

# 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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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, September 1989-August 1991

(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)

Item	1990-91			1989-90	
	July 1991	Aug. 1991	Sept. 1990-Aug. 1991	Aug. 1990	Sept. 1989-Aug. 1990
<b>Retail sales of domestic production:</b>					
Subcompact.....	97	80	1,143	79	1,157
Compact.....	128	133	1,709	138	1,738
Intermediate.....	199	161	2,178	194	2,415
Standard.....	95	72	1,133	99	1,266
Luxury.....	59	52	662	53	680
Total.....	579	497	6,825	564	7,258
<b>Production:</b>					
Subcompact.....	60	76	906	91	1,016
Compact.....	111	126	1,785	156	1,795
Intermediate.....	96	100	2,005	172	2,326
Standard.....	40	50	1,383	54	1,557
Luxury.....	47	62	740	50	754
Total.....	353	413	6,819	524	6,453
<b>Inventory</b>					
Subcompact.....	157	181	1/	227	1/
Compact.....	266	239	1/	247	1/
Intermediate.....	373	372	1/	584	1/
Standard.....	166	178	1/	164	1/
Luxury.....	107	110	1/	112	1/
Total.....	1,070	1,083	1/	1,337	1/
<b>Days' supply: 2/</b>					
Subcompact.....	42	61	1/	81	1/
Compact.....	54	49	1/	51	1/
Intermediate.....	49	62	1/	84	1/
Standard.....	45	67	1/	46	1/
Luxury.....	47	57	1/	59	1/
Average.....	48	59	1/	66	1/
<b>Employment: 3/</b>					
Total employees.....	4/ 784	5/ 775	1/	6/ 804	1/
Production workers...	4/ 594	5/ 600	1/	6/ 612	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 June 1991, revised.

5/ Data are for July 1991.

6/ Data are for July 1990.

Source: Production and retail sales, 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, by principal sources and by specified periods, August 1989-July 1991 <sup>1/</sup>

Source	1990-91			1989-90	
	June 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990- July 1991	July 1990	Aug. 1989- July 1990
Quantity (units)					
Japan.....	121,257	132,130	1,837,244	128,769	1,889,206
Canada.....	119,602	77,930	1,161,616	84,625	1,208,421
West Germany.....	8,246	12,178	177,810	22,698	246,968
Korea.....	12,874	17,043	213,912	12,014	181,735
Sweden.....	4,922	3,343	67,699	6,817	96,147
Mexico.....	24,709	19,922	261,743	20,408	124,008
Yugoslavia.....	0	0	2,638	0	1,132
United Kingdom...	1,044	1,378	21,143	1,587	28,030
Italy.....	196	84	5,836	1,543	10,724
France.....	1	3	2,279	593	1,223
Brazil.....	1,079	741	9,852	2,620	28,473
All other.....	2,729	5,776	54,807	6,608	32,424
Total.....	296,659	270,528	3,816,579	288,282	3,848,491
Value (1,000 dollars)					
Japan.....	1,476,652	1,541,582	20,319,261	1,311,880	19,186,768
Canada.....	1,410,651	934,578	13,321,963	985,385	13,483,721
West Germany.....	229,658	310,130	4,774,425	503,606	5,523,334
Korea.....	70,817	94,377	1,178,369	65,377	1,047,083
Sweden.....	86,301	64,304	1,160,631	113,008	1,585,270
Mexico.....	252,764	203,198	2,636,698	208,533	1,210,316
Yugoslavia.....	0	0	6,438	0	3,891
United Kingdom...	39,803	48,630	726,578	51,871	897,384
Italy.....	12,441	8,681	214,650	29,933	274,641
France.....	3	58	27,474	7,328	15,595
Brazil.....	6,487	4,817	60,517	16,246	176,200
All other.....	37,189	59,177	660,183	86,080	494,409
Total.....	3,622,766	3,269,533	45,087,186	3,379,246	43,898,613

<sup>1/</sup> Data include imports into Puerto Rico; 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, by principal sources and by specified periods,  
 August 1989-July 1991 2/

