

# **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. 332-177  
Under Section 332  
of the Tariff Act of 1930**



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This report was prepared principally by

Jim McElroy and John Creamer

Machinery and Transportation Equipment Branch  
Machinery and Equipment Division

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Office of Industries  
Norris A. Lynch, Director

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**Address all communications to  
Office of the Secretary  
United States International Trade Commission  
Washington, D.C. 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, October 1982-September 1984

(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)

Item	1983 and 1984			1982 and 1983	
	Aug. 1984	Sept. 1984	Oct. 1983- Sept. 1984	Sept. 1983	Oct. 1982- Sept. 1983
Retail sales of domestic production:					
Subcompact-----	215	168	2,553	147	1,911
Compact-----	63	95	1,007	71	962
Intermediate-----	179	162	2,524	197	2,079
Standard-----	90	77	1,248	87	1,099
Luxury-----	57	73	592	36	423
Total-----	603	576	7,924	538	6,474
Production:					
Subcompact-----	210	127	1,784	193	1,930
Compact-----	68	127	1,706	110	907
Intermediate-----	148	168	2,590	198	2,025
Standard-----	76	66	878	95	917
Luxury-----	42	46	606	36	425
Total-----	544	534	7,563	632	6,206
Inventory:					
Subcompact-----	266	274	1/	186	1/
Compact-----	360	340	1/	243	1/
Intermediate-----	367	364	1/	436	1/
Standard-----	184	177	1/	105	1/
Luxury-----	121	121	1/	116	1/
Total-----	1,298	1,277	1/	1,086	1/
Days' supply: <u>2/</u>					
Subcompact-----	54	63	1/	77	1/
Compact-----	62	63	1/	79	1/
Intermediate-----	51	54	1/	54	1/
Standard-----	54	56	1/	55	1/
Luxury-----	53	46	1/	57	1/
Total-----	47	57	1/	55	1/
Employment: <u>3/</u>					
Total employees-----	4/ 860	5/ 859	1/	6/ 750	1/
Production workers---	4/ 658	5/ 655	1/	6/ 559	1/
Layoffs <u>7/</u> -----	63	60	1/	133	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 July 1984, revised.

5/ Data are for August 1984.

6/ Data are for August 1983, 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, September 1982-August 1984 <sup>1/</sup>

Source	1983 and 1984			1982 and 1983	
	July 1984	Aug. 1984	Sept. 1983- Aug. 1984	Aug. 1983	Sept. 1982- Aug. 1983
	Quantity (units)				
Japan-----	220,985	168,850	1,948,397	161,362	1,828,541
Canada-----	66,993	79,145	1,010,311	44,284	767,017
West Germany-----	9,726	12,921	318,228	22,033	214,770
Sweden-----	10,629	3,807	124,147	3,803	98,344
Italy-----	964	884	9,641	672	3,369
United Kingdom-----	2,191	719	19,764	787	15,628
France-----	3,232	3,061	32,913	1,549	47,807
All other-----	8,367	1,577	19,519	475	6,512
Total-----	323,087	270,964	3,482,920	234,965	2,981,988
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan-----	1,365,070	1,106,816	12,101,388	932,044	10,121,187
Canada-----	626,962	778,074	9,309,480	347,415	6,573,877
West Germany-----	139,776	196,543	4,280,811	313,554	3,104,047
Sweden-----	114,925	40,465	1,257,378	37,343	969,913
Italy-----	14,107	11,418	128,410	8,476	47,640
United Kingdom-----	50,305	17,479	458,533	19,248	371,109
France-----	31,106	24,574	293,969	12,849	332,986
All other-----	27,457	11,386	128,315	4,018	49,641
Total-----	2,369,708	2,186,755	27,958,284	1,674,947	21,570,400

<sup>1/</sup> 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, September 1982-August 1984 2/

