

# 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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Washington, DC 20436**

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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, March 1990-February 1992

(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)

Item	1991-92			1990-91	
	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991- Feb. 1992	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990- Feb. 1991
Retail sales of domestic production:					
Subcompact.....	69	71	1,102	70	1,178
Compact.....	102	125	1,635	122	1,715
Intermediate.....	129	167	2,055	162	2,321
Standard.....	73	79	1,098	67	1,219
Luxury.....	41	51	628	51	688
Total.....	414	492	6,518	473	7,121
Production:					
Subcompact.....	64	63	802	61	958
Compact.....	128	128	1,678	113	1,878
Intermediate.....	153	152	1,854	141	2,222
Standard.....	41	39	1,358	48	1,482
Luxury.....	33	59	687	60	738
Total.....	420	440	6,379	422	7,278
Inventory					
Subcompact.....	212	210	1/	225	1/
Compact.....	287	310	1/	336	1/
Intermediate.....	412	392	1/	427	1/
Standard.....	203	222	1/	219	1/
Luxury.....	142	125	1/	153	1/
Total.....	1,255	1,257	1/	1,360	1/
Days' supply: 2/					
Subcompact.....	80	74	1/	77	1/
Compact.....	73	62	1/	66	1/
Intermediate.....	83	59	1/	63	1/
Standard.....	72	70	1/	78	1/
Luxury.....	90	61	1/	72	1/
Average.....	79	64	1/	69	1/
Employment: 3/					
Total employees.....	4/ 799	5/ 748	1/	6/ 735	1/
Production workers...	4/ 615	5/ 566	1/	6/ 553	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 December 1991, revised.

5/ Data are for January 1992.

6/ Data are for January 1991.

Source: Production and retail sales, 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, by principal sources and by specified periods, February 1990-January 1992 <sup>1/</sup>

Source	1991-92			1990-91	
	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1991- Jan. 1992	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990- Jan. 1991
	Quantity (units)				
Japan.....	166,192	155,781	1,769,485	175,434	1,904,094
Canada.....	86,397	85,084	1,200,000	81,071	1,229,678
Germany.....	16,583	10,563	171,362	11,647	235,936
Korea, South.....	21,286	14,322	183,977	21,794	210,390
Sweden.....	6,372	5,518	60,955	7,468	95,089
Mexico.....	14,086	21,044	250,567	19,976	228,630
Yugoslavia.....	0	0	2,065	0	2,646
United Kingdom...	526	464	14,077	1,261	26,275
Italy.....	319	120	2,301	743	11,151
France.....	0	37	1,516	256	2,155
Brazil.....	2	1,013	9,639	1,269	9,308
All other.....	3,430	3,312	42,721	4,136	49,556
Total.....	315,193	297,258	3,708,665	325,055	4,004,908
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan.....	1,945,935	1,858,136	20,563,904	1,925,096	20,050,256
Canada.....	1,025,528	921,050	14,122,706	866,462	13,804,028
Germany.....	497,246	307,557	4,776,846	316,513	5,651,796
Korea, South.....	121,044	81,825	1,030,157	121,907	1,167,652
Sweden.....	115,486	100,714	1,099,018	129,997	1,567,677
Mexico.....	149,697	213,886	2,595,278	196,670	2,288,814
Yugoslavia.....	0	0	4,817	0	7,738
United Kingdom...	14,727	15,444	488,604	46,376	873,885
Italy.....	18,017	9,077	143,419	17,505	292,629
France.....	0	477	18,597	2,949	26,661
Brazil.....	28	6,202	60,067	7,784	57,631
All other.....	43,775	38,737	533,477	49,384	635,537
Total.....	3,931,484	3,553,104	45,436,888	3,680,642	46,424,304

<sup>1/</sup> Data include imports into Puerto Rico; 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, by principal sources and by specified periods, February 1990-January 1992 2/

Source	1991-92			1990-91	
	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1991- Jan. 1992	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990- Jan. 1991
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Japan.....	23,294	16,985	274,793	26,496	307,605
Canada.....	35,285	38,357	405,108	22,355	406,321
Mexico.....	2,001	1,540	13,404	251	17,188
All other.....	2	3	72	12	473
Total.....	60,582	57,065	693,377	49,115	731,588
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan.....	153,138	114,345	1,679,719	155,564	1,752,169
Canada.....	508,388	514,860	5,588,950	317,837	5,400,423
Mexico.....	35,901	27,670	225,746	3,215	213,501
All other.....	1,064	690	21,198	3,963	54,195
Total.....	698,491	657,566	7,515,612	480,580	7,420,288

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, February 1990-January 1992

Market	1991-92			1990-91	
	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1991- Jan. 1992	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990- Jan. 1991
	Quantity (units)				
Canada.....	29,856	18,443	469,687	44,129	519,981
Japan.....	3,341	2,256	27,843	2,573	33,685
All other.....	20,631	2,299	231,105	21,611	212,201
Total.....	53,828	41,998	728,635	68,313	765,867
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada.....	393,722	233,219	5,897,707	554,738	6,089,234
Japan.....	58,881	41,807	493,168	47,662	586,752
All other.....	294,235	309,494	3,195,895	281,278	2,605,149
Total.....	746,838	584,520	9,586,769	883,679	9,281,135

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, February 1990-January 1992 2/

Market	1991-92			1990-91	
	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1991- Jan. 1992	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1990- Jan. 1991
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Canada.....	7,062	4,658	125,838	10,856	113,207
All other.....	1,325	1,615	46,788	1,789	18,913
Total.....	8,386	6,273	172,626	12,645	132,115
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada.....	95,543	61,245	1,660,244	142,098	1,362,627
All other.....	17,609	22,011	545,386	27,071	262,639
Total.....	113,153	83,256	2,205,630	169,169	1,625,266

1/ Defined as not over 10,000 pounds gwv.

