

# **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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Table 1.—New passenger automobiles: U.S. retail sales of domestic production, production, inventory, days' supply, and employment, by specified periods, July 1983–June 1985

(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)

Item	1984 and 1985			1983 and 1984	
	May 1985	June 1985	July 1984– June 1985	June 1984	July 1983– June 1984
Retail sales of domestic production:					
Subcompact	223	167	2,198	198	2,001
Compact	153	107	1,477	125	1,275
Intermediate	261	238	2,437	223	2,529
Standard	91	87	1,031	105	1,053
Luxury	86	85	972	88	1,003
Total	814	684	8,116	739	7,860
Production:					
Subcompact	150	136	1,530	130	1,603
Compact	194	180	1,919	181	1,939
Intermediate	294	227	2,917	238	2,765
Standard	69	68	875	83	544
Luxury	76	74	858	67	618
Total	783	684	8,100	699	7,469
Inventory:					
Subcompact	299	269	1/	310	1/
Compact	200	307	1/	415	1/
Intermediate	283	540	1/	432	1/
Standard	366	228	1/	185	1/
Luxury	416	202	1/	126	1/
Total	1,563	1,546	1/	1,467	1/
Days' supply: 2/					
Subcompact	54	46	1/	58	1/
Compact	36	46	1/	55	1/
Intermediate	45	45	1/	40	1/
Standard	66	63	1/	43	1/
Luxury	75	67	1/	42	1/
Total	52	50	1/	47	1/
Employment: 3/					
Total employees	4/ 874	5/ 883	1/	6/ 865	1/
Production workers	4/ 681	5/ 689	1/	6/ 668	1/
Layoffs 7/	46	40	1/	80	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 April 1985, revised.

5/ Data are for May 1985.

6/ Data are for May 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, June 1983–May 1985 <sup>1/</sup>

Source	1984–85			1983–84	
	Apr. 1985	May 1985	June 1984– May 1985	May 1984	June 1983– May 1984
	Quantity (units)				
Japan	176,863	220,889	2,085,513	206,790	1,884,928
Canada	92,488	104,712	1,060,464	100,334	947,390
West Germany	52,430	38,520	385,665	27,517	336,736
Sweden	14,647	11,269	119,835	12,997	123,903
Italy	666	444	7,776	1,070	8,488
United Kingdom	2,817	2,722	20,736	2,850	19,535
France	2,080	2,307	50,958	3,388	33,026
All other	1,643	1,628	24,340	832	10,161
Total	343,634	382,491	3,755,287	355,778	3,364,167
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan	1,118,857	1,436,106	13,228,857	1,299,573	11,395,369
Canada	897,337	997,131	10,119,490	909,926	8,500,202
West Germany	634,900	484,299	5,075,608	405,088	4,493,562
Sweden	167,878	131,277	1,339,625	142,684	1,236,999
Italy	9,987	8,069	118,070	13,615	111,704
United Kingdom	68,126	64,897	499,182	67,540	457,655
France	19,174	22,971	303,493	29,628	282,737
All other	13,817	16,134	152,358	8,575	93,641
Total	2,930,076	3,160,884	30,836,683	2,876,629	26,571,869

<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 <sup>1/</sup> and bodies and cab/chassis for lightweight automobile trucks: U.S. imports for consumption, by principal sources and by specified periods, June 1983–May 1985 <sup>2/</sup>

Source	1984–85			1983–84	
	Apr. 1985	May 1985	June 1984– May 1985	May 1984	June 1983– May 1984
	Quantity (units) <sup>3/</sup>				
Japan	74,629	70,772	677,484	58,105	487,374
Canada	30,105	30,498	337,467	33,846	327,702
All other	4,372	1,638	18,756	6	1,075
Total	109,106	102,908	1,033,707	91,957	816,151
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan	312,892	301,346	2,845,579	243,201	1,998,936
Canada	266,748	269,432	2,995,082	48,616	2,615,010
All other	31,351	12,835	140,770	93	14,937
Total	610,991	583,613	5,981,431	291,910	4,628,883

<sup>1/</sup> Defined as not over 10,000 pounds gw.

<sup>2/</sup> Partially estimated; all data include imports into Puerto Rico.

