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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Tables

Table 1.—New passenger automobiles: U.S. retail sales of domestic production, production, inventory, days' supply, and employment, by specified periods, March 1983-February 1985

(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)

Item	1984 and 1985			1983 and 1984	
	Jan. 1985	Feb. 1985	Mar. 1984-Feb. 1985	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983-Feb. 1984
Retail sales of domestic production:					
Subcompact	169	181	2,186	177	1,841
Compact	126	128	1,379	108	1,187
Intermediate	188	191	2,445	212	2,346
Standard	80	79	1,102	90	973
Luxury	76	74	1,002	80	982
Total	639	653	8,114	667	7,329
Production:					
Subcompact	133	116	1,572	146	1,382
Compact	180	163	1,916	165	1,743
Intermediate	274	250	2,684	252	2,637
Standard	102	65	931	32	316
Luxury	77	78	738	53	471
Total	766	672	7,841	648	6,549
Inventory:					
Subcompact	313	321	1/	284	1/
Compact	335	365	1/	404	1/
Intermediate	396	454	1/	510	1/
Standard	244	275	1/	167	1/
Luxury	129	150	1/	112	1/
Total	1,417	1,565	1/	1,177	1/
Days' supply: 3/					
Subcompact	83	73	1/	76	1/
Compact	65	64	1/	87	1/
Intermediate	52	54	1/	61	1/
Standard	80	87	1/	62	1/
Luxury	47	61	1/	51	1/
Total	63	65	1/	63	1/
Employment: 4/					
Total employees	4/ 896	5/ 845	1/	6/ 846	1/
Production workers	4/ 696	5/ 684	1/	6/ 652	1/
Layoffs 7/	53	51	1/	107	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 1984, revised.

5/ Data are for January 1985.

6/ Data are for January 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, February 1983-January 1985 1/ and January-December 1983 and 1984 2/

Source	1984-85			1983-84		1984	1983
	Dec. 1984	Jan. 1985	Feb. 1984-Jan. 1985	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1983-Jan. 1984	Jan.-Dec. 1984	Jan.-Dec. 1983
	Quantity (units)						
Japan	146,087	196,000	1,977,667	167,047	1,877,215	1,948,714	1,871,192
Canada	81,523	82,467	1,072,315	83,542	860,184	1,073,390	835,665
West Germany	25,465	61,159	346,945	49,246	272,759	335,032	239,807
Sweden	6,598	16,768	120,217	11,405	117,545	114,854	114,726
Italy	312	892	9,101	373	5,520	8,582	5,442
United Kingdom	2,000	1,509	19,964	1,378	17,110	19,833	17,261
France	4,661	21,130	56,080	2,838	36,505	37,788	40,823
All other	1,148	1,476	21,959	751	9,472	21,234	8,920
Total	267,794	381,401	3,624,248	316,580	3,196,310	3,559,427	3,133,836
	Value (1,000 dollars)						
Japan	934,198	1,138,737	12,454,427	1,033,493	10,922,883	12,349,183	9,877,708
Canada	747,174	775,314	10,090,690	779,320	7,522,089	10,094,696	6,219,813
West Germany	346,761	699,993	4,648,639	611,996	3,779,133	4,560,642	3,357,306
Sweden	73,582	193,093	1,304,074	119,050	1,133,702	1,230,029	802,356
Italy	5,314	11,617	131,634	5,038	74,221	125,055	129,408
United Kingdom	51,051	39,714	470,798	35,728	408,110	466,812	370,715
France	25,389	51,838	337,452	26,162	280,854	311,776	293,100
All other	10,277	13,668	132,146	7,391	74,868	125,869	32,070
Total	2,193,746	2,923,976	29,569,860	2,618,178	24,215,860	29,264,062	21,082,476

1/ Data include imports into Puerto Rico and TSUSA item 692.1005; data do not include automobiles assembled in Foreign-Trade Zones.

2/ The previous edition of this report (ITC Publication No. 1650, February 1985) incorrectly reported passenger automobile imports for January-December 1983; the current data amends this error. The January-December 1984 statistics are reprinted here for comparative purposes.

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, February 1983-January 1985 2/

Source	1984-1985			1983-1984	
	Dec. 1984	Jan. 1985	Feb. 1984-Jan. 1985	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1983-Jan. 1984
	Quantity (units) 3/				
Japan	48,834	65,606	588,342	43,460	442,714
Canada	25,918	27,098	351,199	27,403	280,591
All other	1,268	2,023	9,294	279	2,139
Total	76,020	94,727	948,835	71,142	725,444
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan	204,806	276,199	2,450,060	180,950	1,806,944
Canada	224,841	279,305	2,845,189	235,441	2,397,643
All other	9,679	15,808	73,583	5,344	23,610
Total	439,326	571,312	5,368,832	421,735	4,228,197

1/ Defined as not over 10,000 pounds gvw.
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, February 1983-January 1985