Source	1983 and 1984			1982 and 1983	
	July 1984	Aug. 1984	Sept. 1983- Aug. 1984	Aug. 1983	Sept. 1982- Aug. 1983
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Japan-----	62,435	49,790	526,909	42,380	359,260
Canada-----	22,365	20,491	343,250	17,240	234,220
All other-----	387	7	1,118	42	2,683
Total-----	85,187	70,288	871,277	59,662	596,163
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan-----	264,482	202,430	2,171,049	172,597	1,457,036
Canada-----	193,278	185,891	2,724,250	170,460	1,961,325
All other-----	2,309	5,792	17,996	386	40,897
Total-----	460,069	394,113	4,913,295	343,443	3,459,258

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.

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, September 1982-August 1984

Market	1983 and 1984			1982 and 1983	
	July	Aug.	Sept. 1983-	Aug.	Sept. 1982-
	1984	1984	Aug. 1984	1983	Aug. 1983
Quantity (units)					
Canada-----	40,225	30,464	585,898	30,570	418,165
Saudi Arabia-----	245	117	11,038	262	11,087
Kuwait-----	27	58	2,836	246	3,701
Japan-----	180	133	2,250	133	1,867
West Germany-----	344	219	3,730	151	2,457
Venezuela-----	4	6	114	9	1,267
All other-----	800	657	9,364	594	12,582
Total-----	41,825	31,654	615,230	31,965	451,126
Value (1,000 dollars)					
Canada-----	300,274	236,329	4,454,733	220,719	3,048,499
Saudi Arabia-----	2,752	1,355	135,668	2,964	152,654
Kuwait-----	375	652	34,531	3,236	47,574
Japan-----	2,175	1,385	31,250	1,625	24,565
West Germany-----	3,602	2,350	38,423	1,657	25,582
Venezuela-----	45	77	1,349	63	13,629
All other-----	9,239	8,622	108,652	6,652	140,084
Total-----	318,462	250,770	4,804,606	236,916	3,452,587

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, September 1982-August 1984 2/

Market	1983 and 1984			1982 and 1983	
	July 1984	Aug. 1984	Sept. 1983- Aug. 1984	Aug. 1983	Sept. 1982- Aug. 1983
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Canada-----	6,084	5,827	102,432	6,050	69,491
Saudi Arabia-----	275	6	8,278	1,709	19,779
Kuwait-----	19	14	1,466	177	2,202
Venezuela-----	3	-	55	2	617
All other-----	939	520	7,186	921	11,855
Total-----	7,320	6,367	119,417	8,859	103,944
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada-----	50,897	40,275	780,916	46,303	501,987
Saudi Arabia-----	3,782	85	109,958	18,856	249,743
Kuwait-----	202	159	18,633	2,399	28,105
Venezuela-----	32	-	821	11	6,432
All other-----	10,521	5,265	70,196	9,262	119,226
Total-----	65,434	45,784	980,524	76,831	905,493

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.

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, 1983 and 1984

Period	Sales of--				Total U.S. sales		Ratio of import sales to total sales	
	Domestic automobiles 1/		Imported automobiles 2/		1984	1983	1984	1983
	1984	1983	1984	1983				
								----Percent----
January---	583,429	412,893	195,129	182,853	778,558	595,746	25.1	30.7
February--	655,016	442,479	186,218	186,374	841,234	628,853	22.1	29.6
Jan-Feb.---	1,238,445	855,372	381,347	369,227	1,619,792	1,224,599	23.5	30.2
March-----	756,164	600,303	205,947	220,479	962,111	820,782	21.4	26.9
Jan-Mar---	1,994,609	1,455,675	587,294	589,706	2,581,903	2,045,381	22.7	28.8
April-----	721,091	579,991	174,311	183,464	895,402	763,455	19.5	24.0
Jan-Apr---	2,715,700	2,035,666	761,605	773,170	3,477,305	2,808,836	21.9	27.5
May-----	803,273	630,044	243,326	206,457	1,046,599	836,501	23.2	24.7
Jan-May---	3,518,973	2,665,710	1,004,931	979,627	4,523,904	3,645,337	22.2	26.9
June-----	727,370	668,145	223,688	235,282	951,058	903,427	23.5	26.0
Jan-June--	4,246,343	3,333,855	1,228,619	1,214,909	5,474,962	4,548,764	22.4	26.7
July-----	684,112	576,864	205,617	214,356	889,729	791,220	23.1	27.1
Jan-July--	4,930,455	3,910,719	1,434,236	1,429,265	6,364,691	5,339,984	22.5	26.8
August----	630,469	530,960	211,730	209,113	815,199	740,073	26.0	28.3
Jan-Aug---	5,533,924	4,441,679	1,645,966	1,638,378	7,179,890	6,080,057	22.9	26.9
September--	566,672	538,307	176,358	166,163	743,030	704,470	23.7	23.6
Jan-Sept--	6,100,596	4,979,986	1,822,324	1,804,541	7,922,920	6,784,527	23.0	26.6

