

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, June 1984–May 1986

Item	(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)				
	1985–86			1984–85	
	Apr. 1986	May 1986	Jun. 1985– May 1986	May 1985	Jun. 1984– May 1985
Retail sales of domestic production:					
Subcompact.....	180	208	2,140	223	2,229
Compact.....	132	145	1,391	153	1,495
Intermediate.....	238	262	2,637	261	2,422
Standard.....	91	94	883	91	1,050
Luxury.....	78	76	920	86	975
Total.....	720	786	7,971	814	8,171
Production:					
Subcompact.....	155	146	1,577	150	1,524
Compact.....	192	181	1,999	193	1,920
Intermediate.....	266	251	2,841	284	2,917
Standard.....	52	49	567	69	889
Luxury.....	74	70	820	76	852
Total.....	740	697	7,804	772	8,103
Inventory:					
Subcompact.....	324	336	1/	269	1/
Compact.....	421	428	1/	306	1/
Intermediate.....	726	743	1/	539	1/
Standard.....	249	251	1/	228	1/
Luxury.....	187	187	1/	202	1/
Total.....	1,907	1,945	1/	1,546	1/
Days' supply: 2/					
Subcompact.....	69	68	1/	54	1/
Compact.....	80	72	1/	36	1/
Intermediate.....	81	72	1/	51	1/
Standard.....	77	69	1/	66	1/
Luxury.....	66	64	1/	75	1/
Average.....	76	70	1/	52	1/
Employment: 3/					
Total employees.....	4/ 858	5/ 854	1/	6/ 879	1/
Production workers...	4/ 661	5/ 661	1/	6/ 684	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 March 1986, revised.

5/ Data are for April 1986.

6/ Data are for April 1985.

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, May 1984–April 1986 ^{1/}

Source	1985–86			1984–85	
	March 1986	April 1986	May 1985–April 1986	April 1985	May 1984–April 1985
Quantity (units)					
Japan.....	193,592	190,296	2,618,840	176,863	2,071,414
Canada.....	104,276	117,773	1,194,607	92,488	1,056,121
West Germany.....	42,211	40,642	445,864	52,430	374,662
Sweden.....	14,919	13,214	143,244	14,647	121,563
Italy.....	1,231	779	9,683	666	8,307
United Kingdom...	2,438	2,798	25,634	2,817	20,914
France.....	1,222	1,090	16,133	2,080	52,040
Mexico.....	3,407	1,983	23,858	1,138	9,005
Yugoslavia.....	2,862	—	14,217	—	—
Korea.....	13,652	11,517	31,103	—	—
All other.....	1,180	845	12,928	505	14,598
Total.....	380,990	380,937	4,536,111	343,634	3,728,624
Value (1,000 dollars)					
Japan.....	1,426,154	1,468,903	17,614,876	1,118,857	13,092,324
Canada.....	1,032,755	1,152,903	11,743,237	897,337	10,032,277
West Germany.....	686,515	708,722	6,495,431	634,900	4,996,397
Sweden.....	175,770	157,797	1,687,393	167,878	1,351,032
Italy.....	19,372	10,669	142,304	9,987	123,616
United Kingdom...	60,284	68,047	633,338	68,126	501,825
France.....	13,202	11,447	163,800	19,174	310,150
Mexico.....	32,620	20,819	201,082	7,405	58,272
Yugoslavia.....	7,165	—	34,622	—	—
Korea.....	61,058	51,431	129,206	—	—
All other.....	13,674	9,946	164,377	6,412	86,527
Total.....	3,528,569	3,660,684	39,009,666	2,930,076	30,552,420

^{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, May 1984–April 1986 2/

Source	1985–86			1984–85	
	March 1986	April 1986	May 1985–April 1986	April 1985	May 1984–April 1985
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Japan.....	94,025	85,091	887,280	74,629	664,817
Canada.....	26,866	29,370	319,641	30,105	340,815
Mexico.....	1,350	1,905	25,230	4,275	13,076
All other.....	24	4	1,639	97	4,048
Total.....	122,265	116,370	1,233,790	109,106	1,022,756
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan.....	443,105	405,639	3,964,743	312,892	2,787,434
Canada.....	247,273	263,398	2,618,141	266,748	2,774,266
Mexico.....	10,267	14,436	181,711	30,774	95,573
All other.....	8,149	1,884	53,520	577	32,455
Total.....	708,794	685,357	6,818,115	610,991	5,689,728

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

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, May 1984–April 1986

Market	1985–86			1984–85	
	March 1986	April 1986	May 1985– April 1986	April 1985	May 1984– April 1985
	Quantity (units)				
Canada.....	66,442	70,113	682,955	69,708	613,477
Japan.....	396	311	1,565	59	1,831
All other.....	2,918	2,661	22,609	2,533	24,747
Total.....	69,756	73,085	707,129	72,300	640,055
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada.....	566,701	623,600	5,920,241	578,931	4,932,286
Japan.....	5,948	4,843	25,456	784	24,598
All other.....	56,225	32,947	295,997	29,318	288,928
Total.....	628,874	661,390	6,241,694	609,033	5,245,812

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, May 1984–April 1986 2/

Market	1985–86			1984–85	
	March 1986	April 1986	May 1985– April 1986	April 1985	May 1984– April 1985
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Canada.....	12,162	16,170	147,483	12,523	121,816
All other.....	1,390	1,047	9,754	1,034	15,076
Total.....	13,552	17,217	157,237	13,557	136,892
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada.....	108,231	145,896	1,278,628	103,323	859,805
All other.....	14,277	13,684	101,995	11,887	186,347
Total.....	122,508	159,580	1,380,623	115,210	1,046,152

