

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 2618

MARCH 1993

**United States International Trade Commission
Washington, DC 20436**

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS

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

Office of Operations
Robert A. Rogowsky, Director

Office of Industries
Vern Simpson, Director

This report was prepared principally by

Kim Oliver

Machinery and Transportation Division

Address all communications to
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, March 1991-February 1993.....	1
2. New passenger automobiles: U.S. imports, by principal sources and by specified periods, February 1991-January 1993.....	2
3. Lightweight automobile trucks and bodies and cab/chassis for lightweight automobile trucks: U.S. imports, by principal sources and by specified periods, February 1991-January 1993.....	3
4. New passenger automobiles: U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by principal markets and by specified periods, February 1991-January 1993.....	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, February 1991-January 1993.....	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, 1992 and 1993.....	6
7. New passenger automobiles: Price indexes, by specified periods, 1992 and 1993.....	6
8. New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the U.S. market during February 1993.....	7
9. Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981-March 1993.....	8

Table 1

New passenger automobiles: U.S. retail sales of domestic production, production, inventory, days' supply, and employment, by specified periods, March 1992-February 1993

(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)

Item	1992-93			1991-92	
	Jan. 1993	Feb. 1993	Mar. 1992- Feb. 1993	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1991- Feb. 1992
Retail sales of domestic production.....	430	461	6,263	492	6,518
Production.....	457	497	5,760	440	6,379
Inventory.....	1,295	1,363	(1)	1,257	(1)
Days' supply ²	75	74	(1)	64	(1)
Employment: ³					
Total employees.....	827 ⁴	820 ⁵	(1)	748 ⁶	(1)
Production workers...	635 ⁴	630 ⁵	(1)	566 ⁶	(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 December 1992, revised.

⁵ Data are for January 1993.

⁶ Data are for January 1992.

Source: Production, retail sales, 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. Market classifications discontinued because of the unavailability of data.

Table 2

New passenger automobiles: U.S. imports, by principal sources and by specified periods, February 1991-January 1993¹

Source	1992-93			1991-92	
	Dec. 1992	Jan. 1993	Feb. 1992-Jan. 1993	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1991-Jan. 1992
	Quantity (units)				
Japan.....	163,439	132,842	1,614,127	155,781	1,769,485
Canada.....	103,153	86,921	1,202,195	85,084	1,200,000
Germany.....	20,085	14,226	209,787	10,563	171,362
Korea, South.....	14,317	14,494	133,416	14,322	183,977
Sweden.....	5,691	4,960	76,274	5,518	60,955
Mexico.....	11,692	10,238	255,343	21,044	250,567
Yugoslavia.....	0	0	0	0	2,065
United Kingdom...	2,029	1,128	11,671	464	14,077
Italy.....	36	33	1,749	120	2,301
France.....	0	2	32	37	1,516
Brazil.....	1,725	2	12,067	1,013	9,639
All other.....	4,555	3,727	29,358	3,312	42,721
Total.....	326,724	268,573	3,546,037	297,258	3,708,665
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan.....	2,037,716	1,666,962	19,877,885	1,858,136	20,563,904
Canada.....	1,299,750	992,626	14,473,813	921,050	14,122,706
Germany.....	609,940	349,078	5,919,722	307,557	4,776,846
Korea, South.....	82,397	87,454	745,554	81,825	1,030,157
Sweden.....	107,448	96,832	1,418,944	100,714	1,099,018
Mexico.....	122,019	112,279	2,489,319	213,886	2,595,278
Yugoslavia.....	0	0	0	0	4,817
United Kingdom...	75,327	42,291	425,873	15,444	488,604
Italy.....	1,320	1,732	59,379	9,077	143,419
France.....	0	85	401	477	18,597
Brazil.....	12,238	15	80,908	6,202	60,067
All other.....	79,045	68,203	417,584	38,737	533,477
Total.....	4,425,210	3,417,557	45,909,555	3,553,104	45,436,888

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 trucks¹ and bodies and cab/chassis for lightweight automobile trucks: U.S. imports, by principal sources and by specified periods, February 1991-January 1993²

Source	1992			1991	
	Dec. 1992	Jan. 1993	Feb. 1992-Jan. 1993	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1991-Jan. 1992
	Quantity (units) ³				
Japan.....	16,723	11,132	164,263	16,985	274,793
Canada.....	37,782	33,789	498,555	38,357	405,108
Mexico.....	2,223	2,664	26,378	1,540	13,404
All other.....	5	0	52	3	72
Total.....	56,733	47,585	689,248	57,065	693,377
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan.....	145,171	93,648	1,209,199	114,345	1,679,719
Canada.....	524,564	459,380	6,601,726	514,860	5,588,950
Mexico.....	40,874	49,228	475,181	27,670	225,746
All other.....	2,607	1,155	22,136	690	21,198
Total.....	713,216	603,411	8,308,242	657,566	7,515,612