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, 1983 and 1984

(1967 = 100)

Item	1984			1983 and 1984		
	July 1984	Aug. 1984	Percent change	Aug. 1983	Aug. 1984	Percent change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted----	208.1	208.1	0	202.1	208.1	+3.0
Seasonally adjusted----	208.3	209.4	+0.5	202.5	209.4	+3.4
Producer Price Index:						
Unadjusted----	221.1	221.3	+0.1	218.4	221.3	+1.3
Seasonally adjusted----	221.5	221.7	+0.1	220.4	221.7	+0.6

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

Table 8.--New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the U.S. market during September 1984

Source and size category	: Retail price changes, in : dollars, September 1984 : (+ 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, September 1984.

Table 9.--Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981-October 1984 1/

Company, model, and options 2/	April 1, 1981		October 1, 1984		Percent change in optionally equipped model	
	Base model 3/	Option-ally equipped model 3/	Base model 3/	Option-ally equipped model 3/	September 1984-October 1984	April 1981-October 1984
<b>General Motors:</b>						
Chevette CS, 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG)-----	5,155	5,405	5,299	5,596	0	+3.5
Citation, 4 door HB (PB, RWD, TG, AT)-----	6,404	7,014	7,037	7,821	0	+11.5
Cimarron, 4 door (AT)-----4/	12,131	12,501	12,605	12,925	0	+3.3
<b>Ford:</b>						
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	7,151	7,840	0	+12.7
LTD Crown Victoria, 4 door (RWD, TG, ILG, AC)-----	8,519	10,102	10,943	12,981	0	+28.4
<b>Chrysler:</b>						
Plymouth Turismo, 2 door HB (RWD)-----	5,938	6,188	6,486	6,626	0	+7.1
Reliant, 4 door (RWD, TG, R, AT)-----	5,980	6,680	6,941	7,754	0	+16.1
Dodge 600, 4 door (RWD, AC) 6/-----	6,672	7,502	8,895	9,772	0	+30.2
<b>Toyota:</b>						
Corolla, Deluxe, 4 door (R)-----	5,688	5,793	6,748	7,008	0	+21.0
Cressida, 4 door-----	11,599	11,599	14,659	14,659	0	+26.4
<b>Nissan (Datsun):</b>						
Sentra Deluxe 2 door 7/-----	5,369	5,494	6,549	6,549	0	+19.2
Stanza GL, 4 door (AT) 7/-----	6,839	7,749	9,449	9,799	0	+26.5
Maxima, 4 door-----	10,379	10,379	12,399	12,399	0	+19.5
<b>Honda:</b>						
Civic 1300, 2 door HB (R)-----	4,599	4,694	5,249	5,343	0	+13.8
Accord, 4 door (R, AT)-----	7,645	7,950	8,549	9,042	0	+13.7
<b>Mazda:</b>						
GLC Deluxe, 2 door HB (R)-----	5,495	5,650	5,995	6,155	0	+8.9

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, 1982, and 1983 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.