

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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Table 1.—New passenger automobiles: U.S. retail sales of domestic production, production, inventory, days' supply, and employment, by specified periods, September 1983–August 1985

(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)					
Item	1984 and 1985			1983 and 1984	
	July 1985	August 1985	Sept. 1984–Aug. 1985	Aug. 1984	Sept. 1983–Aug. 1984
Retail sales of domestic production:					
Subcompact	161	205	2,190	177	2,111
Compact	102	124	1,505	92	1,286
Intermediate	212	248	2,520	174	2,531
Standard	81	81	1,004	88	1,091
Luxury	83	99	984	84	1,021
Total	640	758	8,203	614	8,040
Production:					
Subcompact	118	120	1,537	130	1,648
Compact	141	119	1,917	135	1,969
Intermediate	228	198	3,001	182	2,773
Standard	62	40	853	55	625
Luxury	77	66	873	65	679
Total	626	543	8,180	567	7,694
Inventory:					
Subcompact	287	288	1/	266	1/
Compact	341	336	1/	360	1/
Intermediate	526	536	1/	367	1/
Standard	220	206	1/	184	1/
Luxury	204	213	1/	121	1/
Total	1,577	1,580	1/	1,298	1/
Days' supply: ^{2/}					
Subcompact	60	67	1/	51	1/
Compact	63	63	1/	53	1/
Intermediate	52	62	1/	43	1/
Standard	61	63	1/	46	1/
Luxury	67	73	1/	41	1/
Total	58	65	1/	47	1/
Employment: ^{3/}					
Total employees	4/ 885	5/ 863	1/	6/ 862	1/
Production workers	4/ 688	5/ 664	1/	6/ 659	1/
Layoffs ^{7/}	39	39	1/	63	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 1985, revised.

5/ Data are for July 1985.

6/ Data are for July 1984, 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 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 1983–July 1985 ^{1/}

Source	1984–85			1983–84	
	June 1985	July 1985	Aug. 1984– July 1985	July 1984	Aug. 1983– July 1984
	Quantity (units)				
Japan	254,538	211,713	2,172,298	220,985	1,940,909
Canada	111,031	69,854	1,071,462	66,993	975,485
West Germany	40,066	35,431	430,151	9,726	327,340
Sweden	15,687	8,873	126,700	10,629	124,143
Italy	536	727	7,331	964	9,334
United Kingdom	2,701	1,910	22,101	2,191	19,832
France	2,335	970	48,856	3,232	31,402
All other	4,939	2,668	22,095	8,367	18,512
Total	431,833	332,146	3,900,994	323,087	3,446,957
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan	1,606,774	1,369,118	13,824,335	1,365,070	11,926,616
Canada	1,057,050	676,135	10,275,464	626,962	8,878,813
West Germany	502,721	420,369	5,532,454	139,776	4,397,822
Sweden	182,795	105,830	1,437,557	114,925	1,254,256
Italy	7,635	9,442	108,218	14,107	125,468
United Kingdom	63,450	45,649	533,081	50,305	460,302
France	23,705	7,390	283,357	31,106	282,244
All other	47,045	21,392	180,036	27,457	120,947
Total	3,491,175	2,655,325	32,174,502	2,369,708	27,446,468

^{1/} 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, August 1983–July 1985 2/

Source	1984–85			1983–84	
	June 1985	July 1985	Aug. 1984– July 1985	July 1984	Aug. 1983– July 1984
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Japan	65,020	79,523	713,048	62,435	519,499
Canada	30,361	13,736	325,868	22,365	339,999
All other	2,950	3,019	23,993	387	1,153
Total	98,331	96,278	1,062,909	85,187	860,651
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan	278,475	343,464	3,007,437	264,482	2,146,044
Canada	270,222	121,649	2,919,963	193,278	2,731,160
All other	23,314	22,382	182,457	2,309	11,821
Total	572,011	487,495	6,109,857	460,069	4,889,025

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 1983–July 1985

Market	1984–85			1983–84	
	June 1985	July 1985	Aug. 1984– July 1985	July 1984	Aug. 1983– July 1984
	Quantity (units)				
Canada	66,147	49,875	638,830	40,225	586,004
Japan	26	109	1,646	180	2,250
All other	1,319	2,183	24,016	1,420	27,287
Total	67,492	52,167	664,492	41,825	615,541
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada	548,274	432,813	5,301,802	300,274	4,439,123
Japan	321	1,146	23,346	2,175	31,498
All other	15,584	24,727	282,120	16,013	320,141
Total	564,179	458,686	5,607,268	318,462	4,790,752

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 1983–July 1985 2/

Market	1984–85			1983–84	
	June 1985	July 1985	Aug. 1984– July 1985	July 1984	Aug. 1983– July 1984
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Canada	13,015	10,318	116,565	6,084	102,655
All other	608	1,103	14,371	1,236	19,254
Total	13,623	11,421	130,936	7,320	121,909
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada	106,150	86,554	951,782	50,897	786,944
All other	6,206	12,596	163,739	14,537	224,627
Total	112,356	99,150	1,115,521	65,434	1,011,571

