

THE U.S. AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY: MONTHLY REPORT ON SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS

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Committee on Ways and Means,
on Investigation No. 332-207
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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, January 1984–December 1985

(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)

Item	1985			1984	
	Nov. 1985	Dec. 1985	Jan. 1985–Dec. 1985	Dec. 1984	Jan. 1984–Dec. 1984
Retail sales of domestic production:					
Subcompact	147	176	2,255	143	2,171
Compact	95	92	1,507	103	1,328
Intermediate	161	167	2,598	172	2,465
Standard	51	54	933	73	1,112
Luxury	66	74	1,005	77	1,011
Total	521	563	8,298	568	8,086
Production:					
Subcompact	136	109	1,544	103	1,620
Compact	171	136	2,006	128	1,907
Intermediate	222	172	3,077	200	2,719
Standard	45	45	726	75	828
Luxury	67	50	865	63	760
Total	642	513	8,218	569	7,835
Inventory:					
Subcompact	245	266	1/	308	1/
Compact	309	354	1/	338	1/
Intermediate	543	634	1/	395	1/
Standard	163	177	1/	238	1/
Luxury	173	176	1/	129	1/
Total	1,434	1,606	1/	1,405	1/
Days' supply: 2/					
Subcompact	56	63	1/	68	1/
Compact	65	77	1/	59	1/
Intermediate	67	85	1/	50	1/
Standard	77	83	1/	76	1/
Luxury	60	73	1/	46	1/
Total	65	78	1/	58	1/
Employment: 3/					
Total employees	4/ 874	5/ 870	1/	6/ 884	1/
Production workers	4/ 680	5/ 676	1/	6/ 683	1/
Layoffs 7/	38	38	1/	52	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 October 1985, revised.

5/ Data are for November 1985.

6/ Data are for November 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, December 1983–November 1985 ^{1/}

Source	1984–85			1983–84	
	Oct. 1985	Nov. 1985	Dec. 1984– Nov. 1985	Nov. 1984	Dec. 1983– Nov. 1984
	Quantity (units)				
Japan	178,900	237,342	2,412,280	145,940	1,962,111
Canada	108,978	106,886	1,126,253	95,963	1,090,312
West Germany	26,731	40,945	456,691	33,483	335,717
Sweden	9,017	15,905	136,329	7,989	116,307
Italy	466	705	8,402	312	9,194
United Kingdom	1,976	2,515	24,963	1,168	19,267
France	616	2,291	43,268	3,778	35,015
Mexico	459	2,555	11,302	517	5,690
Yugoslavia	1,064	—	1,576	—	—
All other	526	1,398	12,360	2,711	15,148
Total	328,733	410,542	4,233,424	291,861	3,588,761
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan	1,176,598	1,574,665	15,387,799	952,704	12,407,169
Canada	1,092,906	1,088,097	10,924,137	917,574	10,240,403
West Germany	344,003	587,950	5,886,411	437,675	4,542,815
Sweden	102,519	185,506	1,569,466	86,584	1,241,204
Italy	7,597	8,566	118,971	6,060	130,644
United Kingdom	49,816	63,023	606,938	29,791	450,298
France	6,628	25,145	246,517	25,692	304,177
Mexico	3,211	18,177	56,588	3,354	36,812
Yugoslavia	2,660	0	3,910	0	0
All other	6,712	13,954	157,498	6,915	84,686
Total	2,792,650	3,515,083	34,958,235	2,466,349	29,438,208

^{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, December 1983–November 1985 2/

Source	1984–85			1983–84	
	Oct. 1985	Nov. 1985	Dec. 1984–Nov. 1985	Nov. 1984	Dec. 1983–Nov. 1984
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Japan	51,393	67,195	776,645	45,536	567,316
Canada	28,631	30,328	320,589	31,031	357,022
Mexico	2,715	2,835	25,307	2,145	4,294
All other	16	243	3,940	3	1,997
Total	82,755	100,601	1,126,481	78,715	930,629
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan	225,543	290,200	3,305,580	195,111	2,366,534
Canada	43,671	277,949	2,701,598	264,318	2,867,192
Mexico	18,069	19,569	181,490	16,211	32,288
All other	3,180	8,803	42,574	52	20,632
Total	290,463	596,521	6,231,242	475,692	5,286,646

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, December 1983–November 1985

Market	1984–85			1983–84	
	Oct. 1985	Nov. 1985	Dec. 1984–Nov. 1985	Nov. 1984	Dec. 1983–Nov. 1984
	Quantity (units)				
Canada	60,305	56,756	678,167	50,802	581,775
Japan	104	239	1,386	145	2,179
All other	981	2,263	24,088	1,548	22,228
Total	61,390	59,258	703,641	52,495	606,182
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada	526,853	495,520	5,726,362	444,482	4,487,945
Japan	1,726	3,233	19,788	2,201	30,724
All other	11,980	30,826	285,159	18,900	261,163
Total	540,559	529,579	6,031,309	465,583	4,779,832

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, December 1983–November 1985 ^{2/}

Market	1984–85			1983–84	
	Oct. : 1985	Nov. : 1985	Dec. 1984– : Nov. 1985	Nov. : 1984	Dec. 1983– : Nov. 1984
	Quantity (units) ^{3/}				
Canada	9,619	12,804	132,632	7,172	103,791
All other	355	543	11,195	1,482	1,909
Total	9,974	13,347	143,827	8,654	120,070
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada	85,134	110,891	1,115,229	57,203	800,503
All other	3,682	6,314	121,412	20,586	197,629
Total	88,816	117,205	1,236,641	77,789	998,132

^{1/} Defined as not over 10,000 pounds gvwt.

