

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 1997

JULY 1987

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS

Susan Liebeler, Chairman
Anne E. Brunsdale, Vice Chairman
Alfred E. Eckes
Seeley G. Lodwick
David B. Rohr

This report was prepared principally by

Jim McElroy and Gary Cohen

Transportation Branch
Machinery and Equipment Division

Office of Industries
Erland Heginbotham, Director

Address all communications to
Kenneth R. Mason, Secretary to the Commission
United States International Trade Commission
Washington, DC 20436

CONTENTS

Page

Tables

1.	New passenger automobiles: U.S. retail sales of domestic production, production, inventory, days' supply, and employment, by specified periods, July 1985-June 1987-----	1
2.	New passenger automobiles: U.S. imports for consumption, by principal sources and by specified periods, June 1985-May 1987-----	2
3.	Lightweight automobile trucks and bodies and cab/chassis for lightweight automobile trucks: U.S. imports for consumption, by principal sources and by specified periods, June 1985-May 1987-----	3
4.	New passenger automobiles: U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by principal markets and by specified periods, June 1985-May 1987-----	4
5.	Lightweight automobile trucks and bodies and cab/chassis for lightweight automobile trucks: U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by principal markets and by specified periods, June 1985-May 1987-----	5
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-----	6
7.	New passenger automobiles: Price indexes, by specified periods, 1986 and 1987-----	6
8.	New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the U.S. market during June 1987-----	7
9.	Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981-July 1987-----	8

Table 1.—New passenger automobiles: U.S. retail sales of domestic production, production, inventory, days' supply, and employment, by specified periods, July 1985–June 1987

Item	(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)				
	1986–87			1985–86	
	May 1987	June 1987	July 1986– June 1987	June 1986	July 1985– June 1986
Retail sales of domestic production:					
Subcompact.....	135	136	1,503	111	2,084
Compact.....	140	147	1,797	189	1,473
Intermediate.....	211	230	2,671	272	2,671
Standard.....	83	89	1,105	107	903
Luxury.....	54	55	632	57	892
Total.....	622	657	7,708	736	8,023
Production:					
Subcompact.....	110	114	1,453	146	1,587
Compact.....	142	164	1,863	198	2,017
Intermediate.....	255	241	2,850	259	2,873
Standard.....	63	76	881	64	563
Luxury.....	54	57	726	57	803
Total.....	623	651	7,770	724	7,843
Inventory:					
Subcompact.....	357	341	1/	330	1/
Compact.....	368	360	1/	407	1/
Intermediate.....	742	773	1/	695	1/
Standard.....	248	238	1/	247	1/
Luxury.....	197	197	1/	188	1/
Total.....	1,912	1,911	1/	1,867	1/
Days' supply: 2/					
Subcompact.....	73	66	1/	61	1/
Compact.....	58	67	1/	62	1/
Intermediate.....	78	95	1/	60	1/
Standard.....	60	75	1/	66	1/
Luxury.....	87	95	1/	66	1/
Average.....	72	77	1/	62	1/
Employment: 3/					
Total employees.....	4/ 847	5/ 847	1/	6/ 846	1/
Production workers...	4/ 659	5/ 661	1/	6/ 652	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 1987, revised.

5/ Data are for May 1987.

6/ Data are for May 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, June 1985–May 1987 ^{1/}

Source	1986–87		June 1986– May 1987	1985–86	
	Apr. 1987	May 1987		May 1986	June 1985– May 1986
Quantity (units)					
Japan.....	180,825	218,641	2,525,983	228,500	2,626,451
Canada.....	76,342	76,444	1,039,165	110,421	1,200,351
West Germany.....	37,489	35,593	422,985	38,318	445,662
Korea.....	29,303	43,800	258,538	10,208	41,311
Sweden.....	16,773	12,047	151,724	11,397	143,372
Mexico.....	7,524	12,606	49,126	3,334	29,596
Yugoslavia.....	4,397	3,387	48,979	2,702	16,919
United Kingdom...	3,704	5,460	34,580	3,373	26,335
Italy.....	981	929	24,370	920	10,064
France.....	3,817	5,246	26,115	619	11,679
Brazil.....	4,452	4,046	11,166	0	80
All other.....	2,068	1,551	15,220	626	7,479
Total.....	367,675	419,750	4,607,951	410,418	4,559,299
Value (1,000 dollars)					
Japan.....	1,643,906	1,952,054	21,610,640	1,805,503	17,987,273
Canada.....	810,112	803,073	10,944,578	1,084,150	11,830,248
West Germany.....	823,233	879,736	8,734,911	649,448	6,660,580
Korea.....	148,008	225,296	1,264,792	45,940	184,425
Sweden.....	225,017	164,466	1,963,644	136,356	1,692,472
Mexico.....	76,622	19,253	400,047	34,079	259,546
Yugoslavia.....	13,223	120,087	391,755	6,765	41,417
United Kingdom...	83,214	45,726	674,395	83,356	651,797
Italy.....	17,865	128,528	397,773	15,806	150,041
France.....	32,791	8,317	150,607	6,547	147,376
Brazil.....	20,021	18,874	52,180	—	330
All other.....	30,917	24,185	222,857	8,453	119,642
Total.....	3,924,929	4,389,595	46,808,179	3,876,403	39,725,147

