

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, July 1984–June 1986

(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)

Item	1985–86			1984–85	
	May 1986	June 1986	July 1985– June 1986	June 1985	July 1984– June 1985
Retail sales of domestic production:					
Subcompact.....	208	111	2,084	167	2,198
Compact.....	145	189	1,473	107	1,477
Intermediate.....	262	272	2,671	238	2,437
Standard.....	94	107	903	87	1,031
Luxury.....	76	57	892	85	972
Total.....	786	736	8,023	685	8,116
Production:					
Subcompact.....	146	146	1,587	136	1,530
Compact.....	181	198	2,017	180	1,919
Intermediate.....	251	259	2,873	227	2,917
Standard.....	49	64	563	68	875
Luxury.....	70	57	803	74	858
Total.....	697	724	7,843	684	8,100
Inventory:					
Subcompact.....	336	330	1/	269	1/
Compact.....	428	407	1/	307	1/
Intermediate.....	743	695	1/	540	1/
Standard.....	251	247	1/	228	1/
Luxury.....	187	188	1/	202	1/
Total.....	1,945	1,867	1/	1,546	1/
Days' supply: 2/					
Subcompact.....	68	61	1/	46	1/
Compact.....	72	62	1/	46	1/
Intermediate.....	72	60	1/	45	1/
Standard.....	69	66	1/	63	1/
Luxury.....	64	66	1/	67	1/
Average.....	69	62	1/	50	1/
Employment: 3/					
Total employees.....	4/ 853	5/ 846	1/	6/ 883	1/
Production workers...	4/ 658	5/ 652	1/	6/ 689	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 April 1986, revised.

5/ Data are for May 1986.

6/ Data are for May 1985.

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, June 1984–May 1986 ^{1/}

Source	1985–86			1984–85	
	April 1986	May 1986	June 1985– May 1986	May 1985	June 1984– May 1985
Quantity (units)					
Japan.....	190,296	228,500	2,626,451	220,889	2,085,513
Canada.....	117,773	110,421	1,200,316	104,712	1,060,499
West Germany.....	40,642	38,318	445,662	38,520	385,665
Sweden.....	13,214	11,397	143,372	11,269	119,835
Italy.....	779	920	10,159	444	7,681
United Kingdom...	2,798	3,373	26,285	2,722	20,786
France.....	1,090	619	14,445	2,307	50,959
Mexico.....	1,983	3,334	26,443	749	9,715
Yugoslavia.....	0	2,702	16,919	0	0
Korea.....	11,517	10,208	41,311	0	0
All other.....	845	626	12,675	879	14,684
Total.....	380,937	410,418	4,564,038	382,491	3,755,337
Value (1,000 dollars)					
Japan.....	1,468,903	1,805,503	17,984,273	1,436,106	13,228,857
Canada.....	1,152,903	1,084,150	11,830,256	997,131	10,119,482
West Germany.....	708,722	649,448	6,660,580	484,299	5,075,608
Sweden.....	157,797	136,356	1,692,472	131,277	1,339,625
Italy.....	10,669	15,806	150,041	8,069	118,070
United Kingdom...	68,047	83,356	651,797	64,897	499,182
France.....	11,447	6,547	147,376	22,971	303,493
Mexico.....	20,819	34,079	230,203	4,958	62,963
Yugoslavia.....	—	6,765	41,387	—	—
Korea.....	51,431	45,940	175,146	—	—
All other.....	9,946	8,453	161,654	11,176	89,395
Total.....	3,660,684	3,876,403	39,725,185	3,160,884	30,836,675

^{1/} Data include imports into Puerto Rico and TSUSA item 692.1005; data do not include automobiles assembled in U.S. 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, June 1984–May 1986 2/

Source	1985–86			1984–85	
	April 1986	May 1986	June 1985– May 1986	May 1985	June 1984– May 1985
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Japan.....	85,091	80,119	896,627	70,772	677,484
Canada.....	29,370	25,635	314,778	30,498	337,467
Mexico.....	1,905	1,455	25,050	1,635	14,710
All other.....	4	2	1,638	3	4,046
Total.....	116,370	107,211	1,238,093	102,908	1,033,707
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan.....	405,639	393,078	4,056,475	301,346	2,845,579
Canada.....	263,398	229,733	2,578,442	269,432	2,995,082
Mexico.....	14,436	11,026	180,203	12,534	108,099
All other.....	1,884	5,353	58,572	301	32,671
Total.....	685,357	639,190	6,873,692	583,613	5,981,431

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, June 1984–May 1986

Market	1985–86			1984–85	
	April 1986	May 1986	June 1985– May 1986	May 1985	June 1984– May 1985
	Quantity (units)				
Canada.....	70,113	56,963	673,516	66,402	620,075
Japan.....	311	163	1,696	32	1,745
All other.....	2,661	2,110	23,101	1,618	23,073
Total.....	73,085	59,236	698,313	68,052	644,893
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada.....	623,600	539,388	5,897,148	562,481	5,049,976
Japan.....	4,843	2,244	27,253	447	23,308
All other.....	32,947	25,175	303,672	17,500	271,958
Total.....	661,390	566,807	6,228,073	580,428	5,345,242

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, June 1984–May 1986 2/

Market	1985–86			1984–85	
	April 1986	May 1986	June 1985– May 1986	May 1985	June 1984– May 1985
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Canada.....	16,170	26,003	161,111	12,375	123,788
All other.....	1,047	629	8,980	1,403	14,768
Total.....	17,217	26,632	170,091	13,778	138,556
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada.....	145,896	218,017	1,395,918	100,727	881,376
All other.....	13,684	6,930	95,875	13,050	178,833
Total.....	159,580	224,947	1,491,793	113,777	1,060,209

