

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**



USITC PUBLICATION 1941

JANUARY 1987

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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, January 1985–December 1986

Item	(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)				
	1985–86			1985	
	Nov. 1986	Dec. 1986	Jan. 1986– Dec. 1986	Dec. 1985	Jan. 1985– Dec. 1985
Retail sales of domestic production:					
Subcompact.....	90	117	1,745	176	2,230
Compact.....	121	151	1,751	92	1,490
Intermediate.....	173	240	2,854	167	2,569
Standard.....	81	99	1,111	54	923
Luxury.....	54	67	754	74	994
Total.....	519	673	8,215	563	8,206
Production:					
Subcompact.....	137	125	1,610	109	1,512
Compact.....	144	127	1,979	136	1,965
Intermediate.....	197	204	2,699	172	3,017
Standard.....	56	70	692	45	711
Luxury.....	55	60	753	50	846
Total.....	589	586	7,734	513	8,051
Inventory:					
Subcompact.....	269	297	1/	266	1/
Compact.....	313	353	1/	354	1/
Intermediate.....	477	510	1/	634	1/
Standard.....	189	208	1/	177	1/
Luxury.....	164	164	1/	176	1/
Total.....	1,413	1,531	1/	1,606	1/
Days' supply: 2/					
Subcompact.....	55	79	1/	63	1/
Compact.....	74	70	1/	77	1/
Intermediate.....	55	71	1/	85	1/
Standard.....	68	61	1/	83	1/
Luxury.....	59	73	1/	73	1/
Average.....	60	71	1/	78	1/
Employment: 3/					
Total employees.....	4/ 829	5/ 842	1/	6/ 870	1/
Production workers...	4/ 635	5/ 648	1/	6/ 676	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 October 1986, revised.

5/ Data are for November 1986.

6/ Data are for November 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, December 1984–November 1986 ^{1/}

Source	1985–86			1984–85	
	Oct. 1986	Nov. 1986	Dec. 1985– Nov. 1986	Nov. 1985	Dec. 1984– Nov. 1985
Quantity (units)					
Japan.....	211,405	253,103	2,688,458	237,342	2,412,280
Canada.....	104,403	120,749	1,166,248	106,886	1,126,288
West Germany.....	33,969	43,456	456,971	40,945	456,691
Sweden.....	11,511	13,637	148,891	15,905	136,329
Italy.....	1,234	681	12,129	705	8,307
United Kingdom...	2,247	2,023	27,480	2,515	25,013
France.....	548	978	11,897	2,291	44,269
Mexico.....	4,332	5,839	37,890	2,555	14,445
Yugoslavia.....	3,324	6,313	40,730	0	1,576
Korea.....	18,922	18,587	152,400	0	0
All other.....	1,216	779	12,318	1,398	9,266
Total.....	393,111	466,145	4,755,412	410,542	4,233,474
Value (1,000 dollars)					
Japan.....	1,813,328	2,185,498	21,092,851	1,574,655	15,390,799
Canada.....	1,125,262	1,282,229	11,778,052	1,088,097	10,924,129
West Germany.....	647,711	889,953	8,080,231	587,950	5,886,411
Sweden.....	149,305	175,254	1,816,885	185,506	1,569,466
Italy.....	15,668	10,817	172,790	8,556	118,971
United Kingdom...	61,315	57,411	714,545	63,023	606,938
France.....	6,383	12,430	133,637	25,145	246,517
Mexico.....	43,337	56,717	380,441	18,177	95,210
Yugoslavia.....	8,442	15,951	101,565	—	3,940
Korea.....	92,402	93,417	705,626	—	—
All other.....	16,550	11,136	168,215	13,954	115,816
Total.....	3,979,703	4,790,813	45,144,838	3,565,083	34,958,197

^{1/} Data include imports into Puerto Rico and TSUSA item 692.1005; data do not include automobiles assembled in U.S. 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, December 1984–November 1986 ^{2/}

Source	1985–86			1984–85	
	Oct. 1986	Nov. 1986	Dec. 1985– Nov. 1986	Nov. 1985	Dec. 1984– Nov. 1985
	Quantity (units) ^{3/}				
Japan.....	67,920	94,179	997,475	67,195	776,645
Canada.....	15,695	11,094	286,219	30,328	320,589
Mexico.....	1,680	1,351	19,109	2,835	26,185
All other.....	6	3	969	243	2,062
Total.....	85,301	106,627	1,303,772	100,601	1,126,481
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan.....	364,076	511,474	4,949,616	290,200	3,305,580
Canada.....	138,318	97,853	2,520,475	277,949	2,701,598
Mexico.....	12,727	10,376	141,801	19,569	188,290
All other.....	4,612	984	72,537	8,803	35,774
Total.....	519,733	620,687	7,684,429	596,521	6,231,242

^{1/} Defined as not over 10,000 pounds gw.