Market	1984-1985			1983-1984	
	Dec. 1984	Jan. 1985	Feb. 1984-Jan. 1985	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1983-Jan. 1984
	Quantity (units)				
Canada	41,424	49,855	598,370	38,682	536,389
Japan	98	230	2,102	172	2,191
All other	3,724	3,089	25,026	1,873	26,006
Total	45,246	53,174	625,498	40,727	564,586
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada	350,483	409,378	4,671,585	298,639	3,976,326
Japan	862	3,268	30,021	2,696	29,824
All other	44,855	34,535	288,751	23,048	310,713
Total	396,200	447,181	4,990,357	324,383	4,316,863

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 1983-January 1985 2/

Market	1984-1985			1983-1984	
	Dec. 1984	Jan. 1985	Feb. 1984-Jan. 1985	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1983-Jan. 1984
	Quantity (units) 3/				
Canada	7,805	7,866	105,907	7,168	87,976
All other	1,909	1,001	15,922	1,202	25,458
Total	9,714	8,867	121,829	8,370	113,434
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada	64,068	66,797	826,835	54,811	664,815
All other	25,343	11,805	186,096	12,744	298,992
Total	89,411	78,602	1,012,931	67,555	963,807

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

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	1984 and 1985			1984 and 1985		
	Dec. 1984	Jan. 1985	Percent change	Jan. 1984	Jan. 1985	Percent change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted	212.0	213.0	+0.5	207.2	213.1	+2.8
Seasonally adjusted	210.7	211.6	+0.4	205.6	211.6	+2.9
Producer Price Index:						
Unadjusted	223.4	227.2	+1.7	221.9	227.2	+2.4
Seasonally adjusted	220.1	225.0	+2.2	219.3	225.0	+2.6

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

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

Source and size category	Retail price changes, in dollars, February 1985 (+ or −)
U.S. producers:	
General Motors	No change.
Ford	+200
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, February 1985.

Table 9.—Sales and profits (loss) on major U.S. automobile manufacturers' operations, by specified periods, 1983 and 1984 1/

(In millions of dollars)

Item and firm	1984		1983	
	October-December	January-December	October-December	January-December
Sales:				
General Motors	20,878	83,890	20,818	74,582
Ford	13,400	52,370	12,400	44,450
Chrysler	5,300	19,600	3,780	13,300
American Motors	1,100	4,200	1,100	3,560
Total	40,678	160,060	38,098	135,892
Profits:				
General Motors	877	4,517	1,297	3,730
Ford	721	2,907	781	1,867
Chrysler	610	2,380	118	701
American Motors	3	16	7	(147)
Total	2,211	9,820	2,203	6,151

1/ Data are for world operations.

Source: Automotive News, Wall Street Journal and Wards's Automotive Reports.

Table 10.—Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981-March 1985 1/

Company, model, and options 2/	April 1, 1981		March 1, 1985		Percent change in optionally equipped model	
	Base model 3/	Optionally equipped model 3/	Base model 3/	Optionally equipped model 3/	February 1985-March 1985	April 1981-March 1985
General Motors:						
Chevette CS, 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG)	5,155	5,405	5,470	5,804	0	+7.4
Citation, 4 door HB (PB, RWD, TG, AT)	6,404	7,014	7,232	8,042	0	+14.7
Cimarron, 4 door (AT)	4/ 12,131	4/ 12,501	12,962	12,962	0	+3.7
Ford:						
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	7,160	7,773	0	+11.8
LTD Crown Victoria, 4 door (RWD, TG, ILG, AC)	8,519	10,102	11,912	13,966	+2.4	+38.2
Chrysler:						
Plymouth Turismo, 2 door HB (RWD)	5,938	6,188	6,584	6,716	0	+8.5
Reliant, 4 door (RWD, TG, R, AT)	5,980	6,680	7,039	7,844	0	+17.4
Dodge 600, 4 door (RWD, AC) 6/	6,672	7,502	9,081	9,986	0	+33.1
Toyota:						
Corolla, Deluxe, 4 door (R)	5,688	5,793	6,938	7,163	0	+23.6
Cressida, 4 door	11,599	11,599	15,690	15,690	0	+35.3
Nissan (Datsun):						
Sentra Deluxe 2 door 7/	5,369	5,494	6,649	6,649	0	+21.0
Stanza GL, 4 door (AT) 7/	6,839	7,749	9,549	10,049	0	+29.7
Maxima, 4 door	10,379	10,379	13,499	13,499	0	+30.1
Honda:						
Civic 1300, 2 door HB (R)	4,599	4,694	5,399	5,495	0	+17.1
Accord, 4 door (R, AT)	7,645	7,950	8,845	9,338	0	+17.5
Mazda:						
GLC Deluxe, 2 door HB (R)	5,495	5,650	6,095	6,265	0	+10.9

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.