

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
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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 1985–April 1987.

Item	1986–87			1985–1986	
	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1987	May 1986– Apr. 1987	Apr. 1986	May 1985– Apr. 1986
Retail sales of domestic production:					
Subcompact.....	138	128	1,551	180	2,110
Compact.....	167	164	1,844	132	1,417
Intermediate.....	237	246	2,764	238	2,661
Standard.....	89	95	1,134	91	883
Luxury.....	51	59	656	78	994
Total.....	682	692	7,948	720	8,065
Production:					
Subcompact.....	124	106	1,521	173	1,581
Compact.....	183	156	1,936	128	2,011
Intermediate.....	273	252	2,864	179	2,874
Standard.....	91	83	855	26	587
Luxury.....	73	58	742	68	826
Total.....	743	656	7,917	574	7,879
Inventory:					
Subcompact.....	371	370	1/	324	1/
Compact.....	394	380	1/	421	1/
Intermediate.....	697	776	1/	726	1/
Standard.....	231	218	1/	249	1/
Luxury.....	178	202	1/	187	1/
Total.....	1,870	1,945	1/	1,907	1/
Days' supply: 2/					
Subcompact.....	86	70	1/	69	1/
Compact.....	65	59	1/	80	1/
Intermediate.....	89	85	1/	81	1/
Standard.....	78	64	1/	77	1/
Luxury.....	99	103	1/	66	1/
Average.....	81	74	1/	76	1/
Employment: 3/					
Total employees.....	4/ 836	5/ 829	1/	6/ 851	1/
Production workers...	4/ 649	5/ 644	1/	6/ 655	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 1987, revised.

5/ Data are for March 1987.

6/ Data are for March 1986.

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 1985–March 1987 ^{1/}

Source	1986–87			1985–86	
	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1986– Mar. 1987	Mar. 1986	Apr. 1985– Mar. 1986
Quantity (units)					
Japan.....	188,261	155,298	2,545,313	193,592	2,605,407
Canada.....	97,687	90,344	1,114,573	104,276	1,169,357
West Germany.....	35,217	42,001	428,863	42,211	457,652
Korea.....	19,548	17,064	207,160	13,652	19,586
Sweden.....	16,033	15,358	147,515	14,919	144,677
Mexico.....	457	1,318	34,313	3,407	26,166
Yugoslavia.....	4,208	4,197	43,897	2,862	14,217
United Kingdom...	5,364	2,746	31,587	2,438	25,703
Italy.....	8,916	5,837	24,159	1,231	9,475
France.....	2,693	7,232	18,761	1,222	17,124
Brazil.....	0	2,748	2,748	0	0
All other.....	887	1,962	12,992	1,180	9,494
Total.....	379,271	346,105	4,611,881	380,990	4,498,858
Value (1,000 dollars)					
Japan.....	1,593,277	1,343,054	21,289,086	1,426,154	17,267,830
Canada.....	1,065,768	957,593	11,568,446	1,032,755	11,487,663
West Germany.....	753,168	943,926	8,390,112	686,515	6,421,609
Korea.....	98,210	86,632	988,859	61,058	87,054
Sweden.....	212,099	204,241	1,868,314	175,770	1,697,474
Mexico.....	8,618	20,305	359,070	32,620	217,011
Yugoslavia.....	87,398	88,683	265,210	7,165	34,652
United Kingdom...	48,979	26,474	696,858	60,284	633,417
Italy.....	88,135	59,578	277,855	19,372	141,622
France.....	6,855	18,982	127,493	13,202	171,527
Brazil.....	—	13,615	13,615	—	—
All other.....	13,569	29,163	185,824	13,674	119,161
Total.....	3,976,076	3,792,246	46,030,742	3,528,569	38,279,020

^{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, April 1985–March 1987 ^{2/}

Source	1986–87		Apr. 1986– Mar. 1987	1985–86	
	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1987		Mar. 1986	Apr. 1985– Mar. 1986
Quantity (units) ^{3/}					
Japan.....	78,020	88,351	961,471	94,025	876,918
Canada.....	19,030	17,850	234,901	26,866	320,376
Mexico.....	1,485	1,380	17,906	1,350	26,379
All other.....	74	1	1,008	24	1,853
Total.....	98,609	107,582	1,215,286	122,265	1,225,526
Value (1,000 dollars)					
Japan.....	421,768	480,750	5,013,393	443,105	3,871,996
Canada.....	168,351	158,842	2,156,073	247,273	2,621,491
Mexico.....	11,343	10,666	135,506	10,267	189,476
All other.....	1,846	4,473	55,889	8,149	60,786
Total.....	603,308	654,731	7,360,861	708,794	6,743,749

^{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, April 1985–March 1987.