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, 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, 1985 and 1986

Period	Sales of—		Imported		Total U.S.		Ratio of im-	
	Domestic automobiles 1/ 1986	1985	automobiles 2/ 1986	1985	sales 1986	1985	port sales to total sales 1986	1985 —Percent—
January...	635,904	628,037	237,281	208,184	873,185	836,221	27.2	24.9
February..	613,371	645,317	219,096	193,290	832,467	838,607	26.3	23.0
Jan-Feb...	1,249,275	1,273,354	456,377	401,474	1,705,652	1,674,828	26.8	24.0
March.....	649,351	768,927	247,487	201,341	896,838	970,268	27.6	20.8
Jan-Mar...	1,898,626	2,042,281	703,864	602,815	2,602,490	2,645,096	27.0	22.8
April.....	719,563	788,282	252,609	198,241	972,172	986,523	26.0	20.1
Jan-Apr...	2,618,189	2,830,563	956,473	801,056	3,574,662	3,631,619	26.8	22.1
May.....	786,268	807,590	286,194	262,344	1,072,462	1,069,934	26.7	24.5
Jan-May...	3,404,457	3,638,153	1,242,667	1,063,400	4,647,124	4,701,553	26.7	22.6
June.....	736,261	676,675	264,954	248,659	1,001,215	925,334	26.5	26.9
Jan-June..	4,140,718	4,314,828	1,507,621	1,312,059	5,648,339	5,623,887	26.7	23.3

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, 1985 and 1986

Item	(1967 = 100)			1985 and 1986		
	1986 Apr. 1986	May 1986	Percent change	May 1985	May 1986	Percent change
Consumer Price						
Index:						
Unadjusted....	221.2	223.0	+0.8	214.5	223.0	+4.0
Seasonally						
adjusted....	221.2	223.0	+0.8	213.9	223.0	+4.3
Producer Price						
Index:						
Unadjusted....	232.8	233.3	+0.2	228.1	233.3	+2.3
Seasonally						
adjusted....	232.8	233.1	+0.1	228.3	233.1	+2.1

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

Table 8.—New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the U.S. market during June 1986 ^{1/}

Source and size of category	Retail price changes, in dollars, June 1986 (+ or -)
U.S. producers:	
General Motors.....	No change.
Ford.....	No change.
Chrysler.....	No change.
European Community producers:	
Subcompact.....	+240 to 340
Compact.....	+250 to 360
Luxury.....	+515 to 1,200
Japanese producers:	
Subcompact.....	-10 to 521
Compact.....	+500 to 550
Luxury.....	+400 to 800
Korean producers:	
Subcompact.....	No change.

^{1/} Since the 1986 model introduction, the average increase in the price of a Japanese auto has been \$1,331 and the average increase for a domestic auto has been \$726 (Ford: +\$375, Chrysler: +\$320, AMC: +\$208, and General Motors: +\$950).

Source: Automotive News, June 1986.

Table 9.—Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981-July 1986 1/

Company, model, and options 2/	April 1, 1981		July 1, 1986		Percent change in optionally equipped model		April 1981-July 1986	
	Base model 3/	Optionally equipped model 3/	Base model 3/	Optionally equipped model 3/	June 1986	July 1986	June 1986	July 1986
General Motors:								
Chevette CS, 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG)	\$5,155	\$5,405	\$5,775	\$6,130	0	0	+13.4	+13.4
Citation, 4 door HB (PB, RWD, TG, AT) 4/	6,404	7,014	7,232	8,042	NA	NA	+14.7	+14.7
Cimarron, 4 door (AT)	5/ 12,131	5/ 12,501	13,559	13,949	0	0	+11.6	+11.6
Ford:								
Escort L 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG)	5,556	5,857	6,327	6,561	0	0	+12.0	+12.0
Tempo GL 4 door (RWD, AT, TG) 5/	6,421	6,953	7,508	8,214	0	0	+18.1	+18.1
LTD Crown/Victoria, 4 door (RWD, TG, ILG, AC)								
	8,519	10,102	13,784	14,691	0	0	+45.4	+45.4
Chrysler:								
Plymouth Turismo, 2 door HB (RWD)	5,938	6,188	6,741	6,882	0	0	+11.2	+11.2
Reliant, 4 door (RWD, TG, R, AT)	5,980	6,680	7,179	7,967	0	0	+19.3	+19.3
Dodge 600, 4 door (RWD, AC) 7/	6,672	7,502	10,022	10,500	0	0	+40.0	+40.0
Toyota:								
Corolla, Deluxe, 4 door (R)	5,688	5,793	7,798	8,074	+2.1	+2.1	+39.4	+39.4
Cressida, 4 door	11,599	11,599	18,280	18,280	+4.6	+4.6	+57.6	+57.6
Nissan (Datsun):								
Sentra E, 2 door 8/	5,369	5,369	7,149	7,149	0	0	+33.2	+33.2
Stanza GXE, 4 door (AT) 9/	6,839	7,749	11,299	11,949	0	0	+54.2	+54.2
Maxima GXE, 4 door	10,379	10,379	15,199	15,199	0	0	+46.4	+46.4
Honda:								
Civic 1300, 2 door HB (R)	4,599	4,694	5,749	5,937	0	0	+26.5	+26.5
Accord DX, 4 door (R, AT)	7,645	7,950	10,238	10,896	0	0	+37.1	+37.1
Mazda:								
323 Deluxe, 2 door HB (R) 9/	5,495	5,650	7,545	7,910	+1.8	+1.8	+40.0	+40.0

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. (Both are 1987 models.)

9/ 323 replaced the GLC.

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

Note: Some 1981-86 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 or equipment that was standard has been deleted, making price comparisons of prior-year models difficult.

