

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 2473

DECEMBER 1991

United States International Trade Commission
Washington, DC 20436

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS

Don E. Newquist, Chairman
Anne E. Brunsdale, Vice Chairman
David B. Rohr
Carol T. Crawford
Janet A. Nuzum
Peter S. Watson

Office of Operations
Charles W. Ervin, Director

Office of Industries
Robert A. Rogowsky, Director

This report was prepared principally by

Michael J. Hagey
Transportation Branch
Machinery and Equipment Division

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

C O N T E N T S

Page

Tables

1. New passenger automobiles: U.S. retail sales of domestic production, production, inventory, days' supply, and employment, by specified periods, December 1989-November 1991.....	1
2. New passenger automobiles: U.S. imports, by principal sources and by specified periods, November 1989-October 1991.....	2
3. Lightweight automobile trucks and bodies and cab/chassis for lightweight automobile trucks: U.S. imports, by principal sources and by specified periods, November 1989-October 1991.....	3
4. New passenger automobiles: U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by principal markets and by specified periods, November 1989-October 1991.....	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, November 1989-October 1991.....	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, 1990 and 1991.....	6
7. New passenger automobiles: Price indexes, by specified periods, 1990 and 1991.....	6
8. New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the U.S. market during November 1991.....	7
9. Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981-December 1991.....	8

Table 1

New passenger automobiles: U.S. retail sales of domestic production, production, inventory, days' supply, and employment, by specified periods, December 1989- November 1991

(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)

Item	1990-91			1989-90	
	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1990- Nov. 1991	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1989- Nov. 1990
Retail sales of domestic production:					
Subcompact.....	78	73	1,101	85	1,184
Compact.....	123	103	1,637	113	1,754
Intermediate.....	172	145	2,056	152	2,399
Standard.....	91	79	1,089	76	1,277
Luxury.....	56	54	649	55	681
Total.....	520	454	6,632	480	7,277
Production:					
Subcompact.....	87	56	804	82	964
Compact.....	171	138	1,690	149	1,857
Intermediate.....	182	148	1,869	131	2,285
Standard.....	74	60	1,417	35	1,499
Luxury.....	74	56	720	47	742
Total.....	588	457	6,500	443	6,350
Inventory					
Subcompact.....	238	193	1/	261	1/
Compact.....	296	304	1/	346	1/
Intermediate.....	356	425	1/	467	1/
Standard.....	215	225	1/	233	1/
Luxury.....	144	138	1/	169	1/
Total.....	1,246	1,286	1/	1,472	1/
Days' supply: 2/					
Subcompact.....	82	69	1/	77	1/
Compact.....	65	77	1/	77	1/
Intermediate.....	56	76	1/	77	1/
Standard.....	64	74	1/	77	1/
Luxury.....	69	66	1/	77	1/
Average.....	65	74	1/	77	1/
Employment: 3/					
Total employees.....	4/ 807	5/ 798	1/	6/ 807	1/
Production workers...	4/ 621	5/ 615	1/	6/ 617	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 September 1991, revised.

5/ Data are for October 1991.

6/ Data are for October 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, November 1989-October 1991 ^{1/}

Source	1990-91			1989-90	
	Sept. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1990- Oct. 1991	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989- Oct. 1990
	Quantity (units)				
Japan.....	151,909	175,059	1,842,607	180,736	1,853,860
Canada.....	105,899	120,792	1,209,601	127,586	1,225,124
West Germany.....	12,953	19,217	172,289	20,066	251,001
Korea.....	11,738	13,168	195,514	24,549	199,544
Sweden.....	6,162	7,418	65,860	8,701	96,079
Mexico.....	26,640	28,000	254,974	28,401	184,970
Yugoslavia.....	0	0	3,065	0	1,670
United Kingdom...	1,054	1,603	19,604	2,156	27,978
Italy.....	57	95	3,515	1,022	11,036
France.....	3	400	1,991	262	1,725
Brazil.....	0	1,646	10,425	1,072	19,457
All other.....	2,648	2,022	47,704	5,042	42,301
Total.....	319,063	369,420	3,827,149	399,593	3,914,745
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan.....	1,740,616	1,993,870	20,969,206	1,852,294	19,020,575
Canada.....	1,289,310	1,452,909	14,072,074	1,456,732	13,778,017
West Germany.....	339,664	568,088	4,759,918	520,683	5,744,501
Korea.....	64,853	73,569	1,088,136	134,395	1,107,556
Sweden.....	118,189	135,466	1,165,708	145,968	1,567,510
Mexico.....	283,732	298,360	2,612,352	288,457	1,848,943
Yugoslavia.....	0	0	7,086	0	5,558
United Kingdom...	37,589	53,757	681,519	77,765	896,140
Italy.....	4,312	9,460	162,609	36,202	289,800
France.....	102	4,944	24,284	3,062	21,596
Brazil.....	0	10,831	64,787	6,557	120,486
All other.....	31,713	36,711	582,806	57,879	581,173
Total.....	3,910,079	4,637,967	46,190,485	4,579,995	44,981,854

^{1/} 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,
 November 1989-October 1991 2/

Source	1990-91			1989-90	
	Sept. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1990- Oct. 1991	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989- Oct. 1990
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Japan.....	18,817	23,250	289,723	27,092	312,211
Canada.....	30,623	43,741	366,684	41,094	441,569
Mexico.....	1,889	2,076	9,665	1,225	20,941
All other.....	2	38	107	12	622
Total.....	51,331	69,105	666,180	69,424	775,343
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan.....	115,227	147,976	1,726,201	156,231	1,770,134
Canada.....	431,868	623,176	5,018,296	541,825	5,761,844
Mexico.....	32,686	36,327	150,071	15,416	258,926
All other.....	484	2,277	24,536	2,785	56,433
Total.....	580,265	809,757	6,919,105	716,257	7,847,337