^{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, December 1984–November 1986

Market	1985–86			1984–85	
	Oct. 1986	Nov. 1986	Dec. 1985– Nov. 1986	Nov. 1985	Dec. 1984– Nov. 1985
	Quantity (units)				
Canada.....	45,834	49,821	637,856	56,756	678,167
Japan.....	281	461	2,497	239	1,472
All other.....	4,469	4,185	30,547	2,263	24,002
Total.....	50,584	54,467	670,900	59,258	703,641
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada.....	431,330	450,226	5,801,459	495,520	5,726,354
Japan.....	4,136	6,877	39,703	3,233	18,965
All other.....	61,639	53,267	406,648	30,826	285,928
Total.....	497,105	510,370	6,247,810	529,579	6,031,247

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, December 1984–November 1986 2/

Market	1985–86			1984–85	
	Oct. 1986	Nov. 1986	Dec. 1985– Nov. 1986	Nov. 1985	Dec. 1984– Nov. 1985
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Canada.....	13,384	11,235	170,304	12,804	147,588
All other.....	2,065	828	10,037	543	11,716
Total.....	15,449	12,063	180,341	13,347	159,304
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada.....	126,329	104,140	1,530,224	110,891	1,115,229
All other.....	31,257	11,112	113,801	6,314	131,412
Total.....	157,586	115,252	1,644,025	117,205	1,246,641

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

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—				Total U.S. sales		Ratio of im- port sales to total sales	
	Domestic automobiles 1/		Imported automobiles 2/		1986	1985	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
June.....	736,261	676,675	264,954	248,659	1,001,215	925,334	26.5	26.9
Jan-June...	4,140,718	4,314,828	1,507,621	1,312,059	5,648,339	5,623,887	26.7	23.3
July.....	648,667	633,527	305,188	266,803	953,855	900,330	32.0	29.6
Jan-July...	4,789,385	4,948,355	1,812,809	1,578,862	6,602,194	6,524,217	27.5	24.2
August.....	673,311	1,000,695	278,951	255,931	952,262	1,256,626	29.3	20.4
Jan-Aug....	5,462,696	5,949,050	2,091,760	1,834,793	7,554,456	7,780,843	27.7	23.6
September..	924,829	839,382	291,952	236,669	1,216,781	1,076,051	24.0	22.0
Jan-Sept...	6,387,525	6,788,432	2,383,712	2,071,462	8,771,237	8,856,894	27.2	23.4
October....	632,546	598,399	272,552	266,278	905,098	864,677	30.1	30.8
Jan-Oct....	7,020,071	7,386,831	2,656,264	2,377,740	9,676,335	9,724,571	27.4	24.0
November...	518,799	515,802	263,822	247,580	782,621	763,382	33.7	32.4
Jan-Nov....	7,541,585	7,646,537	2,915,412	2,580,957	10,456,997	10,227,494	27.9	25.2
December...	673,078	558,003	322,235	256,016	995,313	814,019	32.4	31.5
Jan-Dec....	8,214,663	8,204,540	3,237,647	2,836,973	11,452,310	11,041,513	28.3	25.7

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, 1985 and 1986

Item	(1967 = 100)					
	1986			1985 and 1986		
	Oct. 1986	Nov. 1986	Percent change	Nov. 1985	Nov. 1986	Percent change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted....	227.1	230.7	+1.6	218.4	230.7	+5.6
Seasonally adjusted....	228.0	230.0	+0.9	217.5	230.0	+5.7
Producer Price Index:						
Unadjusted....	249.8	249.4	- 0.2	234.6	249.4	+6.3
Seasonally adjusted....	246.1	246.2	0.0	231.1	246.2	+6.5

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

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

Source and size of category	Retail price changes in dollars, December 1986 (+ 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.
Korean producers:	
Subcompact.....	No change.

Source: Automotive News, December 1986.

Table 9.—Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981–January 1987 ^{1/}

Company, model, and options ^{2/}	April 1, 1981		January 1, 1987		Percent change in optionally equipped model	
	Base model ^{3/}	Optionally equipped model ^{3/}	Base model ^{3/}	Optionally equipped model ^{3/}	Dec. 1986–Jan. 1987	April 1981–Jan. 1987
General Motors:						
Chevette CS, 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG).....	\$5,155	\$5,405	\$4,995	\$5,350	0.0	-1.0
Cimarron, 4 door (AT)..... ^{4/}	12,131	12,501	15,032	15,447	0.0	+23.6
Ford:						
Escort GL 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG).....	5,556	5,857	6,949	7,199	0.0	+22.9
Tempo GL 4 door (RWD, AT, TG) ^{5/}	6,421	6,953	8,310	9,057	0.0	+30.3
LTD Crown Victoria, 4 door (RWD, TG, ILG, AC).....	8,519	10,102	15,410	15,555	0.0	+54.0
Chrysler:						
Plymouth Turismo, 2 door HB (RWD).....	5,938	6,188	7,199	7,199	0.0	+16.3
Reliant, 4 door (RWD, TG, R, AT).....	5,980	6,680	8,364	9,161	0.0	+37.1
Dodge 600, 4 door (RWD, AC) ^{6/}	6,672	7,502	10,672	11,646	0.0	+55.2
Toyota:						
Corolla, Deluxe, 4 door (R).....	5,688	5,793	8,178	8,454	0.0	+45.9
Cressida, 4 door.....	11,599	11,599	19,350	19,350	0.0	+66.8
Nissan (Datsun):						
Sentra E, 2 door ^{7/}	5,369	5,369	7,499	7,499	0.0	+39.7
Stanza GXE, 4 door (AT) ^{7/}	6,839	7,749	11,849	12,549	0.0	+61.9
Maxima GXE, 4 door.....	10,379	10,379	16,099	16,099	0.0	+55.1
Honda:						
Civic 1300, 2 door HB (R).....	4,599	4,694	5,799	5,966	0.0	+27.1
Accord DX, 4 door (R, AT).....	7,645	7,950	10,625	11,283	0.0	+41.9
Mazda:						
323 Deluxe, 2 door HB (R) ^{8/}	5,495	5,650	7,649	8,029	0.0	+42.1

^{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. (Both are 1987 models.)

^{8/} 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.

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