

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. 332-177
Under Section 332
of the Tariff Act of 1930**

USITC PUBLICATION 1515

APRIL 1984



UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS

Alfred E. Eckes, Chairman

Paula Stern

Veronica A. Haggart

Seeley G. Lodwick

David B. Rohr

Kenneth R. Mason, Secretary to the Commission

This report was prepared principally by

Jim McElroy and Georgia Jackson

Machinery and Transportation Equipment Branch
Machinery and Equipment Division

Office of Industries
Norris A. Lynch, Director

Address all communications to
Office of the Secretary
United States International Trade Commission
Washington, D.C. 20436

C O N T E N T S

Page

Tables

1. New passenger automobiles: U.S. retail sales of domestic production, production, inventory, days' supply, and employment, by specified periods, 1982, 1983, and 1984-----	1
2. New passenger automobiles: U.S. imports for consumption, by principal sources and specified periods, 1982, 1983, and 1984-----	2
3. Lightweight automobile trucks and bodies and cab/chassis for lightweight automobile trucks: U.S. imports for consumption, by principal sources and specified periods, 1982, 1983, and 1984-----	3
4. New passenger automobiles: U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by principal markets and specified periods, 1982, 1983, and 1984----	4
5. Lightweight automobile trucks and bodies and cab/chassis for lightweight automobile trucks: U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by principal markets and specified periods, 1982, 1983, and 1984----	5
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, 1983 and 1984-----	6
7. New passenger automobiles: Price indexes, by specified periods, 1983 and 1984-----	6
8. New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the U.S. market, during March 1984-----	7
9. Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981-April 1984-----	8

Table 1.--New passenger automobiles: U.S. retail sales of domestic production, production, inventory, days' supply, and employment, by specified periods, 1982, 1983, and 1984

(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)

Item	1983 and 1984			1982 and 1983	
	February : 1984	March : 1984	Apr. 1983- : Mar. 1984	March : 1983	Apr. 1982- : Mar. 1983
Retail sales of domestic production:					
Subcompact-----	213	244	2,256	175	1,743
Compact-----	82	98	971	80	970
Intermediate-----	213	249	2,430	197	1,724
Standard-----	107	121	1,220	109	995
Luxury-----	40	44	457	39	381
Total-----	655	756	7,333	600	5,813
Production:					
Subcompact-----	233	266	2,385	175	1,674
Compact-----	94	114	1,118	89	1,142
Intermediate-----	222	247	2,425	193	1,646
Standard-----	100	97	1,071	85	762
Luxury-----	45	54	469	44	396
Total-----	694	779	7,467	586	5,620
Inventory:					
Subcompact-----	284	289	1/	372	1/
Compact-----	404	410	1/	283	1/
Intermediate-----	510	534	1/	426	1/
Standard-----	167	186	1/	160	1/
Luxury-----	112	118	1/	84	1/
Total-----	1,477	1,537	1/	1,325	1/
Days' supply: 2/					
Subcompact-----	76	69	1/	76	1/
Compact-----	87	81	1/	57	1/
Intermediate-----	61	59	1/	96	1/
Standard-----	62	57	1/	69	1/
Luxury-----	51	51	1/	62	1/
Total-----	63	58	1/	70	1/
Employment: 3/					
Total employees-----	4/ 846	5/ 865	1/	6/ 638	1/
Production workers--	4/ 652	5/ 668	1/	6/ 467	1/
Layoffs 7/-----	107	101	1/	246	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 January 1984, revised.

5/ Data are for February 1984.

6/ Data are for February 1983, revised.

7/ 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 the totals shown.

