

# **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**



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This report was prepared principally by

Jim McElroy and Georgia Jackson

Machinery and Transportation Equipment Branch  
Machinery and Equipment Division

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Office of Industries  
Norris A. Lynch, Director

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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, May 1982-April 1984-----	1
2. New passenger automobiles: U.S. imports for consumption, by principal sources and by specified periods, April 1982-March 1984-----	2
3. Lightweight automobile trucks and bodies and cab/chassis for lightweight automobile trucks: U.S. imports for consumption, by principal sources and by specified periods, April 1982-March 1984--	3
4. New passenger automobiles: U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by principal markets and by specified periods, April 1982-March 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 by specified periods, April 1982-March 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 April 1984-----	7
9. Sales and profits (loss) on major U.S. automobile manufacturers' operations, by specified periods, 1983 and 1984-----	7
10. Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981-May 1984-----	8



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

(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)						
Item	1983 and 1984			1982 and 1983		
	March 1984	April 1984	May 1983- Apr. 1984	April 1983	May 1982- Apr. 1983	
Retail sales of domestic production:						
Subcompact-----	244	231	2,312	175	1,768	
Compact-----	98	86	978	76	963	
Intermediate-----	249	239	2,480	189	1,769	
Standard-----	121	113	1,231	102	1,008	
Luxury-----	44	52	472	37	387	
Total-----	756	721	7,474	580	5,894	
Production:						
Subcompact-----	266	246	2,470	176	1,711	
Compact-----	114	103	1,147	60	927	
Intermediate-----	247	195	2,424	186	1,478	
Standard-----	97	81	1,073	79	762	
Luxury-----	54	44	479	34	396	
Total-----	779	669	7,594	535	5,274	
Inventory:						
Subcompact-----	289	298	1/	234	1/	
Compact-----	410	424	1/	283	1/	
Intermediate-----	534	532	1/	433	1/	
Standard-----	186	192	1/	199	1/	
Luxury-----	118	133	1/	86	1/	
Total-----	1,537	1,579	1/	1,235	1/	
Days' supply: <u>2/</u>						
Subcompact-----	69	56	1/	74	1/	
Compact-----	81	71	1/	68	1/	
Intermediate-----	59	58	1/	56	1/	
Standard-----	57	56	1/	51	1/	
Luxury-----	51	58	1/	64	1/	
Total-----	58	56	1/	56	1/	
Employment: <u>3/</u>						
Total employees-----	4/ 863	5/ 874	1/	6/ 725	1/	
Production workers---	4/ 667	5/ 678	1/	6/ 538	1/	
Layoffs <u>7/</u> -----	101	98	1/	233	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 February 1984, revised.

5/ Data are for March 1984.

6/ Data are for March 1983, revised.

7/ Layoffs are the number of UAW members on indefinite layoff from U.S. auto plants 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 by specified periods, April 1982-March 1984 <sup>1/</sup>

Source	1983 and 1984			1982 and 1983	
	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1984	Apr. 1983- Mar. 1984	Mar. 1983	Apr. 1982- Mar. 1983
	Quantity (units)				
Japan-----	123,681	163,000	1,851,694	166,542	1,831,198
Canada-----	94,265	87,499	902,930	69,291	735,088
West Germany-----	24,002	42,338	307,330	17,406	239,733
Sweden-----	10,376	16,469	122,163	12,207	93,460
Italy-----	667	1,044	7,005	231	5,790
United Kingdom-----	1,340	2,664	17,759	1,669	13,985
France-----	3,318	3,813	34,920	4,577	52,226
All other-----	927	1,020	9,006	298	3,404
Total-----	258,576	317,847	3,252,807	272,221	2,974,884
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan-----	754,443	1,062,228	10,985,758	939,578	9,808,589
Canada-----	879,884	819,352	8,006,701	609,489	6,179,635
West Germany-----	297,447	549,926	4,111,037	292,019	3,163,266
Sweden-----	108,372	173,285	1,194,669	121,478	894,558
Italy-----	10,386	13,495	92,824	3,854	68,209
United Kingdom-----	30,605	50,293	413,188	39,784	339,911
France-----	26,833	31,507	279,264	33,987	353,000
All other-----	8,819	9,536	81,355	2,543	23,107
Total-----	2,116,789	2,709,622	25,164,796	2,042,732	20,830,275

