

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 1769

OCTOBER 1985

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

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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, October 1983–September 1985

(In thousands of units; thousands of employees)

Item	1984 and 1985			1983 and 1984	
	August 1985	September 1985	Oct. 1984–Sept. 1985	Sept. 1984	Oct. 1983–Sept. 1984
Retail sales of domestic production:					
Subcompact	205	228	2,250	168	2,157
Compact	124	138	1,547	95	1,293
Intermediate	248	278	2,637	161	2,498
Standard	81	95	1,021	79	1,101
Luxury	99	116	1,026	73	1,018
Total	758	854	8,481	576	8,067
Production:					
Subcompact	120	126	1,535	127	1,644
Compact	120	162	1,950	129	1,953
Intermediate	207	236	3,064	181	2,714
Standard	40	44	830	66	655
Luxury	66	63	886	50	686
Total	553	630	8,266	554	7,652
Inventory:					
Subcompact	288	239	1/	274	1/
Compact	336	257	1/	340	1/
Intermediate	536	443	1/	364	1/
Standard	206	161	1/	177	1/
Luxury	213	178	1/	121	1/
Total	1,580	1,277	1/	1,277	1/
Days' supply: 2/					
Subcompact	67	51	1/	63	1/
Compact	63	45	1/	63	1/
Intermediate	62	49	1/	54	1/
Standard	63	58	1/	56	1/
Luxury	73	64	1/	46	1/
Total	64	51	1/	57	1/
Employment: 3/					
Total employees	4/ 864	5/ 856	1/	6/ 859	1/
Production workers	4/ 665	5/ 657	1/	6/ 655	1/
Layoffs 7/	39	38	1/	60	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 July 1985, revised.

5/ Data are for August 1985.

6/ Data are for August 1984, revised.

7/ Layoffs are the number of UAW members on indefinite layoff from U.S. auto plants as of the end of each specified period.

Source: Retail sales and production, Data Resources, Inc. Auto Information Bank; days' supply and inventory, Automotive News; and employment, U.S. Department of Labor.

Table 2.—New passenger automobiles: U.S. imports for consumption, by principal sources and by specified periods, September 1983–August 1985 ^{1/}

Source	1984–85			1983–84	
	July 1985	Aug. 1985	Sept. 1984– Aug. 1985	Aug. 1984	Sept. 1983– Aug. 1984
	Quantity (units)				
Japan	211,713	208,899	2,212,347	168,850	1,948,397
Canada	69,854	75,551	1,067,868	79,145	1,010,346
West Germany	35,431	27,430	444,660	12,921	318,228
Sweden	8,873	5,747	128,640	3,807	124,147
Italy	727	664	7,111	884	9,546
United Kingdom	1,910	1,209	22,591	719	19,764
France	970	501	46,296	3,061	32,914
All other	2,668	1,596	22,114	1,577	19,614
Total	332,146	321,597	3,951,627	270,964	3,482,956
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Japan	1,369,118	1,339,443	14,053,962	1,106,816	12,101,388
Canada	676,135	750,414	10,247,804	778,074	9,309,472
West Germany	420,369	368,988	5,704,899	196,543	4,280,811
Sweden	105,830	67,743	1,464,835	40,465	1,257,378
Italy	9,442	9,506	106,306	11,418	128,410
United Kingdom	45,649	30,663	546,265	17,479	458,533
France	7,390	3,660	262,443	24,574	293,969
All other	21,392	14,068	182,718	11,386	128,315
Total	2,655,325	2,584,485	32,569,232	2,186,755	27,958,276

^{1/} Data include imports into Puerto Rico and TSUSA item 692.1005; data do not include automobiles assembled in 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, September 1983–August 1985 ^{2/}

Source	1984–85			1983–84	
	July 1985	Aug. 1985	Sept. 1984– Aug. 1985	Aug. 1984	Sept. 1983– Aug. 1984
Quantity (units) ^{3/}					
Japan	79,523	62,304	725,562	49,790	526,909
Canada	13,736	17,428	322,805	20,491	343,250
All other	3,019	2,438	26,424	7	1,118
Total	96,278	82,170	1,074,791	70,288	871,277
Value (1,000 dollars)					
Japan	343,464	271,808	3,076,815	202,430	2,175,877
Canada	121,649	161,563	2,895,635	185,891	2,746,591
All other	22,382	18,142	194,807	5,792	17,227
Total	487,495	451,513	6,167,257	394,113	4,939,695

