THE U.S. AUTOMOTIVE 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 **USITC PUBLICATION 2267 MARCH 1990** United States International Trade Commission

Washington, DC 20436

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS

Anne E. Brunsdale, Chairman Ronald A. Cass, Vice Chairman Alfred E. Eckes Seeley G. Lodwick David B. Rohr Don E. Newquist

Office of Industries

Robert A. Rogowsky, Director

This report was prepared principally by

Juanita S. Kavalauskas

Transportation Branch

Machinery and Equipment Division

Address all communications to
Kenneth R. Mason, Secretary to the Commission
United States International Trade Commission
Washington, DC 20436

CONTENTS

		Page
	Tables	
1.	New passenger automobiles: U.S. retail sales of domestic production, production, inventory, days' supply, and	
2.	employment, by specified periods, March 1988-February 1990 New passenger automobiles: U.S. imports, by principal sources	1
3.	and by specified periods, February 1988-January 1990 Lightweight automobile trucks and bodies and cab/chassis for	2
	lightweight automobile trucks: U.S. imports, by principal sources and by specified periods, February 1988-January 1990	3
4.	New passenger automobiles: U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by principal markets and by specified periods,	
5.	February 1988-January 1990 Lightweight automobile trucks and bodies and cab/chassis for lightweight automobile trucks: U.S. exports of domestic	4
	merchandise, by principal markets and by specified periods, February 1988-January 1990	5
6.	New passenger automobiles: Sales of domestic and imported passenger automobiles and sales of imported passenger	
7.	automobiles as a percent of total U.S. sales, by specified periods, 1989 and 1990	6
/·	1989 and 1990	6
8.	New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the U.S.	7
9.	market during February 1990 Sales and profits (loss) or major automobile manufacturers'	7
10.	operations, by specified periods, 1988 and 1989 Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and	7
10.	Japanese automobiles, April 1981-March 1990	8

	·	
		•

Table 1.--New passenger automobiles: U.S. retail sales of domestic production, production, inventory, days' supply, and employment, by specified periods, March 1988-February 1990

(In thousands of units: thousands of employees) 1989-90 1988-89 Jan. Feb. Mar. 1989-Feb. Mar. 1988-1990 1990 Feb. 1990 1989 Feb. 1989 Item Retail sales of domestic production: Subcompact..... 76 75 1,269 101 1,408 1,896 Compact..... 137 118 1,916 153 Intermediate..... 183 190 2,604 224 3,050 95 60 998 Standard....... 98 1,176 54 <u>51</u> 664 70 689 Luxury..... Tota1..... 532 7,627 609 8.041 545 Production: Subcompact..... 66 69 1.116 89 1,294 Compact..... 94 1,789 153 1,937 128 Intermediate..... 115 178 2.174 205 2,985 37 60 76 796 Standard....... 808 Luxury..... 45 62 750 51 791 574 357 497 6,636 7,803 Total..... Inventory: Subcompact..... 248 248 1/ 305 1/ 1/ Compact..... 272 272 1/ 332 1/ 1/ Intermediate..... 642 643 783 Standard..... 180 179 1/ 220 1/ Luxury..... 122 121 1/ 151 1/ 1,791 464 Total...... 463 Days' supply: 2/ Subcompact..... 85 79 1/ 79 1/ Compact..... 52 55 1/ 56 1/ 91 91 81 1/ 1/ Intermediate...... 49 44 95 1/ Standard..... 1/ 59 57 56 Luxury..... 92 70 1/ 77 1/ Average........ Employment: 3/ Total employees..... 4/ 838 <u>5</u>/ 720 <u>6</u>/ 862 1/ Production workers... 4/ 644 5/ 530 1/ 6/ 672

Source: Retail sales and production, Data Resources, Inc. Auto Information Bank; days' supply and inventory, <u>Automotive News</u>; and employment, U.S. Department of Labor.

^{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 December 1989, revised.

^{5/} Data are for January 1990.

^{6/} Data are for January 1989.

Table 2.--New passenger automobiles: U.S. imports, by principal sources and by specified periods, February 1988-January 1990 1/