<sup>1/</sup> Data include imports into Puerto Rico and TSUSA item 692.1005; 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 by specified periods, April 1982-March 1984 2/

Source	1983 and 1984			1982 and 1983	
	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1984	Apr. 1983- Mar. 1984	Mar. 1983	Apr. 1982- Mar. 1983
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Japan-----	26,882	43,476	453,003	34,059	317,794
Canada-----	33,995	29,305	302,748	22,609	254,359
All other-----	5	5	1,311	835	2,220
Total-----	60,882	72,786	757,062	57,503	574,373
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan-----	105,789	183,184	1,852,137	139,369	1,317,496
Canada-----	291,618	247,826	2,611,433	178,196	2,026,933
All other-----	507	473	20,271	4,015	37,385
Total-----	397,914	431,483	4,483,841	321,580	3,381,814

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 by specified periods, April 1982-March 1984

Market	1983 and 1984			1982 and 1983	
	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1984	Apr. 1983- Mar. 1984	Mar. 1983	Apr. 1982- Mar. 1983
	Quantity (units)				
Canada-----	50,423	68,341	558,650	54,518	368,860
Saudi Arabia-----	1,632	995	11,633	315	11,150
Kuwait-----	364	277	2,533	153	4,612
Japan-----	190	164	2,207	242	2,255
West Germany-----	148	328	2,997	145	2,398
Venezuela-----	4	6	161	15	2,834
All other-----	818	704	10,183	1,029	16,195
Total-----	53,579	70,815	588,364	56,417	408,304
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada-----	390,844	517,143	4,192,421	384,206	2,623,153
Saudi Arabia-----	19,323	11,604	144,465	4,030	155,660
Kuwait-----	4,394	3,454	32,644	2,038	58,488
Japan-----	2,708	2,276	30,359	3,309	29,996
West Germany-----	1,736	3,009	31,645	1,573	24,774
Venezuela-----	44	69	1,703	162	30,962
All other-----	9,621	7,277	116,062	11,432	171,620
Total-----	428,670	544,832	4,549,299	406,750	3,094,653

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, April 1982-March 1984 2/

Market	1983 and 1984			1982 and 1983	
	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1984	Apr. 1983- Mar. 1984	Mar. 1983	Apr. 1982- Mar. 1983
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Canada-----	10,274	11,438	96,471	7,281	60,221
Saudi Arabia-----	849	756	14,038	1,288	18,190
Kuwait-----	378	86	1,763	107	2,792
Venezuela-----	1	2	58	1	1,699
All other-----	714	437	8,225	1,326	14,193
Total-----	12,216	12,719	120,555	10,003	97,095
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada-----	79,206	87,229	732,788	54,437	411,017
Saudi Arabia-----	11,216	9,883	178,811	17,026	229,819
Kuwait-----	5,053	988	21,683	1,055	34,094
Venezuela-----	54	8	834	10	18,051
All other-----	7,469	4,575	82,172	14,203	137,319
Total-----	102,998	102,683	1,016,288	86,731	830,300

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	186,374	841,234	628,853	22.1	29.6
Jan-Feb.---	1,238,445	855,372	381,347	369,227	1,619,792	1,224,599	23.5	30.2
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	589,706	2,581,903	2,045,381	22.7	28.8
April-----	721,091	579,991	174,311	183,464	895,402	763,455	19.5	24.0
Jan-Apr---	2,715,700	2,035,666	761,605	773,170	3,477,305	2,808,836	21.9	27.5