^{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, September 1983–August 1985

Market	1984-85			1983-84	
	July 1985	Aug. 1985	Sept. 1984-- Aug. 1985	Aug. 1984	Sept. 1983-- Aug. 1984
Quantity (units)					
Canada	49,875	32,911	641,277	30,464	585,898
Japan	109	11	1,438	133	2,250
All other	2,183	647	23,692	1,057	27,082
Total	52,167	33,569	666,407	31,654	615,230
Value (1,000 dollars)					
Canada	432,813	274,696	5,340,169	236,329	4,454,733
Japan	1,146	146	21,142	1,385	31,248
All other	24,727	7,907	277,936	13,056	318,625
Total	458,686	282,749	5,639,247	250,770	4,804,606

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 light-weight automobile trucks: U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by principal markets and by specified periods, September 1983–August 1985 ^{2/}

Market	1984–85			1983–84	
	July 1985	Aug. 1985	Sept. 1984– Aug. 1985	Aug. 1984	Sept. 1983– Aug. 1984
	Quantity (units) ^{3/}				
Canada	10,318	9,554	120,292	5,827	102,432
All other	1,103	305	14,136	540	16,985
Total	11,421	9,859	134,428	6,367	119,417
	Value (1,000 dollars)				
Canada	86,554	80,529	992,036	40,275	780,916
All other	12,596	3,327	161,557	5,509	199,608
Total	99,150	83,856	1,153,593	45,784	980,524

^{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, 1984 and 1985

Period	Sales of—				Total U.S. sales		Ratio of import sales to total sales	
	Domestic automobiles 1/		Imported automobiles 2/		1985	1984	1985	1984
	1985	1984	1985	1984				
	Percent							
January	628,037	583,429	208,184	195,129	836,221	778,558	24.9	25.1
February	645,317	655,016	193,290	186,218	838,607	841,234	23.0	22.1
Jan-Feb	1,273,354	1,238,445	401,474	381,347	1,674,828	1,619,792	24.0	23.5
March	768,927	756,164	201,341	205,947	970,268	962,111	20.8	21.4
Jan-Mar	2,042,281	1,994,609	602,815	587,294	2,645,096	2,581,903	22.8	22.7
April	788,282	721,091	198,241	174,311	986,523	895,402	20.1	19.5
Jan-Apr	2,830,563	2,715,700	801,056	761,605	3,631,619	3,477,305	22.1	21.9
May	807,590	803,273	262,344	243,326	1,066,934	1,046,599	24.6	23.2
Jan-May	3,638,153	3,518,973	1,063,400	1,004,931	4,698,553	4,523,904	22.6	22.2
June	676,675	727,370	248,659	223,688	925,334	951,058	26.9	23.5
Jan-June	4,314,828	4,246,343	1,312,059	1,228,619	5,623,887	5,474,962	23.3	22.4
July	633,527	684,112	266,803	205,617	900,330	889,729	29.6	23.1
Jan-July	4,948,355	4,930,455	1,578,862	1,434,236	6,524,217	6,364,691	24.2	22.5
August	1,000,695	630,469	255,931	211,730	1,256,626	815,199	20.4	26.0
Jan-Aug	5,949,050	5,533,924	1,834,793	1,645,966	7,780,843	7,179,890	23.6	22.9
September	839,382	556,672	236,669	176,358	1,076,051	743,030	22.0	23.7
Jan-Sept	6,788,432	6,100,596	2,071,462	1,822,324	8,856,894	7,922,920	23.4	23.0

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, 1984 and 1985

(1967 = 100)

Item	1985			1984 and 1985		
	July 1985	August 1985	Percent change	August 1984	August 1985	Percent change
Consumer Price Index:						
Unadjusted	214.7	214.6	0	208.1	214.6	+3.1
Seasonally adjusted	214.9	215.7	+0.4	209.4	215.7	+3.0
Producer Price Index:						
Unadjusted	228.8	227.9	-0.4	221.3	227.9	+3.0
Seasonally adjusted	229.0	228.6	-0.2	221.7	228.6	+3.1

Source: U.S. Department of Labor.