Market	1986–87			1985–86	
	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1986– Mar. 1987	Mar. 1986	Apr. 1985– Mar. 1986
Quantity (units)					
Canada.....	55,365	52,240	590,780	66,442	682,550
Japan.....	280	335	2,803	396	1,313
All other.....	4,588	4,929	39,059	2,918	22,481
Total.....	60,233	57,504	632,642	69,756	706,344
Value (1,000 dollars)					
Canada.....	521,754	511,522	5,497,643	566,701	5,875,572
Japan.....	4,056	6,025	44,579	5,948	21,397
All other.....	61,741	67,087	511,490	56,225	292,368
Total.....	587,551	584,634	6,053,712	628,874	6,189,337

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 1985–March 1987 2/

Market	1986–87			1985–86	
	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1986– Mar. 1987	Mar. 1986	Apr. 1985– Mar. 1986
Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>					
Canada.....	11,612	11,471	166,522	12,162	143,836
All other.....	799	2,002	11,345	1,390	9,741
Total.....	12,411	13,473	177,867	13,552	153,577
Value (1,000 dollars)					
Canada.....	104,001	102,971	1,511,381	108,231	1,236,055
All other.....	7,683	27,783	135,795	14,277	100,198
Total.....	111,684	130,754	1,647,176	122,508	1,336,253

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, 1986 and 1987

Period	Sales of— Domestic automobiles 1/		Imported automobiles 2/		Total U.S. sales		Ratio of im- port sales to total sales	
	1987	1986	1987	1986	1987	1986	1987	1986
	—Percent—							
January..	427,678	635,904	197,941	237,281	625,619	873,185	31.6	27.2
February.	556,953	613,371	220,162	218,096	777,115	832,467	28.3	26.3
Jan.—Feb.	984,631	1,249,275	418,103	456,377	1,402,734	1,705,652	29.8	26.8
March....	682,117	649,351	247,966	247,487	930,083	896,838	26.7	27.6
Jan—Mar..	1,666,748	1,898,626	666,069	703,864	2,332,817	2,602,490	28.6	27.0
April....	691,803	719,563	242,374	252,607	934,197	972,172	25.9	26.0
Jan—Apr..	2,358,551	2,618,189	908,463	956,473	3,267,014	3,574,662	27.8	26.8

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, 1986 and 1987

(1967 = 100)

Item	1987			1986 and 1987		
	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1987	Percent change	Mar. 1986	Mar. 1987	Percent change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted....	230.2	229.4	-0.3	220.3	229.4	+4.1
Seasonally adjusted....	229.3	229.4	0.0	219.9	229.4	+4.3
Producer Price Index:						
Unadjusted....	238.1	234.9	-1.3	229.1	234.9	+2.5
Seasonally adjusted....	236.9	234.9	-0.8	229.1	234.9	+2.5

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

Table 8.—New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the U.S. market during April 1987

Country source/make	Avg. retail price changes, in dollars, April 1987
U.S. producers:	
General Motors.....	No change.
Ford.....	No change.
Chrysler.....	No change.
Japanese producers:	
Mitsubishi.....	+202
Nissan.....	+212
European producers:	
Volvo.....	+710
Korean producers:	
Hyundai.....	No change.

Source: Automotive News, April 1987.

Table 9.—Sales and profits (loss) on major U.S. automobile manufacturers' operations, by specified periods, 1986 and 1987 ^{1/}

Item and firm	(In millions of dollars)	
	1987	1986
	January-March	January-March
Sales:		
General Motors.....	26,097	26,820
Ford.....	18,143	14,785
Chrysler.....	6,029	5,778
American Motors.....	1,102	918
Total.....	51,371	48,301
Profits:		
General Motors.....	922	1,199
Ford.....	1,492	728
Chrysler.....	270	357
American Motors.....	23	(19)
Total.....	2,707	2,265

^{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 1987 1/

Company, model, and options 2/	April 1, 1981		May 1, 1987		Percent change in optionally equipped model	
	Base model 3/	Optionally equipped model 3/	Base model 3/	Optionally equipped model 3/	April 1987–May 1987	April 1981–May 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	8,378	8,378	0.0	+44.6
Cressida, 4 door.....	11,599	11,599	19,380	19,850	0.0	+71.1
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	12,349	13,044	+3.9	+68.3
Maxima GXE, 4 door.....	10,379	10,379	16,649	16,649	+3.4	+60.4
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.

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.