

Administrative record of the light vehicle automotive industry, May 2024

Next update: July 9, 2024

Production

The administrative record of the light vehicle automotive industry showed that, in May 2024, 365,574 vehicles were produced, reaching an all-time high for this month. This represented an increase of 6.21% compared to the same month of 2023.

In the accumulated first five months of the year, light vehicle production showed a growth of 5.83% compared to the same period of 2023, with a total of 1,651,929 units (Figure 1). However, there is a lag of 0.39% with compared to the same period of 2019 (pre-pandemic) when the historical maximum for this period was reached.

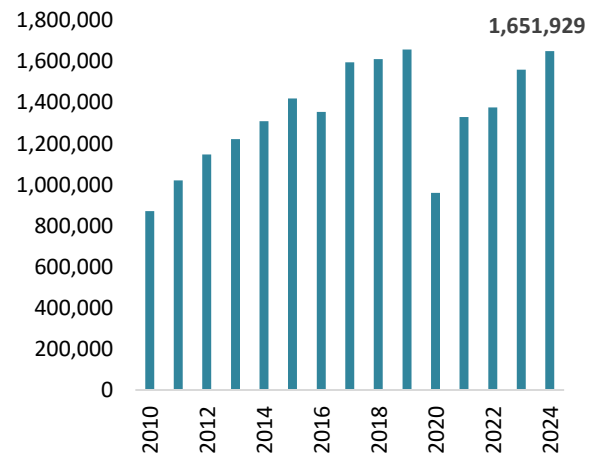
In May, 87.71% of production was exported ¹ (Figure 2), increasing 6.58 percentage points compared to the same month in 2023. On the other hand, May sales were equivalent to 38.62% of production.

The main type of vehicle produced in May continued to be the SUV with 167,857 units. The preference for this type of vehicle has been dominant since 2017.

Looking inward, the three leading light vehicle production brands in May were:

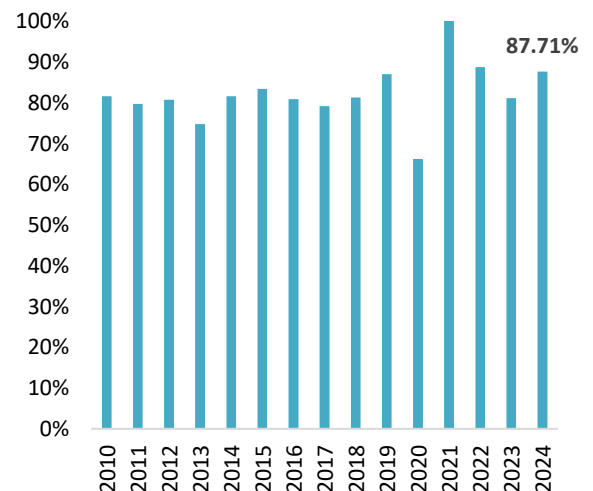
1. General Motors (70,691 units), increasing 1.97% compared to the same month of 2023.
2. Nissan (60,881 units), increasing 7.45% compared to the same period in 2023.
3. Stellantis (41,505 units), increasing 2.43% over the same month of 2023.

Figure 1. Production of light vehicles accumulated in the first five months of the year



Source: GF Base with information from INEGI.

Figure 2. Export-to-Production ratio



Source: GF Base with information from INEGI.

¹ The ratio of exports and sales in relation to production add up to more than 100% because inventory is taken into account.

Exports

In May, a total of 310,655 vehicles were exported, increasing 11.24% over May of the previous year, reaching an all-time high for this month. Due to this, exports were 0.53% above those observed in May 2019 (pre-pandemic level). At a monthly rate, exports registered an increase of 7.21%.

In the first five months of 2024, vehicle exports totaled 1,423,388 units, showing an annual growth of 11.73%. Compared to the same period in 2019 (pre-pandemic) when it reached an all-time high, cumulative exports show a lag of 1.17%.

Meanwhile, the three leading light vehicle exporting brands in May were:

1. General Motors (85,753 units), up 44.99% at annual rate.
2. Ford Motor (40,658 units), increasing 16.12% at annual rate.
3. Stellantis (33,501 units), increasing 5.05% at annual rate.

The United States has consistently ranked as the leading destination for Mexico's light vehicle exports. In May, 245,256 vehicles were shipped (Figure 3), increasing 12.66% over the same month of the previous year and reaching an all-time high of vehicles shipped to the United States for this month. It is important to mention that, vehicles exported to this country represented 78.95% of total exports.

Sales

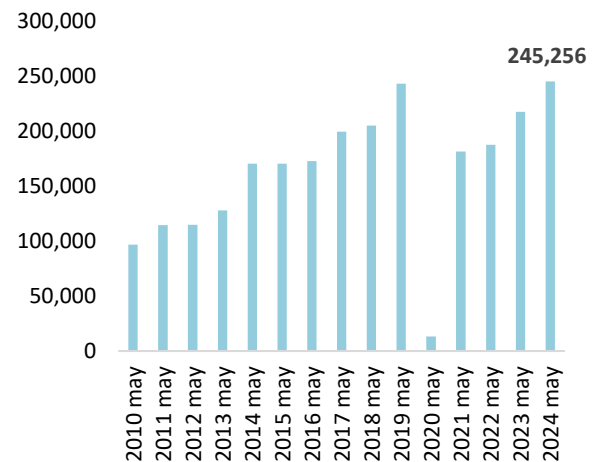
In May, light vehicle sales in the domestic market were 119,985 units, growing by 12.35% compared to the same month of 2023. Compared to the same month of 2019, an increase of 17.15% is observed. However, sales are still 2.79% below the peak recorded in May 2017.