Source	1990-91			1989-90	
	June 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990- July 1991	July 1990	Aug. 1989- July 1990
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Japan.....	26,265	28,559	299,440	27,257	324,037
Canada.....	34,818	28,221	365,262	33,014	447,141
Mexico.....	607	616	8,419	1,883	22,785
All other.....	3	9	208	61	748
Total.....	61,692	57,411	673,329	62,216	797,711
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan.....	152,094	168,038	1,747,419	149,413	1,849,116
Canada.....	451,852	391,847	4,924,827	433,579	5,731,230
Mexico.....	7,821	10,037	109,919	23,168	280,418
All other.....	2,205	1,803	34,799	8,651	50,323
Total.....	613,971	571,725	6,816,965	614,811	7,911,087

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, August 1989-July 1991

Market	1990-91			1989-90	
	June 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990- July 1991	July 1990	Aug. 1989- July 1990
	Quantity (units)				
Canada.....	47,764	32,414	468,747	22,906	560,256
Japan.....	2,398	1,652	33,051	1,247	27,831
All other.....	22,572	21,590	215,080	11,819	213,977
Total.....	72,734	55,656	716,878	35,972	802,084
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada.....	573,336	386,645	5,592,103	281,329	6,433,663
Japan.....	40,399	29,463	585,748	23,171	465,545
All other.....	292,987	299,861	2,791,519	138,443	2,645,868
Total.....	906,722	715,970	8,969,370	442,942	9,545,076

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, August 1989-July 1991 2/

Market	1990-91			1989-90	
	June 1991	July 1991	Aug. 1990- July 1991	July 1990	Aug. 1989- July 1990
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Canada.....	11,319	5,719	110,524	6,184	134,423
All other.....	3,781	3,335	34,374	1,926	15,163
Total.....	15,100	9,054	144,899	8,110	149,586
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada.....	150,057	75,952	1,391,190	71,458	1,605,835
All other.....	65,977	54,155	554,944	25,100	160,286
Total.....	216,034	130,108	1,946,134	96,558	1,766,121

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, 1990 and 1991

Period	Sales of- Domestic automobiles 1/		Imported automobiles 2/		Total U.S. sales 1/ 2/		Ratio of import sale to total sales 1/ 2/	
	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990
	Quantity (units)				--Percent--			
January....	416,644	544,655	137,814	198,813	554,458	743,468	24.9	26.7
February...	472,524	531,528	149,329	188,630	621,853	720,155	24.0	26.2
Jan.-Feb...	889,169	1,076,180	287,143	387,443	1,176,312	1,463,623	24.4	26.5
March.....	538,887	622,949	191,438	226,813	730,325	851,170	26.2	26.6
Jan.-Mar...	1,428,061	1,699,129	478,586	613,027	1,906,647	2,312,156	25.1	26.5
April.....	504,998	596,418	186,103	205,320	691,101	801,738	26.9	25.6
Jan.-Apr...	1,933,059	2,295,547	664,689	818,347	2,597,748	3,113,894	25.6	26.3
May.....	576,453	641,749	193,047	230,271	769,500	872,020	25.1	26.4
Jan.-May...	2,509,318	2,937,296	857,448	1,035,943	3,366,766	3,973,239	25.5	26.1
June.....	587,631	628,781	183,907	228,109	771,538	856,890	23.8	26.6
Jan.-June..	3,097,247	3,566,077	1,041,226	1,274,064	4,138,473	4,840,141	25.2	26.3
July.....	578,721	590,476	194,656	213,440	773,377	803,916	25.2	26.6
Jan.-July..	3,675,968	4,156,553	1,235,874	1,487,407	4,911,942	5,643,960	25.2	26.4
August.....	497,238	564,411	193,325	221,483	690,563	785,894	28.0	28.2
Jan.-Aug...	4,173,216	4,720,964	1,429,199	1,708,890	5,602,415	6,429,854	25.5	26.6

1/ Domestic automobile sales include U.S.-, Canadian- and Mexican-built automobiles sold in the United States.