^{1/} Data include imports into Puerto Rico and TSUSA items 692.1005–692.1008; 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, June 1985–May 1987 ^{2/}

Source	1986–87			1985–86	
	Apr. 1987	May 1987	June 1986– May 1987	May 1986	June 1985– May 1986
Quantity (units) ^{3/}					
Japan.....	90,853	76,693	963,807	80,119	896,727
Canada.....	16,327	15,501	211,724	25,635	314,778
Mexico.....	1,275	1,015	16,836	1,455	23,829
All other.....	6	4	1,012	2	1,759
Total.....	108,461	93,213	1,193,379	107,211	1,237,093
Value (1,000 dollars)					
Japan.....	500,429	416,318	5,131,423	393,078	4,056,475
Canada.....	147,371	140,902	1,951,215	229,733	2,578,442
Mexico.....	10,126	7,919	128,089	11,026	171,630
All other.....	1,938	4,947	55,537	5,353	67,145
Total.....	659,864	570,086	7,266,264	639,190	6,873,692

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

^{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, June 1985–May 1987

Market	1986–87			1985–86	
	Apr. 1987	May 1987	June 1986– May 1987	May 1986	June 1985– May 1986
Quantity (units)					
Canada.....	53,792	58,273	575,769	56,963	673,576
Japan.....	497	424	3,250	163	1,696
All other.....	5,564	6,286	46,138	2,110	23,101
Total.....	59,853	64,983	625,157	59,236	698,313
Value (1,000 dollars)					
Canada.....	543,217	581,396	5,459,268	539,388	5,897,148
Japan.....	7,995	6,309	51,796	2,244	27,253
All other.....	77,536	79,626	610,530	25,175	303,672
Total.....	628,748	667,331	6,121,594	566,807	6,228,073

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, June 1985–May 1987 2/

Market	1986–87			1985–86	
	Apr. 1987	May 1987	June 1986– May 1987	May 1986	June 1985– May 1986
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Canada.....	12,753	16,655	153,757	26,003	161,111
All other.....	1,852	1,127	12,648	629	8,980
Total.....	14,605	17,782	166,405	26,632	170,091
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada.....	116,031	153,184	1,416,683	218,017	1,395,918
All other.....	22,689	11,230	149,100	6,930	95,875
Total.....	138,720	164,414	1,565,783	224,947	1,491,793

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, 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
May.....	622,303	786,268	260,514	286,194	882,817	1,072,462	29.6	26.7
Jan—May..	2,980,854	3,404,457	1,168,977	1,242,667	4,149,831	4,647,124	28.2	26.7
June.....	656,727	736,261	281,555	264,954	938,282	1,001,215	30.0	26.5
Jan—June.	3,637,581	4,140,718	1,450,532	1,507,621	5,088,113	5,648,339	28.5	26.7

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, 1986 and 1987

Item	(1967 = 100)			1986 and 1987		
	1987 Apr. 1987	May 1987	Percent change	May 1986	May 1987	Percent change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted....	230.4	231.3	+0.4	223.0	231.3	+3.7
Seasonally adjusted....	230.4	231.1	+0.3	223.0	231.1	+3.6
Producer Price Index:						
Unadjusted....	240.6	239.9	-0.3	233.3	239.9	+2.8
Seasonally adjusted....	240.6	239.7	-0.4	233.1	239.7	+2.8

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

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

Source and size of category	Average retail price changes, in dollars, June 1987 (+ or -)
U.S. producers:	
General Motors.....	No change.
Ford.....	No change.
Chrysler.....	No change.
European Community producers:-	
Audi.....	+838
Japanese producers:	
Toyota.....	+214
Acura Division.....	+232
Nissan.....	+280

Source: Automotive News, June 1987.

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

Company, model, and options ^{2/}	April 1, 1981		July 1, 1987		Percent change in optionally equipped model	
	Base model ^{3/}	Option-ally equipped model ^{3/}	Base model ^{3/}	Option-ally equipped model ^{3/}	June 1987–July 1987	April 1981–July 1987
General Motors:						
Cavalier, 2 door	^{4/} \$6,966	^{4/} \$6,966	\$7,255	\$7,255	0.0	+4.1
Cimarron, 4 door (AT).....	^{4/} 12,131	^{4/} 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	8,478	8,778	+4.8	+51.5
Cressida, 4 door.....	11,599	11,599	20,250	20,250	+2.0	+74.6
Nissan (Datsun):						
Sentra E, 2 door ^{7/}	5,369	5,369	7,599	7,599	+1.3	+41.5
Stanza GXE, 4 door (AT) ^{7/}	6,839	7,749	12,899	13,594	+4.2	+75.4
Maxima GXE, 4 door.....	10,379	10,379	16,799	16,799	+0.9	+61.9
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	7,749	8,129	0.0	+43.9

^{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/} Cavalier and 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.