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, 1991 and 1992

Period	Sales of-				Total U.S.		Ratio of import	
	Domestic automobiles 1/		Imported automobiles 2/		sales 1/ 2/		sales 1/ 2/	
	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991
	Quantity (units)						--Percent--	
January....	413,605	416,645	146,518	137,733	560,123	554,378	26.2	24.8
February...	492,454	472,524	158,545	149,073	650,999	621,597	24.4	24.0
Jan.-Feb...	905,872	889,169	305,063	286,806	1,210,935	1,175,975	25.2	24.4

1/ Domestic automobile sales include U.S.-, Canadian- and Mexican-built automobiles sold in the United States.

2/ Does not include automobiles imported from Canada and Mexico.

Source: Automotive News.

Table 7

New passenger automobiles: Price indexes, by specified periods, 1991 and 1992 1/

Item	1991-92			1991-92		
	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1992	Percent change	Feb. 1991	Feb. 1992	Percent change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted..	128.0	128.1	+0.1	125.3	128.1	+2.2
Seasonally adjusted..	126.6	126.7	+0.1	124.2	126.7	+2.0
Producer Priced Index:						
Unadjusted..	128.5	127.7	-0.6	125.3	127.7	+1.9
Seasonally adjusted..	127.9	126.9	-0.8	125.3	126.9	+1.3

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

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

Table 8

New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the U.S. market during February 1992 1/

Country source/make	Retail price changes February 1992 (+ or -)
U.S. producers:	
General Motors.....	No change.
Ford.....	No change.
Chrysler.....	No change.
Japanese producers:	
Toyota Motors.....	No change.
Mazda.....	No change.
American Honda.....	+1.7 percent
Subaru.....	No change.
European producers:	
Volkswagen.....	No change.
BMW.....	No change.
Audi.....	No change.
Porsche.....	No change.
Mercedes-Benz.....	No change.
Korean producer:	
Hyundai.....	No change.

1/ Average retail price change for all models.

Source: Automotive News, February 1992.

Table 9

Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981-March 1992 <sup>1/</sup>

Company, model, and options <sup>2/</sup>	April 1, 1981		February 1, 1992		Percent change in optionally equipped model	
	Base model <sup>3/</sup>	Optionally equipped model <sup>3/</sup>	Base model <sup>3/</sup>	Optionally equipped model <sup>3/</sup>	Jan. 1992-Mar. 1992	Apr. 1981-Mar. 1992
<b>General Motors:</b>						
Cavalier, 2 door..... <sup>4/</sup>	\$6,966	\$6,966	\$8,899	\$8,899	0.0	+27.7
De Ville, 4 door.....	14,198	14,198	31,740	31,740	0.0	+123.6
<b>Ford:</b>						
Escort Pony 2 door HB (RWD, TG).....	5,556	5,857	8,720	8,840	0.0	+50.9
Tempo GL 4 door (RWD, AT, TG) <sup>5/</sup> .....	6,421	6,953	10,589	11,441	0.0	+64.5
LTD Crown Victoria, 4 door .....	8,519	10,102	19,563	19,563	0.0	+93.7
<b>Chrysler:</b>						
Dynasty, 4 door (AC) <sup>6/</sup> .....	6,672	7,502	14,564	15,364	0.0	+104.8
<b>Toyota:</b>						
Corolla, Deluxe, 4 door (R).....	5,688	5,793	10,564	10,788	+1.5	+86.2
Cressida, 4 door.....	11,599	11,599	23,228	23,228	+1.1	+100.3
<b>Nissan (Datsun):</b>						
Sentra E, 2 door <sup>7/</sup> .....	5,369	5,369	8,495	8,495	0.0	+58.2
Stanza GXE, 4 door (AT) <sup>7/</sup> .....	6,839	7,749	16,255	17,070	0.0	+120.3
Maxima GXE, 4 door.....	10,379	10,379	19,695	19,695	0.0	+89.8
<b>Honda:</b>						
Civic 1500, 2 door HB (R) <sup>8/</sup> .....	4,599	4,694	8,100	8,550	+14.2	+82.1
Accord DX, 4 door (R).....	7,645	7,950	13,500	13,880	+2.1	+74.6

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

<sup>2/</sup> The following codes apply: RWD = rear window defroster; TG = tinted glass; HB = hatchback; AT = automatic transmission; AC = air conditioning; R = radio.

<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> Cavalier not sold until May 21, 1981.

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

<sup>6/</sup> Dynasty replaced the Diplomat.

<sup>7/</sup> Sentra replaced the 210; Stanza replaced the 510.

<sup>8/</sup> Civic 1500 replaced the Civic 1300.

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

Note: Some 1981-92 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.



