1,102	2,105	21,459	3,762	30,837
Kuwait-----	1,715	1,456	15,091	2,790	18,516
Japan-----	523	385	6,758	1,557	14,699
West Germany-----	369	297	4,986	457	22,001
Belgium-----	176	170	5,187	722	15,609
Venezuela-----	278	419	4,102	297	6,061
Switzerland-----	207	229	3,816	241	8,048
All other-----	3,671	3,654	43,911	6,231	70,077
Total-----	47,681	40,988	612,723	56,614	780,253
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada-----	261,452	223,095	3,035,160	241,971	3,288,361
Saudi Arabia-----	11,932	26,347	209,731	29,905	245,161
Kuwait-----	16,379	15,858	139,330	24,565	151,122
Japan-----	4,906	3,794	60,149	12,863	115,448
West Germany-----	3,226	2,382	40,716	3,642	142,017
Belgium-----	1,219	1,329	35,518	4,655	89,182
Venezuela-----	2,697	3,505	34,794	2,730	51,876
Switzerland-----	1,639	1,749	28,582	1,803	49,906
All other-----	31,330	31,047	335,394	46,797	478,263
Total-----	334,780	309,106	3,919,374	368,931	4,611,336

1/ Partially estimated.

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

Note.--Because of rounding, figures may not add to the total 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 1979 2/

Market	1980			1979	
	November	December	January- December	December	January- December
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Canada-----	2,646	3,023	44,399	6,462	87,099
Saudi Arabia-----	3,137	2,243	28,315	1,265	19,057
Argentina-----	259	1,146	11,121	744	1,178
Kuwait-----	632	247	5,196	217	4,265
Ecuador-----	522	337	4,341	349	2,826
Venezuela-----	215	338	3,325	322	5,772
Mexico-----	351	290	3,183	334	2,865
Colombia-----	74	126	2,252	240	3,915
All other-----	1,530	2,024	25,740	3,442	35,125
Total-----	9,366	9,774	127,872	12,631	160,924
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada-----	19,556	22,984	289,413	40,751	516,988
Saudi Arabia-----	22,644	17,248	195,157	9,014	115,215
Argentina-----	1,810	7,032	66,020	3,753	5,912
Kuwait-----	4,841	2,036	36,097	1,407	24,598
Ecuador-----	3,899	2,634	32,264	2,580	19,125
Venezuela-----	2,010	2,568	27,164	2,337	48,639
Mexico-----	2,749	2,272	23,158	2,399	18,003
Colombia-----	653	1,072	17,765	1,720	23,671
All other-----	12,214	15,982	199,508	24,909	242,210
Total-----	70,376	73,828	886,546	85,117	1,008,449

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

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 1980

Period	Sales of--				Total U.S. sales		Ratio of import sales to total sales	
	Domestic automobiles 1/		Imported automobiles 2/					
	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980
	-----1,000 units-----				-----Percent-----			
January---	469,832	587,739	177,365	217,639	647,197	805,378	27.4	27.0

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.

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

Table 7.--New passenger automobiles: Price indexes by specified periods, 1980 and 1979

(1967 = 100)

Item	1980			1979 and 1980		
	November	December	Percent change	December 1979	December 1980	Percent change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted----	184.3	184.5	+0.1	171.7	184.5	+7.5
Seasonally adjusted----	182.8	182.1	-0.4	169.5	182.1	+7.4
Producer Price Index:						
Unadjusted----	198.3	197.4	-0.5	180.7	197.4	+9.2
Seasonally adjusted----	195.2	195.4	+0.1	178.9	195.4	+9.2

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

Table 8.--New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the U.S. market, January 1981

(In dollars)	
Source and size category	Retail price changes, January 1981 (+ or -)
U.S. producers:	
General Motors: <u>1/</u>	
Subcompact-----	-100
Ford Motor: <u>2/</u>	
Subcompact-----	-266 to + 62
Compact-----	+ 59
Chrysler: <u>3/</u>	
Subcompact-----	-211 to + 146
Japanese producers:	
Subcompact-----	+150 to + 200
Compact-----	+300 to + 400

1/ General Motor's average price increase for all models was \$149.

2/ Ford Motor Co.'s average price increase for all models was \$85.

3/ Chrysler Corp.'s average price decrease for all models was \$21. In addition, Chrysler designated certain equipment standard that formerly was optional on many subcompact and compact models.

Source: Automotive News, January 1981.