	1989-90			1988-89	
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb. 1989-	Jan.	Feb. 1988-
Source	1989	1990	Jan. 1990	1989	Jan. 1989
			Quantity (un	its)	
Japan	184,837	139,134	2,040,276	150,374	2,101,502
Canada	94,007	71,614	1,136,773	85,957	1,186,316
West Germany	19,201	20,997	217,087	20,173	258,788
Korea	21,217	12,879	241,431	42,057	443,491
Sweden	9,529	5,463	93,910	13,058	140,640
Mexico	4,640	7,332	135,253	5,128	140,261
Yugoslavia	8	15	2,356	0	23,942
United Kingdom	2,664	2,257	29,843	1,792	31,583
Italy	408	637	9,455	501	5,829
France	9	77	3,921	1,041	16,465
Brazil	4,611	2,278	44,483	3,942	57,410
All other	2,673	2,066	27,347	618	17,847
Total	<u>343.804</u>	264,749	3.982.135	324,641	4.395.075
			<u> </u>	.000 dollars)	
Japan	1,876,748	1,375,006	20,115,585	1,411,709	19,733,145
Canada	1,053,604	743,831	12,656,109	960,373	13,226,271
West Germany	410,371	491,407	5,040,956	471,006	6,290,122
Korea	113,456	74,526	1,422,397	244,565	2,459,144
Sweden	154,992	88,278	1,525,507	212,153	1,767,827
Mexico	46,797	71,486	1,198,336	47,934	1,209,789
Yugoslavia	29	58	7,033	0	64,363
United Kingdom	88,534	61,161	942,122	56,053	943,443
Italy	18,150	19,198	269,062	12,845	150,054
France	253	906	47,035	12,636	175,704
Brazi1	28,501	13,928	273,463	22,864	332,674
A11 other	44.539	32,747	429.287	10,117	286.787
Tota1	3,835,974	2,972,532	43,926,892	3,462,255	46,639,313

^{1/} Data include imports into Puerto Rico and TSUSA items 692.1005-692.1008; data do not include automobiles assembled in U.S. foreign trade zones.

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Table 3.--Lightweight automobile trucks 1/ and bodies and cab/chassis for lightweight automobile trucks: U.S. imports, by principal sources and by specified periods, February 1988-January 1990 2/

	1989-90			1988-89		
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb. 1989-	Jan.	Feb. 1988-	
Source	1989	1990	Jan. 1990	1989	<u>Jan. 1989</u>	
			Quantity (u	nits) 3/		
Japan	28,699	23,143	407,885	37,849	536,520	
Canada	40,256	31,336	438,826	43,400	320,817	
Mexico	1,721	1,629	9,791	0	29	
All other	80	9	2,391	72	2,461	
Total	70,756	56,117	860,627	81.321	860.827	
	Value (1,000 dollars)					
Japan	168,210	133,501	2,467,172	251,027	3,211,964	
Canada	512,892	402,260	5,640,613	460,759	3,625,783	
Mexico	21,112	20,018	140,887	719	10,546	
A11 other	3,116	2,582	202,215	7,131	131,970	
Tota1	705,330	557,774	8,451,887	719,636	6,986,854	

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

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce, except as noted.

^{2/} Partially estimated, all data include imports into Puerto Rico.

^{3/} Quantity data include complete trucks and cab/chassis, but exclude bodies.

Table 4.--New passenger automobiles: U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by principal markets and by specified periods, February 1988-January 1990 1/

	1989-90			1988-89	
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb. 1989-	Jan.	Feb. 1988-
<u>Market</u>	1989	1990	Jan. 1990	1989	Jan. 1989
	-		Quantity	(units)	
Canada	40,277	26,661	555,743	39,957	622,918
Japan	3,205	2,659	22,780	1,845	22,880
All other	20.947	19,715	189,886	17,197	147,604
Total	64,429	49.035	768,409	58,999	793.402
			Value (1,000	dollars)	
Canada	478,773	314,971	6,033,202	428,739	6,335,644
Japan	43,943	47,705	356,398	26,124	287,731
All other	293.014	254.376	2.446.964	220.159	1.864.603
Tota1	815,730	617,052	8,836,564	675,022	8,487,978

^{1/ 1989} data revised.

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Table 5.--Lightweight automobile trucks 1/ and bodies and cab/chassis for light-weight automobile trucks: U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by principal markets and by specified periods, February 1988-January 1990 2/

	1989-90			1988-89	
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb. 1989-	Jan.	Feb. 1988-
Market	1989	1990	Jan. 1990	1989	Jan. 1989
			Quantity (u	nits) 3/	
Canada	9,971	4,500	134,602	13,541	154,683
All other	1.310	773	22,169	2,138	31,428
Total	11.281	5,273	156,771	15,679	186,111
			Value (1,000 do	llars)	
Canada	125,790	57,355	1,607,266	149,520	1,576,406
All other	<u>20.567</u>	10,266	169.822	28,683	384,137
Tota1	146,310	67,621	1,777,088	178,203	1,960,542

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

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce, except as noted.

^{2/} Partially estimated.

^{3/} Quantity data include complete trucks and cab/chassis, but exclude bodies.

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, 1989 and 1990

	Sales of-						Ratio import
eriod	Domestic automoblie 1990	s 1/ 1989	Imported automobil 1990	es 2/ 1989	Total U.S. sales 1/ 2/	1989	to tot sales 1990
<u>errou</u>			antity (un		1770	1303	Perc
January Pebruary JanFeb	544,605 531,546 1,076,151	509,760 552,042 1,061,802	208,694 193,912 402,606	208,856 198,825 407,681	753,299 725,458 1,478,757	718,616 750,867 1,644,955	27.7 26.7 27.2

[/] Domestic automobile sales include U.S.-, Canadian- and Mexican-built automobiles sold Inited States.

lource: Automotive News.

