

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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UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

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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, April 1983–March 1985

(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)					
Item	1984 and 1985			1983 and 1984	
	Feb. 1985	Mar. 1985	Apr. 1984– Mar. 1985	Mar. 1984	Apr. 1983– Mar. 1984
Retail sales of domestic production:					
Subcompact	181	208	2,189	205	1,897
Compact	128	174	1,427	126	1,219
Intermediate	191	224	2,422	247	2,399
Standard	79	88	1,084	105	989
Luxury	74	83	994	90	985
Total	653	776	8,116	774	7,489
Production:					
Subcompact	116	123	1,546	164	1,466
Compact	165	189	1,913	195	1,806
Intermediate	263	289	2,783	288	2,740
Standard	65	62	904	88	382
Luxury	78	83	826	66	559
Total	686	745	7,973	802	6,953
Inventory:					
Subcompact	321	303	1/	289	1/
Compact	365	362	1/	410	1/
Intermediate	454	495	1/	534	1/
Standard	275	275	1/	186	1/
Luxury	150	168	1/	118	1/
Total	1,565	1,604	1/	1,537	1/
Days' supply: 2/					
Subcompact	73	55	1/	69	1/
Compact	64	59	1/	81	1/
Intermediate	54	54	1/	59	1/
Standard	87	81	1/	57	1/
Luxury	61	62	1/	51	1/
Total	65	59	1/	58	1/
Employment: 3/					
Total employees	4/ 886	5/ 879	1/	6/ 863	1/
Production workers	4/ 686	5/ 680	1/	6/ 667	1/
Layoffs 7/	51	49	1/	101	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 January 1985, revised.

5/ Data are for February 1985.

6/ Data are for February 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.

Table 2.—New passenger automobiles: U.S. imports for consumption, by principal sources and by specified periods, March 1983–February 1985 ^{1/}

Source	1984–85			1983–84	
	Jan. 1985	Feb. 1985	Mar. 1984–Feb. 1985	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983–Feb. 1984
	Quantity (units)				
Japan	196,000	178,642	2,032,628	123,681	1,855,236
Canada	82,467	86,820	1,064,870	94,265	884,757
West Germany	61,159	30,834	353,777	24,002	282,398
Sweden	16,768	13,605	123,446	10,376	117,901
Italy	892	608	9,042	667	6,097
United Kingdom	1,509	1,119	19,743	1,340	16,764
France	21,130	2,444	55,206	3,318	35,685
All other	1,476	1,163	22,195	927	8,379
Total	381,401	315,235	3,680,907	258,576	3,207,217
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan	1,138,737	1,154,032	12,854,016	754,443	10,863,108
Canada	775,314	832,421	10,043,227	879,884	7,796,838
West Germany	699,993	424,887	4,776,079	297,447	3,853,130
Sweden	193,095	154,789	1,350,491	108,372	1,142,862
Italy	11,617	10,075	131,323	10,386	83,183
United Kingdom	39,714	26,240	466,433	30,605	402,679
France	51,838	22,464	333,083	26,833	281,744
All other	13,668	12,553	135,880	8,819	74,362
Total	2,923,976	2,637,461	30,090,532	2,116,789	24,497,906

^{1/} 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, March 1983–February 1985 2/

Source	1984–85			1983–84	
	Jan. 1985	Feb. 1985	Mar. 1984–Feb. 1985	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983–Feb. 1984
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Japan	65,606	60,946	622,406	26,882	443,586
Canada	27,098	30,823	348,027	33,995	296,052
All other	2,023	1,528	10,817	5	2,141
Total	94,727	93,297	981,250	60,882	741,779
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan	276,199	255,635	2,599,906	105,789	1,813,150
Canada	279,305	263,854	2,817,425	291,618	2,564,144
All other	15,808	11,683	84,759	507	23,044
Total	571,312	531,172	5,502,090	397,914	4,401,338

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, March 1983–February 1985

Market	1984–85			1983–84	
	Jan. 1985	Feb. 1985	Mar. 1984–Feb. 1985	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983–Feb. 1984
	Quantity (units)				
Canada	49,855	56,166	604,113	50,423	544,827
Japan	230	229	2,141	190	2,285
All other	3,089	2,236	24,296	2,966	26,854
Total	53,174	58,631	630,550	53,579	573,966
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada	409,378	469,341	4,750,082	390,844	4,059,484
Japan	3,268	3,007	30,320	2,708	31,392
All other	34,535	28,232	281,865	35,118	320,341
Total	447,181	500,580	5,062,267	428,670	4,411,217

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, March 1983–February 1985 2/

Market	1984–85			1983–84	
	Jan. 1985	Feb. 1985	Mar. 1984– Feb. 1985	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983– Feb. 1984
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Canada	7,866	9,985	105,618	10,274	92,314
All other	1,001	1,106	15,086	1,942	25,525
Total	8,867	11,091	12,704	12,216	117,839
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada	66,797	84,285	831,914	79,206	699,996
All other	11,805	14,734	177,038	23,792	300,340
Total	78,602	99,019	1,008,952	102,998	1,000,336

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

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
March—	768,927	756,164	201,341	205,947	970,268	962,111	20.8	21.4
Jan.-Mar—	2,042,281	1,994,609	602,815	587,294	2,645,096	2,581,903	22.8	22.7

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		
	Jan. 1985	Feb. 1985	Percent change	Feb. 1984	Feb. 1985	Percent change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted	213.1	213.9	+0.4	207.2	213.9	+3.2
Seasonally adjusted	211.6	213.3	+0.8	206.4	213.3	+3.3
Producer Price Index:						
Unadjusted	227.2	227.2	0	221.9	227.2	+2.4
Seasonally adjusted	225.0	227.2	+1.0	222.3	227.2	+2.2

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

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

Source and size category	Retail price changes, in dollars, March 1985 (+ 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, March 1985.

Table 9.—Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981–April 1985 ^{1/}

Company, model, and options ^{2/}	April 1, 1981		April 1, 1985		Percent change in optionally equipped model	
	Base model ^{3/}	Optionally equipped model ^{3/}	Base model ^{3/}	Optionally equipped model ^{3/}	March 1985–April 1985	April 1981–April 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	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	0	+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
Crëssida, 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 1981–84 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.