^{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
September—	839,382	556,672	236,669	176,358	1,076,051	743,030	22.0	23.7
Jan-Sept—	6,788,432	6,100,596	2,071,462	1,822,324	8,856,894	7,922,920	23.4	23.0
October—	598,399	689,563	266,278	212,700	864,677	902,263	30.8	23.6
Jan-Oct—	7,386,831	6,790,159	2,337,740	2,035,024	9,721,571	8,825,183	24.0	23.1
November—	515,802	600,692	247,580	201,836	763,382	802,528	32.4	24.3
Jan-Nov—	7,902,633	7,390,851	2,585,320	2,236,860	10,484,953	9,627,711	24.7	26.0
December—	558,003	560,672	256,016	198,954	814,019	759,626	31.5	26.2
Jan-Dec—	8,460,636	7,951,523	2,841,336	2,435,814	11,290,972	10,387,337	25.1	23.4

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		
	Oct. 1985	Nov. 1985	Percent change	Nov. 1984	Nov. 1985	Percent change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted—	216.2	218.4	+1.0	211.4	218.4	+3.3
Seasonally adjusted—	217.5	217.5	0	210.3	217.5	+3.4
Producer Price Index:						
Unadjusted—	234.8	234.6	-0.1	223.0	234.6	+5.2
Seasonally adjusted—	231.1	231.1	0	219.1	231.1	+5.5

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

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

Source and size category	Retail price changes, in dollars, December 1985 (+ or -)
U.S. producers:	
General Motors—	No change.
Ford—	No change.
Chrysler—	No change.
European Community producers:	
Subcompact—	+250 to +400
Compact—	+200 to +465
Luxury—	+90 to +1,010
Japanese producers:	
Subcompact—	+80 to +543
Compact—	+850
Luxury—	+150 to +620

Source: Automotive News, December 1985.

Table 10.—Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981–January 1986 ^{1/}

Company, model, and options ^{2/}	April 1, 1981		January 1, 1986		Percent change in optionally equipped model	
	Base model ^{3/}	Optionally equipped model ^{3/}	Base model ^{3/}	Optionally equipped model ^{3/}	December 1985–January 1986	April 1981–January 1986
General Motors:						
Chevette CS, 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG) _____	\$5,155	\$5,405	\$5,645	\$5,979	0	+10.6
Citation, 4 door HB (PB, RWD, TG, AT) ^{4/} _____	6,404	7,014	7,232	8,042	NA	+14.7
Cimarron, 4 door (AT) _____ ^{5/}	12,131	12,501	13,128	13,518	0	+8.1
Ford:						
Escort L 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG) _____	5,556	5,857	6,327	6,561	0	+12.0
Tempo GL 4 door (RWD, AT, TG) ^{6/} _____	6,421	6,953	7,508	8,214	0	+18.1
LTD Crown Victoria, 4 door (RWD, TG, ILG, AC) _____	8,519	10,102	13,784	14,691	0	+45.4
Chrysler:						
Plymouth Turismo, 2 door HB (RWD) _____	5,938	6,188	6,741	6,882	0	+11.2
Reliant, 4 door (RWD, TG, R, AT) _____	5,980	6,680	7,179	7,967	0	+19.3
Dodge 600, 4 door (RWD, AC) ^{7/} _____	6,672	7,502	10,022	10,500	0	+40.0
Toyota:						
Corolla, Deluxe, 4 door (R) _____	5,688	5,793	7,148	7,408	0	+27.9
Cressida, 4 door _____	11,599	11,599	16,130	16,130	0	+39.1
Nissan (Datsun):						
Sentra Deluxe 2 door ^{8/} _____	5,369	5,494	6,699	6,699	0	+21.9
Stanza GL, 4 door (AT) ^{8/} _____	6,839	7,749	9,649	10,179	0	+31.4
Maxima, 4 door _____	10,379	10,379	13,699	13,699	0	+32.0
Honda:						
Civic 1300, 2 door HB (R) _____	4,599	4,694	5,835	6,000	+6.6	+27.8
Accord, 4 door (R, AT) _____	7,645	7,950	9,650	10,315	+4.2	+29.7
Mazda:						
323, 2 door HB (R) ^{9/} _____	5,495	5,650	6,645	7,020	+2.6	+24.2

^{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/} Citation discontinued after 1985 model year.

^{5/} Cimarron not sold until May 21, 1981.

^{6/} Tempo replaced the Fairmont Futura.

^{7/} Dodge 600 replaced the Diplomat.

^{8/} Sentra replaced the 210; Stanza replaced the 510.

^{9/} 323 replaced the GLC Deluxe.

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

Note: Some 1981–85 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, making price comparisons of prior-year models difficult.