Table 8.—New passenger automobiles: Retail price changes in the U.S. market, during September 1985

Source and size category	Retail price changes in : dollars, September 1985 : (+ or -)	Percent change
U.S. producers:		
General Motors ^{1/}	+400	+3.0
Ford ^{1/}	+350	+2.9
Chrysler ^{1/}	+320	+2.7
European Economic Community producers:		
Subcompact	+175 to +200	N/A
Compact	+280 to +435	N/A
Luxury	+220 to +855	N/A
Japanese producers:		
Subcompact	+50 to +470	N/A
Compact	+200 to +300	N/A
Luxury	+400	N/A

^{1/} Nonweighted average price changes including optional equipment for entire 1985 model line (adjusted to reflect equipment additions or deletions).

Source: Automotive News, September 1985.

Table 9.—Manufacturers' suggested retail prices of selected U.S. and Japanese automobiles, April 1981–October 1985 ^{1/}

Company, model, and options ^{2/}	April 1, 1981		October 1, 1985		Percent change in optionally equipped model	
	Base model ^{3/}	Optionally equipped model ^{3/}	Base model ^{3/}	Optionally equipped model ^{3/}	September 1985–October 1985	April 1981–October 1985
General Motors:						
Chevette CS, 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG)———	\$5,155	\$5,405	\$5,645	\$5,979	+3.0	+10.6
Citation, 4 door HB (PB, RWD, TG, AT) ^{4/} —	6,404	7,014	7,232	8,042	0	+14.7
Cimarron, 4 door (AT)——— ^{5/}	12,131	12,501	13,128	13,518	+1.5	+8.1
Ford:						
Escort L 2 door HB (PB, RWD, TG)———	5,556	5,857	6,327	6,561	+5.9	+12.0
Tempo GL 4 door (RWD, AT, TG) ^{6/} ———	6,421	6,953	7,508	8,214	+5.7	+18.1
LTD Crown Victoria, 4 door (RWD, TG, ILG, AC)———	8,519	10,102	13,784	14,691	+5.2	+45.4
Chrysler:						
Plymouth Turismo, 2 door HB (RWD)———	5,938	6,188	6,741	6,882	+2.3	+11.2
Reliant, 4 door (RWD, TG, R, AT)———	5,980	6,680	7,179	7,967	+1.6	+19.3
Dodge 600, 4 door (RWD, AC) ^{7/} ———	6,672	7,502	10,022	10,500	+5.1	+40.0
Toyota:						
Corolla, Deluxe, 4 door (R)———	5,688	5,793	7,148	7,408	+3.4	+27.9
Cressida, 4 door———	11,599	11,599	16,130	16,130	+2.8	+39.1
Nissan (Datsun):						
Sentra Deluxe 2 door ^{8/} ———	5,369	5,494	6,699	6,699	+0.8	+21.9
Stanza GL, 4 door (AT) ^{8/} ———	6,839	7,749	9,649	10,179	+1.3	+31.4
Maxima, 4 door———	10,379	10,379	13,699	13,699	+1.5	+32.0
Honda:						
Civic 1300, 2 door HB (R)———	4,599	4,694	5,479	5,629	+2.4	+19.9
Accord, 4 door (R, AT)———	7,645	7,950	9,749	9,899	+6.0	+24.5
Mazda:						
323, 2 door HB (R) ^{9/} ———	5,495	5,650	6,495	6,845	+9.3	+21.2

^{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/} Citation discontinued after 1985 model year.

^{5/} Cimarron not sold until May 21, 1981.

^{6/} Tempo replaced the Fairmont Futura.

^{7/} Dodge 600 replaced the Diplomat.

^{8/} Sentra replaced the 210; Stanza replaced the 510.

^{9/} 323 replaced the GLC Deluxe.

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

Note: Some 1981–85 models have been discontinued; these models have been replaced by comparable models. In addition, some equipment that was optional on prior models is now included in the base price, making price comparisons of prior-year models difficult.