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		
	February 1984	March 1984	Percent change	March 1983	March 1984	Percent change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted----	207.2	207.2	0	201.3	207.2	+2.9
Seasonally adjusted----	206.4	207.4	+0.5	201.0	207.4	+3.2
Producer Price Index:						
Unadjusted----	221.9	222.0	+0.1	218.9	222.0	+1.4
Seasonally adjusted----	222.3	223.8	+0.7	221.1	223.8	+1.2

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

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

Source and size category	Retail price changes, in dollars, April 1984 (+ or -)
U.S. producers:	
General Motors -----	-37 to +708
Ford -----	No change.
Chrysler -----	No change.
European Community producers:	
Subcompact -----	+255 to 315
Compact -----	No change.
Luxury -----	No change.
Japanese producers:	
Subcompact -----	No change.
Compact -----	No change.
Luxury -----	No change.

Source: Automotive News, April 1984.

Table 9.--Sales and profits (loss) on major U.S. automobile manufacturers' operations, by specified periods, 1983 and 1984 <sup>1/</sup>

(In millions of dollars)

Item and firm	1984	1983
	January-March	January-March
Sales:		
General Motors -----	22,900	16,740
Ford -----	13,010	10,000
Chrysler -----	4,920	3,100
American Motors -----	1,080	782
Total -----	41,910	30,622
Profits:		
General Motors -----	1,614	653
Ford -----	897	211
Chrysler -----	706	172
American Motors -----	5	(66)
Total -----	3,222	970

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

Source: Automotive News.

Table 10.--Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected  
U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981-May 1984 <sup>1/</sup>

Company, model, and options <sup>2/</sup>	April 1, 1981		May 1, 1984		Percent change in optionally equipped model	
	Base	Option- ally	Base	Option- ally	April 1984- May 1984	April 1981- May 1984
	model <sup>3/</sup>	equipped model <sup>3/</sup>	model <sup>3/</sup>	equipped model <sup>3/</sup>		
<b>General Motors:</b>						
Chevette, 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG)-----	5,155	5,405	5,482	5,779	0	+6.9
Citation, 4 door HB (PB, RWD, TG, AT)---	6,404	7,014	7,037	7,821	0	+11.5
Cimarron, 4 door (AT)----- <sup>4/</sup>	12,131	12,501	12,605	12,925	0	+3.3
<b>Ford:</b>						
Escort L 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG)-----	5,556	5,857	5,876	6,196	0	+5.7
Tempo GL 4 door (RWD, AT, TG) <sup>5/</sup> -----	6,421	6,953	7,151	7,840	0	+12.7
LTD Crown Victoria, 4 door (RWD, TG, ILG, AC)-----	8,519	10,102	10,943	12,981	0	+28.4
<b>Chrysler:</b>						
Plymouth Turismo, 2 door HB (RWD)-----	5,938	6,188	6,486	6,626	0	+7.1
Reliant, 4 door (RWD, TG, R, AT)-----	5,980	6,680	6,941	7,754	0	+16.1
Dodge 600, 4 door (RWD, AC) <sup>6/</sup> -----	6,672	7,502	8,895	9,772	0	+30.2
<b>Toyota:</b>						
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
<b>Nissan (Datsun):</b>						
Sentra Deluxe 2 door <sup>7/</sup> -----	5,369	5,494	6,349	6,349	0	+15.6
Stanza GL, 4 door (AT) <sup>7/</sup> -----	6,839	7,749	9,099	9,449	0	+21.9
Maxima, 4 door-----	10,379	10,379	11,899	11,899	0	+14.6
<b>Honda:</b>						
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
<b>Mazda:</b>						
GLC Custom, 2 door HB (R)-----	5,495	5,650	5,895	6,055	0	+7.2

<sup>1/</sup> Suggested retail prices do not include any dealer incentives, below-market financing or rebates offered by manufacturers or importers.

<sup>2/</sup> 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.

<sup>3/</sup> 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.

<sup>4/</sup> Cimarron not sold until May 21, 1981.

<sup>5/</sup> Tempo replaced the Fairmont Futura.

<sup>6/</sup> Dodge 600 replaced the Diplomat.

<sup>7/</sup> 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.