Table 7.--New passenger automobiles: Price indexes, by specified periods, 1989 and 1990 1/

	1989-90			1989 and	1989 and 1990		
Item	Dec. 1989	Jan. 1990	Percent change	Jan. 1989	Jan. 1990	Percen change	
Consumer Price Index:							
Unadjusted Seasonally	121.8	122.3	+0.4	119.5	122.3	+2.3	
adjusted Producer Price Index:	120.8	121.6	+0.7	118.9	121.6	+2.3	
Unadjusted Seasonally	119.0	116.9	-1.8	116.4	116.9	+0.4	
adjusted	117.4	116.6	-0.7	115.5	116.6	+1.0	

¹/ Consumer price index, 1982-1984 = 100. Producer price index, 1982 = 100.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

^{?/} Does not include automobiles imported from Canada and Mexico.

Table 8.--New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the U.S. market during February 1990 $\underline{1}$ /

	Retail price changes
Country source/make	February 1990 (+ or -)
II C. and durante	
U.S. producers:	
General Motors	No change.
Ford	No change.
Chrysler	No change.
Japanese producers:	•
Toyota Motors	No change.
Mazda	No change.
American Honda	No change.
Acura Division	No change.
Subaru	No change.
European producers:	•
Volkswagen	No change.
BMW	No change.
Audi	No change.
Porsche	No change.
Mercedes-Benz	No change.
Korean producer:	3
Hyundai	No change.

^{1/} Average retail price change for all models.

Source: Automotive News, February 1990.

Table 9.--Sales and profits (loss) on major U.S. automobile manufacturers' operations, by specified periods, 1988 and 1989 $\underline{1}/$

	(In million	s of dollars)		
	1989		1988	
Item and firm	October- December	January- December	October- December	January- December
Sales:				
General Motors	31,400	126,900	28,850	110,229
Ford	20,359	96,100	23,912	92,446
Chrysler	7.930	34.920	9.290	34.150
Tota1	59,689	257,920	62,052	236,825
Profits:				
General Motors	700	4,200	1,398	4,856
Ford	314	3,800	1,158	5,300
Chrysler	(664)	359	434	1.050
Total	350	8,359	2,990	11,206

^{1/} Data are for world operations.

Source: Automotive News.

Table 10--Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981-March 1990 1/

	April 1. 1 Option- ally	981	March 1. Option- ally		Percent change equipped model	
	Base	equipped	Base	equipped	Jan. 1990-	Apr. 1981-
Company, model, and options 2/	model 3/	model 3/	model 3/	model 3/	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1990
General Motors:						
Cavalier, 2 door	\$6,966 4/	\$6,966	\$8,002	\$8,052	0.0	+15.6
De Ville, 4 door	14,198	14,198	26,310	26,310	0.0	+85.3
Ford:						
Escort Pony 2 door HB (RWD, TG)	5,556	5,857	7,742	8,550	0.0	+46.0
Tempo GL 4 door (RWD, AT, TG) 5/	6,421	6,953	10,063	10,888	0.0	+56.6
LTD Crown Victoria, 4 door	8,519	10,102	17,767	17,937	0.0	+77.6
Chrysler:						
Reliant America, 4 door (RWD, R, AT)	5,980	6,680	8,049	9,549	0.0	+42.9
Dynasty, 4 door (RWD, AC) 6/	6,672	7,502	12,800	14,475	0.0	+92.9
Toyota:						
Corolla, Deluxe, 4 door (R)	5,688	5,793	9,488	11,100	0.0	+91.6
Cressida, 4 door	11,599	11,599	21.498	21,498	0.0	+85.3
Nissan (Datsun):	•	•	•	•		
Sentra E, 2 door <u>7</u> /	5,369	5,369	7,299	8,124	0.0	+51.3
Stanza GXE, 4 door (AT) 7/	6,839	7,749	15,575	16,109	0.0	+107.9
Maxima GXE, 4 door	10,379	10,379	17.959	18,584	0.0	+71.1
Honda:	,	,_,	,	,		
Civic 1500, 2 door HB (R) 8/	4,599	4,694	6,635	6,866	0.0	+46.3
Accord DX, 4 door (R)	7,645	7.950	12,345	12,595	0.0	+58.5

^{1/} Suggested retail prices do not include any dealer incentives, below-market financing or rebates.

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

Note: Some 1981-90 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.

^{2/} The following codes apply: 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/} Cavalier not sold until May 21, 1981.

^{5/} Tempo replaced the Fairmont Futura.

^{6/} Dynasty replaced the Diplomat.

^{1/} Sentra replaced the 210; Stanza replaced the 510.

^{8/} Civic 1500 replaced the Civic 1300.