2/ Does not include automobiles imported from Canada and Mexico.

Source: Automotive News.

Note: Because of rounding, figures may not add to the totals shown.

Table 7

New passenger automobiles: Price indexes, by specified periods, 1990 and 1991 1/

Item	1991			1990-91		
	Apr. 1991	May 1991	Percent change	May 1990	May 1991	Percent change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted..	125.4	125.3	-0.1	120.7	125.3	+3.8
Seasonally adjusted..	125.3	125.6	+0.2	120.7	125.6	+4.1
Producer Price Index:						
Unadjusted..	122.3	121.9	-0.3	115.3	121.9	+3.1
Seasonally adjusted..	123.0	121.9	-0.9	115.5	121.9	+5.5

1/ Consumer price index, 1982-1984 = 100. Producer price index, 1982 = 100.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

Table 8

New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the U.S. market during July 1991 <sup>1/</sup>

Country source/make	Retail price changes May 1991 (+ or -)
U.S. producers:	
General Motors.....	No change.
Ford.....	No change.
Chrysler.....	No change.
Japanese producers:	
Toyota Motors.....	No change.
Mazda.....	No change.
American Honda.....	No change.
Acura Division.....	No change.
Subaru.....	No change.
European producers:	
Volkswagen.....	No change.
BMW.....	No change.
Audi.....	No change.
Porsche.....	No change.
Mercedes-Benz.....	No change.
Korean producer:	
Hyundai.....	No change.

<sup>1/</sup> Average retail price change for all models.

Source: Automotive News, August 1991.

Table 9

Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981-September 1991 <sup>1/</sup>

Company, model, and options <sup>2/</sup>	April 1, 1981		August 1, 1991		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>	Jan. 1991-Sept. 1991	Apr. 1981-Sept. 1991
<b>General Motors:</b>						
Cavalier, 2 door..... <sup>4/</sup>	\$6,966	\$6,966	\$8,000	\$8,000	0.0	+14.8
De Ville, 4 door.....	14,198	14,198	29,935	29,935	0.0	+110.8
<b>Ford:</b>						
Escort Pony 2 door HB (RWD, TG).....	5,556	5,857	8,381	8,501	0.0	+45.1
Tempo GL 4 door (RWD, AT, TG) <sup>5/</sup> .....	6,421	6,953	10,178	11,041	0.0	+58.8
LTD Crown Victoria, 4 door .....	8,519	10,102	18,222	18,222	0.0	+80.4
<b>Chrysler:</b>						
Dynasty, 4 door (AC) <sup>6/</sup> .....	6,672	7,502	13,650	14,471	0.0	+92.9
<b>Toyota:</b>						
Corolla, Deluxe, 4 door (R).....	5,688	5,793	9,998	10,208	0.0	+76.1
Cressida, 4 door.....	11,599	11,599	22,198	22,198	0.0	+91.4
<b>Nissan (Datsun):</b>						
Sentra E, 2 door <sup>7/</sup> .....	5,369	5,369	7,999	7,999	0.0	+50.0
Stanza GXE, 4 door (AT) <sup>7/</sup> .....	6,839	7,749	15,225	16,025	0.0	+106.8
Maxima GXE, 4 door.....	10,379	10,379	18,459	19,084	0.0	+77.8
<b>Honda:</b>						
Civic 1500, 2 door HB (R) <sup>8/</sup> .....	4,599	4,694	7,095	7,347	0.0	+56.5
Accord DX, 4 door (R).....	7,645	7,950	12,825	13,203	0.0	+66.1

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

<sup>2/</sup> The following codes apply: RWD = rear window defroster; TG = tinted glass; HB = hatchback; AT = automatic transmission; AC = air conditioning; R = radio.

<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> Cavalier not sold until May 21, 1981.

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

<sup>6/</sup> Dynasty replaced the Diplomat.

<sup>7/</sup> Sentra replaced the 210; Stanza replaced the 510.

<sup>8/</sup> Civic 1500 replaced the Civic 1300.

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

Note: Some 1981-91 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.