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, 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, 1984 and 1985

Period	Sales of—				Total U.S. sales		Ratio of import sales to total sales	
	Domestic automobiles 1/		Imported automobiles 2/					
	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984
							Percent	
January—	628,037	583,429	208,184	195,129	836,221	778,558	24.9	25.1
February—	645,317	655,016	193,290	186,218	838,607	841,234	23.0	22.1
Jan-Feb—	1,273,354	1,238,445	401,474	381,347	1,674,828	1,619,792	24.0	23.5
March—	768,927	756,164	201,341	205,947	970,268	962,111	20.8	21.4
Jan-Mar—	2,042,281	1,994,609	602,815	587,294	2,645,096	2,581,903	22.8	22.7
April—	788,282	721,091	198,241	174,311	986,523	895,402	20.1	19.5
Jan-Apr—	2,830,563	2,715,700	801,056	761,605	3,631,619	3,477,305	22.1	21.9
May—	807,590	803,273	262,344	243,326	1,066,934	1,046,599	24.6	23.2
Jan-May—	3,638,153	3,518,973	1,063,400	1,004,931	4,698,553	4,523,904	22.6	22.2
June—	676,675	727,370	248,659	223,688	925,334	951,058	26.9	23.5
Jan-June—	4,314,828	4,246,343	1,312,059	1,228,619	5,623,887	5,474,962	23.3	22.4
July—	633,527	684,112	266,803	205,617	900,330	889,729	29.6	23.1
Jan-July—	4,948,355	4,930,455	1,578,862	1,434,236	6,524,217	6,364,691	24.2	22.5
August—	1,000,695	630,469	255,931	211,730	1,256,626	815,199	20.4	26.0
Jan-Aug—	5,949,050	5,533,924	1,834,793	1,645,966	7,780,843	7,179,890	23.6	22.9

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, 1984 and 1985

(1967 = 100)

Item	1985			1984 and 1985		
	June 1985	July 1985	Percent change	July 1984	July 1985	Percent change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted—	214.7	214.7	0	208.1	214.7	+3.2
Seasonally adjusted—	214.5	214.9	+0.2	208.3	214.9	+3.2
Producer Price Index:						
Unadjusted—	229.1	228.8	-0.1	221.1	228.8	+3.5
Seasonally adjusted—	229.1	229.0	0	221.5	229.0	+3.4

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

Table 8.—New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the
U.S. market during August 1985

Source and size category	: Retail price changes, in : dollars, August 1985 : (+ 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, July 1985.

Table 9.—Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981–September 1985 1/

Company, model, and options 2/	April 1, 1981		September 1, 1985		Percent change in	
	Base model 3/	Option-ally equipped model 3/	Base model 3/	Option-ally equipped model 3/	optionally equipped model	April 1981–September 1985
General Motors:						
Chevette CS, 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG)——	\$5,155	\$5,405	\$5,470	\$5,804	0	+7.4
Citation, 4 door HB (PB, RWD, TG, AT)——	6,404	7,014	7,232	8,042	0	+14.7
Cimarron, 4 door (AT)——	4/ 12,131	4/ 12,501	12,962	12,962	0	+3.7
Ford:						
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) 5/——	6,421	6,953	7,160	7,773	0	+11.8
LTD Crown Victoria, 4 door (RWD, TG, ILG, AC)——	8,519	10,102	11,912	13,966	0	+38.2
Chrysler:						
Plymouth Turismo, 2 door HB (RWD)——	5,938	6,188	6,584	6,716	0	+8.5
Reliant, 4 door (RWD, TG, R, AT)——	5,980	6,680	7,039	7,844	0	+17.4
Dodge 600, 4 door (RWD, AC) 6/——	6,672	7,502	9,081	9,986	0	+33.1
Toyota:						
Corolla, Deluxe, 4 door (R)——	5,688	5,793	6,938	7,163	0	+23.6
Cressida, 4 door——	11,599	11,599	15,690	15,690	0	+35.3
Nissan (Datsun):						
Sentra Deluxe 2 door 7/——	5,369	5,494	6,649	6,649	0	+21.0
Stanza GL, 4 door (AT) 7/——	6,839	7,749	9,549	10,049	0	+29.7
Maxima, 4 door——	10,379	10,379	13,499	13,499	0	+30.1
Honda:						
Civic 1300, 2 door HB (R)——	4,599	4,694	5,399	5,495	0	+17.1
Accord, 4 door (R, AT)——	7,645	7,950	8,845	9,338	0	+17.5
Mazda:						
GLC Deluxe, 2 door HB (R)——	5,495	5,650	6,095	6,265	0	+10.9

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/ 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 1981–84 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.