Table 2.--New passenger automobiles: U.S. imports for consumption, by principal sources and specified periods, 1982, 1983, and 1984 1/ 2/

Source	1983-1984			1982-1983	
	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983- Feb. 1984	Feb. 1983	Mar. 1982- Feb. 1983
	Quantity (units)				
Japan-----	167,047	123,681	1,855,236	145,660	1,827,926
Canada-----	83,542	94,265	884,722	69,692	736,184
West Germany-----	49,246	24,002	282,398	14,363	248,129
Sweden-----	11,405	10,376	117,901	10,020	91,806
Italy-----	373	667	6,192	90	7,221
United Kingdom-----	1,378	1,340	16,764	1,686	14,354
France-----	2,838	3,318	35,684	4,138	53,200
All other-----	751	927	8,284	2,020	3,106
Total-----	316,580	258,576	3,207,181	247,669	2,981,926
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan-----	1,033,493	754,443	10,863,108	814,218	9,773,413
Canada-----	779,320	879,884	7,796,838	605,135	6,125,524
West Germany-----	611,996	297,447	3,853,130	243,450	3,188,031
Sweden-----	119,050	108,372	1,142,862	99,212	870,421
Italy-----	5,038	10,386	83,183	1,424	79,245
United Kingdom-----	35,728	30,605	402,679	36,036	345,974
France-----	26,162	26,833	281,744	25,943	352,690
All other-----	7,391	8,819	74,362	9,325	20,564
Total-----	2,618,178	2,116,789	24,497,906	1,834,743	20,755,862

1/ Data include imports into Puerto Rico and TSUSA number 692.1005.

2/ Data do not include automobiles assembled in 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 specified periods, 1982, 1983, and 1984 2/

Source	1983-1984			1982-1983	
	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983- Jan. 1984	Feb. 1983	Mar. 1982- Feb. 1983
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Japan-----	43,460	26,882	443,586	26,010	324,420
Canada-----	27,403	33,995	296,052	18,534	262,139
All other-----	279	5	2,141	3	1,611
Total-----	71,142	60,882	741,779	44,547	588,170
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan-----	180,950	105,789	1,808,322	104,432	1,350,315
Canada-----	235,441	291,618	2,541,803	147,479	2,081,499
All other-----	5,344	507	23,813	262	34,321
Total-----	421,735	397,914	4,373,914	252,173	3,466,135

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.

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, 1982, 1983, and 1984

Market	1983-1984			1982-1983	
	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983- Feb. 1984	Feb. 1983	Mar. 1982- Feb. 1983
Quantity (units)					
Canada-----	38,682	50,423	544,827	41,985	350,216
Saudi Arabia-----	822	1,632	10,953	961	11,626
Kuwait-----	148	364	2,409	183	4,835
Japan-----	172	190	2,285	96	2,291
West Germany-----	197	148	2,814	125	2,392
Venezuela-----	12	4	170	39	3,201
All other-----	694	818	10,508	810	17,698
Total-----	40,727	53,579	573,966	44,199	392,259
Value (1,000 dollars)					
Canada-----	298,639	390,844	4,059,484	307,686	2,477,624
Saudi Arabia-----	10,724	19,323	136,891	13,120	161,261
Kuwait-----	1,899	4,394	31,288	2,074	61,199
Japan-----	2,696	2,708	31,392	1,140	30,852
West Germany-----	2,012	1,736	30,209	1,225	24,546
Venezuela-----	200	44	1,796	319	34,824
All other-----	8,213	9,621	120,217	8,752	186,615
Total-----	324,383	428,670	4,411,217	334,316	2,976,921

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, 1982, 1983, and 1984 2/

Market	1983-1984			1982-1983	
	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983- Feb. 1984	Feb. 1983	Mar. 1982- Feb. 1983
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Canada-----	7,168	10,274	92,314	5,936	58,115
Saudi Arabia-----	454	849	14,570	1,169	18,750
Kuwait-----	64	378	1,784	51	3,139
Venezuela-----	1	1	57	63	1,875
All other-----	683	714	9,114	592	14,426
Total-----	8,370	12,216	117,839	7,811	96,305
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada-----	54,811	79,206	699,996	44,025	391,896
Saudi Arabia-----	5,799	11,216	185,954	15,383	235,779
Kuwait-----	803	5,053	21,750	560	38,171
Venezuela-----	3	54	836	761	19,686
All other-----	6,139	7,469	91,800	5,740	138,429
Total-----	67,555	102,998	1,000,336	66,469	823,961

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.