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

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, November 1989-October 1991

Market	1990-91			1989-90	
	Sept. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1990- Oct. 1991	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989- Oct. 1990
	Quantity (units)				
Canada.....	47,545	48,037	471,165	40,142	540,414
Japan.....	1,593	1,784	28,903	4,279	33,968
All other.....	12,974	21,800	221,697	19,999	217,358
Total.....	62,112	71,621	721,765	64,420	791,740
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada.....	619,076	626,277	5,801,702	470,076	6,273,683
Japan.....	29,498	33,935	512,546	82,057	575,515
All other.....	179,404	334,658	2,973,601	288,363	2,690,526
Total.....	827,978	994,819	9,287,848	840,497	9,539,724

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, November 1989-October 1991 2/

Market	1990-91			1989-90	
	Sept. 1991	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1990- Oct. 1991	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1989- Oct. 1990
	Quantity (units) <u>3/</u>				
Canada.....	13,472	13,307	122,621	7,997	116,253
All other.....	2,183	1,145	47,643	2,913	16,941
Total.....	15,655	14,452	170,264	10,909	113,194
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada.....	185,920	176,874	1,590,616	96,934	1,390,677
All other.....	41,511	21,252	587,888	42,258	201,242
Total.....	227,432	198,126	2,178,504	139,192	1,591,919

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

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-		Imported		Total U.S.		Ratio of import	
	Domestic		automobiles 2/		sales 1/ 2/		sale to total	
	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
Sept.....	493,383	578,958	179,211	189,518	622,654	768,476	26.6	24.7
Jan.-Sept..	4,666,599	5,299,922	1,608,471	1,896,649	6,275,070	7,196,571	25.6	26.4
Oct.....	519,554	591,944	182,641	195,286	702,195	787,230	26.0	24.8
Jan.-Oct...	5,184,767	5,894,977	1,791,629	2,091,935	6,976,396	7,986,912	25.7	26.2
Nov.....	454,116	480,477	152,469	180,509	606,585	660,986	25.1	27.3
Jan.-Nov...	5,638,883	6,375,454	1,944,059	2,272,444	7,582,942	8,647,898	25.6	26.3

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		
	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Percent change	Nov. 1990	Nov. 1991	Percent change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted..	125.0	126.6	+1.3	120.5	126.6	+5.1
Seasonally adjusted..	125.8	126.0	+0.2	121.2	126.0	+4.0
Producer Priced Index:						
Unadjusted..	129.5	129.5	0.0	120.8	129.5	+7.2
Seasonally adjusted..	124.5	126.1	+1.3	124.1	126.1	+1.6

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

Table 8

New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the U.S. market during November 1991 1/

Country source/make	Retail price changes November 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.

1/ Average retail price change for all models.

Source: Automotive News, November 1991.

Table 9

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

Company, model, and options <u>2/</u>	April 1, 1981		November 1, 1991		Percent change in optionally equipped model	
	Base model <u>3/</u>	Optionally equipped model <u>3/</u>	Base model <u>3/</u>	Optionally equipped model <u>3/</u>	Jan. 1991- Dec. 1991	Apr. 1981- Dec. 1991
General Motors:						
Cavalier, 2 door..... <u>4/</u>	\$6,966	\$6,966	\$8,899	\$8,899	+11.2	+27.7
De Ville, 4 door.....	14,198	14,198	31,740	31,740	+6.0	+123.6
Ford:						
Escort Pony 2 door HB (RWD, TG).....	5,556	5,857	8,720	8,840	+4.0	+50.9
Tempo GL 4 door (RWD, AT, TG) <u>5/</u>	6,421	6,953	10,589	11,441	+3.6	+64.5
LTD Crown Victoria, 4 door	8,519	10,102	19,563	19,563	+7.4	+93.7
Chrysler:						
Dynasty, 4 door (AC) <u>6/</u>	6,672	7,502	14,477	15,277	+5.6	+103.6
Toyota:						
Corolla, Deluxe, 4 door (R).....	5,688	5,793	10,408	10,632	+4.2	+83.5
Cressida, 4 door.....	11,599	11,599	22,975	22,975	+3.5	+98.1
Nissan (Datsun):						
Sentra E, 2 door <u>7/</u>	5,369	5,369	8,495	8,495	+6.2	+58.2
Stanza GXE, 4 door (AT) <u>7/</u>	6,839	7,749	16,255	17,070	+6.5	+120.3
Maxima GXE, 4 door.....	10,379	10,379	19,695	19,695	+3.2	+89.8
Honda:						
Civic 1500, 2 door HB (R) <u>8/</u>	4,599	4,694	7,095	7,545	6.1	+64.1
Accord DX, 4 door (R).....	7,645	7,950	13,225	13,605	+3.0	+71.1

1/ Suggested retail prices do not include any dealer incentives, below-market financing or rebates.2/ The following codes apply: RWD = rear window defroster; TG = tinted glass; HB = hatchback; AT = automatic transmission; AC = air conditioning; R = radio.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 not sold until May 21, 1981.5/ Tempo replaced the Fairmont Futura.6/ Dynasty replaced the Diplomat.7/ Sentra replaced the 210; Stanza replaced the 510.8/ Civic 1500 replaced the Civic 1300.Source: Compiled from data supplied by U.S. manufacturers, Japanese importers, and Automotive News.

Note: Some 1981-92 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.