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, 1985 and 1986

Period	Sales of—		Imported		Total U.S. sales		Ratio of im- port sales to total sales	
	Domestic automobiles 1/ 1986	1985	automobiles 2/ 1986	1985	1986	1985	1986	1985
							—Percent—	
January...	635,904	628,037	237,281	208,184	873,185	836,221	27.2	24.9
February..	613,371	645,317	219,096	193,290	832,467	838,607	26.3	23.0
Jan-Feb...	1,249,275	1,273,354	456,377	401,474	1,705,652	1,674,828	26.8	24.0
March.....	649,351	768,927	247,487	201,341	896,838	970,268	27.6	20.8
Jan-Mar...	1,898,626	2,042,281	703,864	602,815	2,602,490	2,645,096	27.0	22.8
April.....	719,563	788,282	252,609	198,241	972,172	986,523	26.0	20.1
Jan-Apr...	2,618,189	2,830,563	956,473	801,056	3,574,662	3,631,619	26.8	22.1
May.....	786,268	807,590	286,194	262,344	1,072,462	1,069,934	26.7	24.5
Jan-May...	3,404,457	3,638,153	1,242,667	1,063,400	4,647,124	4,701,553	26.7	22.6

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, 1985 and 1986

Item	(1967 = 100)			1985 and 1986		
	1986 Mar. 1986	Apr. 1986	Percent change	Apr. 1985	Apr. 1986	Percent change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted....	220.3	221.2	+0.4	214.1	221.2	+3.3
Seasonally adjusted....	219.9	221.2	+0.4	214.3	221.2	+3.2
Producer Price Index:						
Unadjusted....	229.1	232.8	+1.6	226.9	232.8	+2.6
Seasonally adjusted....	229.1	232.8	+1.6	227.4	232.8	+2.4

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

Table 8.—New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the U.S. market during May 1986

Source and size of category	Retail price changes, in dollars, May 1986 (+ or -)
U.S. producers:	
General Motors ^{1/}	No change.
Ford.....	No change.
Chrysler.....	No change.
European Community producers:	
Subcompact.....	No change.
Compact.....	No change.
Luxury.....	+380 to 2,790
Japanese producers:	
Subcompact ^{1/}	+238
Compact ^{1/}	+344
Luxury.....	No change.
Korean producers:	
Subcompact.....	No change.

^{1/} Nonweighted average price changes including optional equipment for entire 1986 model line (adjusted to reflect equipment additions or deletions).

Source: Automotive News, May 1986.

Table 9.—Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981–June 1986 ^{1/}

Company, model, and options ^{2/}	April 1, 1981		June 1, 1986		Percent change in optionally equipped model	
	Base model ^{3/}	Optionally equipped model ^{3/}	Base model ^{3/}	Optionally equipped model ^{3/}	May 1986–June 1986	April 1981–June 1986
General Motors:						
Chevette CS, 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG).....	\$5,155	\$5,405	\$5,775	\$6,130	0	+13.4
Citation, 4 door HB (PB, RWD, TG, AT) ^{4/}	6,404	7,014	7,232	8,042	NA	+14.7
Cimarron, 4 door (AT)..... ^{5/}	12,131	12,501	13,559	13,949	0	+11.6
Ford:						
Escort L 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG).....	5,556	5,857	6,327	6,561	0	+12.0
Tempo GL 4 door (RWD, AT, TG) ^{6/}	6,421	6,953	7,508	8,214	0	+18.1
LTD Crown Victoria, 4 door (RWD, TG, ILG, AC).....	8,519	10,102	13,784	14,691	0	+45.4
Chrysler:						
Plymouth Turismo, 2 door HB (RWD).....	5,938	6,188	6,741	6,882	0	+11.2
Reliant, 4 door (RWD, TG, R, AT).....	5,980	6,680	7,179	7,967	0	+19.3
Dodge 600, 4 door (RWD, AC) ^{7/}	6,672	7,502	10,022	10,500	0	+40.0
Toyota:						
Corolla, Deluxe, 4 door (R).....	5,688	5,793	7,648	7,908	0	+36.5
Cressida, 4 door.....	11,599	11,599	17,480	17,480	0	+50.7
Nissan (Datsun):						
Sentra E, 2 door ^{8/}	5,369	5,369	7,149	7,149	+2.1	+33.2
Stanza GXE, 4 door (AT) ^{8/}	6,839	7,749	11,299	11,949	+12.5	+54.2
Maxima GXE, 4 door.....	10,379	10,379	15,199	15,199	0	+46.4
Honda:						
Civic 1300, 2 door HB (R).....	4,599	4,694	5,749	5,937	+0.9	+26.5
Accord DX, 4 door (R, AT).....	7,645	7,950	10,238	10,896	+2.3	+37.1
Mazda:						
323 Deluxe, 2 door HB (R) ^{9/}	5,495	5,650	7,395	7,770	0	+37.5

^{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/} Citation discontinued after 1985 model year.

^{5/} Cimarron not sold until May 21, 1981.

^{6/} Tempo replaced the Fairmont Futura.

^{7/} Dodge 600 replaced the Diplomat.

^{8/} Sentra replaced the 210; Stanza replaced the 510. (Both are 1987 models.)

^{9/} 323 replaced the GLC.

Source: Compiled from data supplied by U.S. manufacturers, Japanese importers, and Automotive News.

Note: Some 1981–86 models have been discontinued; these models have been replaced by comparable models where possible. In addition, some equipment that was optional on prior models is now included in the base price or equipment that was standard has been deleted, making price comparisons of prior-year models difficult.