<sup>3/</sup> 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, June 1983–May 1985

Market	1984–85			1983–84	
	Apr. 1985	May 1985	June 1984– May 1985	May 1984	June 1983– May 1984
	Quantity (units)				
Canada	69,708	66,402	620,075	59,804	571,632
Japan	59	32	1,745	118	2,185
All other	2,533	1,618	23,073	3,292	28,066
Total	72,300	68,052	644,893	63,214	601,883
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada	578,931	562,481	5,049,984	444,791	4,314,184
Japan	784	447	24,609	1,737	30,962
All other	29,318	17,500	270,711	34,470	328,714
Total	609,033	580,428	5,345,304	480,998	4,673,860

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 <sup>1/</sup> and bodies and cab/chassis for lightweight automobile trucks: U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by principal markets and by specified periods, June 1983–May 1985 <sup>2/</sup>

Market	1984–85			1983–84	
	Apr. 1985	May 1985	June 1984– May 1985	May 1984	June 1983– May 1984
	Quantity (units) <sup>3/</sup>				
Canada	12,523	12,375	108,832	10,403	101,948
All other	1,034	1,403	14,768	1,711	21,954
Total	13,557	13,778	123,600	12,114	123,902
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada	103,323	100,727	881,376	79,156	773,945
All other	11,887	13,050	168,833	20,564	258,645
Total	115,210	113,777	1,050,209	99,720	1,032,590

<sup>1/</sup> Defined as not over 10,000 pounds gw.

<sup>2/</sup> Partially estimated.

<sup>3/</sup> 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				
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
May—	807,590	803,273	262,344	243,326	1,066,934	1,046,599	24.6	23.2
Jan-May—	3,638,153	3,518,973	1,063,400	1,004,931	4,698,553	4,523,904	22.6	22.2
June—	676,675	727,370	248,659	223,688	925,334	951,058	26.9	23.5
Jan-June—	4,314,828	4,246,343	1,312,059	1,228,619	5,623,887	5,474,962	23.3	22.4

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	1985			1984 and 1985		
	Apr. 1985	May 1985	Percent change	May 1984	May 1985	Percent change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted—	214.1	214.5	+0.2	207.6	214.5	+3.3
Seasonally adjusted—	214.3	213.9	-0.2	207.2	213.9	+3.2
Producer Price Index:						
Unadjusted—	226.9	228.1	+0.5	221.3	228.1	+3.1
Seasonally adjusted—	227.4	228.3	+0.4	221.5	228.3	+3.1

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

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

Source and size category	: Retail price changes, in : dollars, June 1985 : (+ or -)
<b>U.S. producers:</b>	
General Motors	: No change.
Ford	: No change.
Chrysler	: No change.
<b>European Community producers:</b>	
Subcompact	: No change.
Compact	: No change.
Luxury	: No change.
<b>Japanese producers:</b>	
Subcompact	: No change.
Compact	: No change.
Luxury	: No change.
<b>Source: <u>Automotive News</u>, June 1985.</b>	

Table 9.—Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981–July 1985 <sup>1/</sup>

Company, model, and options <sup>2/</sup>	April 1, 1981		July 1, 1985		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>	June 1985–July 1985	April 1981–July 1985
<b>General Motors:</b>						
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)—— <sup>4/</sup>	12,131	12,501	12,962	12,962	0	+3.7
<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) <sup>5/</sup>	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
<b>Chrysler:</b>						
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) <sup>6/</sup>	6,672	7,502	9,081	9,986	0	+33.1
<b>Toyota:</b>						
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
<b>Nissan (Datsun):</b>						
Sentra Deluxe 2 door <sup>7/</sup>	5,369	5,494	6,649	6,649	0	+21.0
Stanza GL, 4 door (AT) <sup>7/</sup>	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
<b>Honda:</b>						
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
<b>Mazda:</b>						
GLC Deluxe, 2 door HB (R)——	5,495	5,650	6,095	6,265	0	+10.9

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

<sup>2/</sup> 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.

<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> Cimarron not sold until May 21, 1981.

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

<sup>6/</sup> Dodge 600 replaced the Diplomat.

<sup>7/</sup> 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.