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, 1983 and 1984

Period	Sales of--				Total U.S. sales		Ratio of import sales to total sales	
	Domestic automobiles 1/		Imported automobiles 2/		1984	1983	1984	1983
	1984	1983	1984	1983				
								----Percent----
January----	583,429	412,893	195,129	182,853	778,558	595,746	25.1	30.7
February---	655,016	442,479	186,218	184,897	841,234	627,376	22.1	29.5
Jan-Feb---	1,238,445	855,372	381,347	367,750	1,619,792	1,223,122	23.5	30.0
March-----	756,164	600,303	205,947	220,479	962,111	820,782	21.4	26.9
Jan-Mar---	1,994,609	1,455,675	587,294	588,229	2,581,903	2,043,904	22.7	28.8

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, 1983 and 1984

(1967 = 100)

Item	1984			1983 and 1984		
	January 1984	February 1984	Percent change	February 1983	February 1984	Percent change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted----	207.2	207.2	0	201.3	207.2	+2.9
Seasonally adjusted----	205.2	206.4	+0.6	200.6	206.4	+2.9
Producer Price Index:						
Unadjusted----	221.9	221.9	0	216.5	221.9	+2.5
Seasonally adjusted----	219.3	222.3	+1.4	216.9	222.3	+2.5

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

Table 8.--New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the U.S. market, during March 1984

Source and size category	: Retail price changes, in : dollars, March 1984 : (+ or -)
U.S. producers:	:
General Motors -----	: No change.
Ford -----	: No change.
Chrysler -----	: No change.
European Community producers:	:
Subcompact -----	: No change.
Compact -----	: No change.
Luxury -----	: No change.
Japanese producers:	:
Subcompact -----	: No change.
Compact -----	: No change.
Luxury -----	: No change.

Source: Automotive News, March 1984.

Table 9.--Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981-April 1984 1/

Company, model, and options 2/	April 1, 1981		April 1, 1984		Percent change in optionally equipped model	
	Base model 3/	Option-ally equipped model 3/	Base model 3/	Option-ally equipped model 3/	March 1984-April 1984	April 1981-April 1984
General Motors:						
Chevette, 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG)-----	5,155	5,405	5,469	5,779	0	+6.9
Citation, 4 door HB (PB, RWD, TG, AT)----	6,404	7,014	7,046	7,821	0	+11.5
Cimarron, 4 door (AT)-----4/	12,131	12,501	12,215	12,535	0	+0.3
Ford:						
Escort L 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG)-----	5,556	5,857	5,629	5,949	0	+1.6
Tempo GL 4 door (RWD, At TG) 5/-----	6,421	6,953	7,557	7,807	0	+12.3
LTD Crown Victoria, 4 door (RWD, TG, AC, R)-----	8,519	10,102	11,434	12,539	0	+24.1
Chrysler:						
Plymouth Turismo, 2 door HB (RWD)-----	5,938	6,188	6,494	6,626	0	+7.1
Reliant, 4 door (RWD, TG, R, AT)-----	5,980	6,680	6,949	7,754	0	+16.1
Dodge 600, 2 door (RWD, AC) 6/-----	6,672	7,502	8,376	9,256	0	+23.4
Toyota:						
Corolla, Deluxe, 4 door (R)-----	5,688	5,793	6,498	6,758	0	+16.7
Cressida, 4 door-----	11,599	11,599	14,195	14,195	0	+22.4
Nissan (Datsun):						
Sentra Deluxe 2 door 7/-----	5,369	5,494	6,349	6,349	0	+15.6
Stanza GL, 4 door (AT) 7/-----	6,839	7,749	9,099	9,449	0	+21.9
Maxima, 4 door-----	10,379	10,379	11,399	11,399	0	+9.8
Honda:						
Civic 1300, 2 door HB (R)-----	4,599	4,694	5,249	5,343	0	+13.8
Accord, 4 door (R, AT)-----	7,645	7,950	8,549	9,042	0	+13.7
Mazda:						
GLC Custom, 2 door HB (R)-----	5,495	5,650	5,895	6,055	0	+7.2

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.

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/ Tempo replaced the Fairmont Futura.

6/ Dodge 600 replaced the Diplomat.

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

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

Note: Some 1981, 1982, and 1983 models have been discontinued; these models have been replaced by comparable models. In addition, some equipment that was optional on prior models is now included in the base price, making price comparisons of prior-year models difficult.