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, February 1992-January 1993

Market	1992-93			1991-92	
	Dec. 1992	Jan. 1993	Feb. 1992- Jan. 1993	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1991- Jan. 1992
	Quantity (units)				
Canada.....	37,475	22,590	464,057	18,443	469,687
Japan.....	5,452	3,522	41,864	2,256	27,843
All other.....	51,505	23,713	350,857	21,299	231,105
Total.....	94,703	50,376	859,452	41,998	728,635
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada.....	520,339	303,814	6,036,909	233,219	5,897,707
Japan.....	91,169	59,190	712,600	41,807	493,168
All other.....	797,225	362,657	5,255,162	309,494	3,195,895
Total.....	1,412,645	734,295	12,042,403	584,520	9,586,769

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 trucks¹ and bodies and cab/chassis for lightweight automobile trucks: U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by principal markets and by specified periods, February 1992-January 1993²

Market	1992-93			1991-92	
	Dec. 1992	Jan. 1993	Feb. 1992-Jan. 1993	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1991-Jan. 1992
	Quantity (units) ³				
Canada.....	9,712	5,742	110,479	4,658	125,838
All other.....	4,491	2,980	32,864	1,615	46,788
Total.....	14,203	8,728	143,377	6,273	172,626
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada.....	111,192	69,711	1,333,232	61,245	1,660,244
All other.....	86,848	52,985	541,050	22,011	545,386
Total.....	198,040	122,748	1,874,746	83,256	2,205,630

¹ Defined as not over 10,000 pounds gwv.

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, 1992 and 1993

Period	Sales of-				Total U.S. sales ^{1,2}		Ratio of import sales to total sales ^{1,2}	
	Domestic automobiles ¹		Imported automobiles ²		1993	1992	1993	1992
	1993	1992	1993	1992				
	Quantity (units)						--Percent--	
January....	430,255	413,605	131,070	146,499	561,325	560,104	23.4	26.2
February...	460,918	492,454	132,480	158,530	593,398	650,984	22.3	24.4
Jan.-Feb...	891,173	905,872	263,550	305,029	1,154,723	1,210,901	22.8	25.2

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.

Table 7

New passenger automobiles: Price indexes, by specified periods, 1992 and 1993¹

Item	1992-93			1992-93		
	Jan. 1993	Feb. 1993	Percent change	Feb. 1992	Feb. 1993	Percent change
	Consumer Price Index:					
Unadjusted..	130.9	130.9	0.0	128.1	130.9	+2.2
Seasonally adjusted..	129.8	129.8	0.0	126.7	129.8	+2.4
Producer Price Index:						
Unadjusted..	128.7	129.5	0.6	127.7	129.5	+1.4
Seasonally adjusted..	127.8	128.6	+0.6	126.9	128.6	+1.3

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 February 1993¹

Country source/make	Retail price changes February 1993 (+ 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.
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, February 1993.

Table 9

Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981-March 1993¹

Company, model, and options ²	April 1, 1981		March 1, 1993		Percent change in optionally	
	Base model ³	Option-ally equipped model ³	Base model ³	Option-ally equipped model ³	Jan. 1993-Mar. 1993	Apr. 1981-Mar. 1993
General Motors:						
Cavalier, 2 door.....	\$6,966 ⁴	\$6,966 ⁴	\$8,620	\$8,620	0.0	+23.7
De Ville, 4 door.....	14,198	14,198	32,990	32,990	0.0	+132.4
Ford:						
Escort Pony 2 door HB (RWD, TG).....	5,556	5,857	8,335	8,455	0.0	+50.9
Tempo GL 4 door (RWD, AT, TG) ⁵	6,421	6,953	10,442	11,294	0.0	+64.5
LTD Crown Victoria, 4 door.....	8,519	10,102	20,493	20,493	0.0	+102.9
Chrysler:						
Dynasty, 4 door (AC) ⁶	6,672	7,502	14,736	15,536	0.0	+107.1
Toyota:						
Corolla, Deluxe, 4 door (R).....	5,688	5,793	12,298	12,528	0.0	+116.3
Nissan (Datsun):						
Sentra E, 2 door ⁷	5,369	5,369	8,725	8,725	0.0	+62.5
Maxima GXE, 4 door.....	10,379	10,379	20,960	20,960	0.0	+101.9
Honda:						
Civic 1500, 2 door HB (R) ⁸	4,599	4,694	8,400	8,801	0.0	+87.5
Accord DX, 4 door (R).....	7,645	7,950	13,950	14,340	0.0	+80.4

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 1981-93 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.