

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, May 1983–April 1985

(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)

Item	1984 and 1985			1983 and 1984	
	Mar. 1985	Apr. 1985	May 1984– Apr. 1985	Apr. 1984	May 1983– Apr. 1984
Retail sales of domestic production:					
Subcompact	208	228	2,226	191	1,940
Compact	174	160	1,427	115	1,240
Intermediate	224	236	2,421	237	2,451
Standard	88	92	1,073	103	1,010
Luxury	83	78	984	88	988
Total	776	794	8,176	734	7,629
Production:					
Subcompact	123	135	1,529	152	1,373
Compact	189	182	1,916	180	1,683
Intermediate	307	290	2,857	233	2,538
Standard	62	67	902	69	360
Luxury	83	78	844	60	520
Total	763	751	8,049	694	6,474
Inventory:					
Subcompact	303	264	1/	298	1/
Compact	362	347	1/	424	1/
Intermediate	495	523	1/	532	1/
Standard	275	255	1/	192	1/
Luxury	168	184	1/	133	1/
Total	1,604	1,573	1/	1,579	1/
Days' supply: 2/					
Subcompact	55	49	1/	57	1/
Compact	64	42	1/	66	1/
Intermediate	54	53	1/	54	1/
Standard	81	72	1/	56	1/
Luxury	62	65	1/	51	1/
Total	59	53	1/	56	1/
Employment: 3/					
Total employees	4/ 879	5/ 863	1/	6/ 874	1/
Production workers	4/ 680	5/ 669	1/	6/ 678	1/
Layoffs 7/	49	49	1/	98	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 February 1985, revised.

5/ Data are for March 1985.

6/ Data are for March 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, April 1983–March 1985 ^{1/}

Source	1984–85			1983–84	
	Feb. 1985	Mar. 1985	Apr. 1984– Mar. 1985	Mar. 1984	Apr. 1983– Mar. 1984
	Quantity (units)				
Japan	178,642	161,622	2,031,250	163,000	1,851,694
Canada	86,820	95,623	1,072,994	87,499	902,965
West Germany	30,834	49,680	361,119	42,338	307,330
Sweden	13,605	11,906	118,883	16,469	122,163
Italy	608	866	8,864	1,044	6,910
United Kingdom	1,119	2,925	20,004	2,664	17,759
France	2,444	2,395	53,788	3,813	34,921
All other	1,163	2,104	23,279	1,020	9,101
Total	315,235	327,121	3,690,181	317,847	3,252,843
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan	1,154,032	1,033,732	12,825,520	1,062,228	10,985,758
Canada	832,421	922,661	10,146,536	819,352	8,006,701
West Germany	424,887	675,686	4,901,839	549,926	4,111,037
Sweden	154,789	133,765	1,310,971	173,285	1,194,669
Italy	10,075	11,983	129,811	13,495	92,824
United Kingdom	26,240	65,766	481,906	50,293	413,188
France	22,464	23,823	325,399	31,507	279,264
All other	12,553	17,819	144,163	9,536	81,355
Total	2,637,461	2,885,235	30,266,145	2,709,622	25,164,796

^{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, April 1983–March 1985 2/

Source	1984–85			1983–84	
	Feb. 1985	Mar. 1985	Apr. 1984– Mar. 1985	Mar. 1984	Apr. 1983– Mar. 1984
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Japan	60,946	60,582	639,512	43,476	453,003
Canada	30,823	31,251	349,973	29,305	302,748
All other	1,528	1,955	12,767	5	1,311
Total	93,297	93,788	1,002,252	72,786	757,062
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan	255,635	257,926	2,674,648	183,184	1,856,965
Canada	263,854	269,171	2,838,770	247,826	2,633,774
All other	11,683	13,035	97,321	473	19,502
Total	531,172	540,132	5,610,739	431,483	4,510,241

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, 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, April 1983–March 1985

Market	1984–85			1983–84	
	Feb. 1985	Mar. 1985	Apr. 1984– Mar. 1985	Mar. 1984	Apr. 1983– Mar. 1984
	Quantity (units)				
Canada	56,166	71,154	606,926	68,341	558,650
Japan	229	206	2,183	164	2,207
All other	2,236	1,990	23,976	2,310	27,507
Total	58,631	73,350	633,085	70,815	588,364
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada	469,341	590,247	4,823,186	517,143	4,192,421
Japan	3,007	2,715	30,759	2,276	30,357
All other	28,232	23,071	279,523	25,413	326,521
Total	500,580	616,033	5,133,468	544,832	4,549,299

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, April 1983–March 1985 2/

Market	1984–85			1983–84	
	Feb. 1985	Mar. 1985	Apr. 1984– Mar. 1985	Mar. 1984	Apr. 1983– Mar. 1984
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Canada	9,985	10,849	105,029	11,438	96,471
All other	1,106	1,151	14,956	1,281	24,084
Total	11,091	12,000	119,985	12,719	120,555
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada	84,285	90,418	835,103	87,229	732,788
All other	14,734	13,292	174,876	15,454	283,500
Total	99,019	103,710	1,009,979	102,683	1,016,288

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, 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, 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
April	788,282	721,091	198,241	174,311	986,523	895,402	20.1	19.5
Jan-Apr	2,830,563	2,715,700	801,056	761,605	3,631,619	3,477,305	22.1	21.9

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

Item	(1967 = 100)						
	1985			1984 and 1985			
	Feb. 1985	Mar. 1985	Percent change	Mar. 1984	Mar. 1985	Percent change	
Consumer Price Index:							
Unadjusted	213.9	214.1	+0.1	207.2	214.1	+3.3	
Seasonally adjusted	213.3	214.3	+0.5	207.4	214.3	+3.3	
Producer Price Index:							
Unadjusted	227.2	227.0	-0.1	222.0	227.0	+2.3	
Seasonally adjusted	227.2	227.9	+0.3	223.8	227.9	+1.8	

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

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

Source and size category	Retail price changes, in dollars, April 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, April 1985.

Table 9.—Sales and profits (loss) on major U.S. automobile manufacturers' operations, by specified periods, 1984 and 1985 ^{1/}

(In millions of dollars)

Item and firm	1985	1984
	January-March	January-March
Sales:		
General Motors	24,183	22,886
Ford	13,246	13,009
Chrysler	5,408	4,922
American Motors	919	1,083
Total	43,756	41,910
Profits:		
General Motors	1,072	3,221
Ford	783	897
Chrysler	508	706
American Motors	(29)	5
Total	2,334	4,829

^{1/} Data are for world operations.

Source: Automotive News.

Table 10.—Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981–May 1985 ^{1/}

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