On a cumulative basis for the first five months of the year, light vehicle sales total 581,785 units, showing a growth of 11.98% compared to the same period of 2023. Compared to the accumulated for 2019, sales show a recovery of 8.98%. However, cumulative sales in 2024 are 5.75% below the peak reached in 2017.

The three brands with the highest sales of light vehicles in May were:

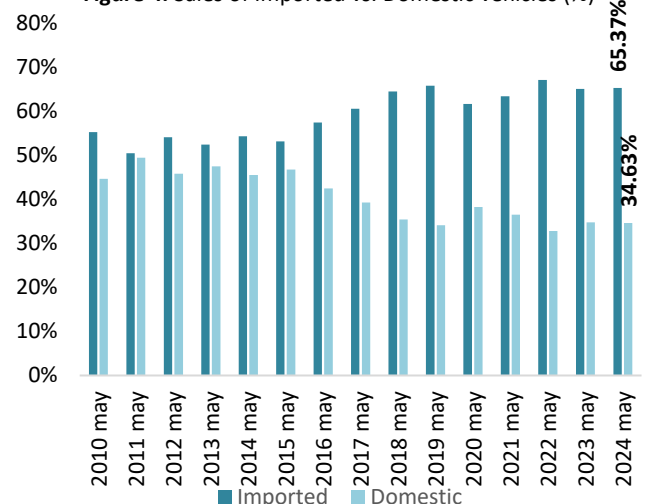
1. Nissan (20,825 units), increasing 3.89% over May 2023. It is worth mentioning that Nissan has held this position for 18 consecutive months.
2. General Motors (16,562 units), increasing 21.36% with regard to May 2023.
3. Volkswagen (10,568 units), increasing 16.55% compared to May 2023

Figure 3. Exports of light vehicles to the United States (units), May



Source: GF Base with information from INEGI.

Figure 4. Sales of Imported vs. Domestic vehicles (%)



Source: GF Base with information from INEGI.

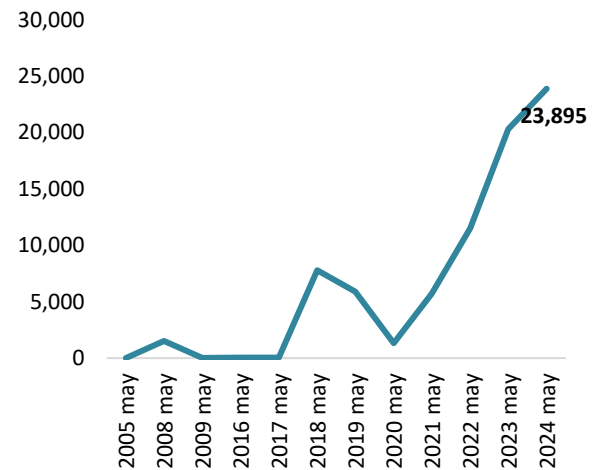
Imported vs. Domestic

In the month of May, 65.37% of sales in Mexico were of imported cars with 78,437 units (Figure 4). Therefore, sales of domestic vehicles accounted for 34.63% of total sales.

In May, 23,895 vehicles were imported from China (Figure 5) for domestic sales, showing a growth of 17.64% compared to the same month of 2023. In the first five months of 2024, vehicle imports from China total 111,472 units, reaching an all-time high for the same period and showing a growth of 13.93% compared to the same period of 2023. It is worth mentioning that vehicle imports from China for the month of May represented 19.91% of total light vehicle sales.

Lastly, sales of hybrid and electric vehicles in March² 2024 stood at 9,941 units, reaching an all-time high for this month and increasing 98.34% compared to the same month of 2023. Inside, for the month of March, 2,280 electric vehicles were sold, increasing 144.64% compared to the same period of the prior year and reaching an all-time high for the month of March.

Figure 5. Imported vehicles from China for domestic sale



Source: GF Base with information from INEGI.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Subsector 3361: Automobile and truck manufacturing.

In the first quarter of 2024, \$3,286.0 million dollars were invested in Mexico for the manufacture of automobiles and trucks, showing a significant growth of 45.54% with compared to the first quarter of 2023. The three main contributors were: Japan with 36.93%, the United States with 30.33%, and Germany with 19.53%. It is worth noting that of the total FDI received in the first quarter, Japanese investment in this branch represented 5.97%. As a result, the states that received the largest share of this investment, relative to the branch's total, were: Baja California (19.69%), Puebla (18.69%) and Guanajuato (17.66%).

Subsector: 3363 Manufacture of parts for automotive vehicles.

In the first quarter of 2024, \$251.8 million dollars were invested in Mexico for the manufacture of parts for automotive vehicles, showing a decrease of 78.45% compared to the same period of the previous year, due to the fact that the United States reported a disinvestment of \$616.2 million dollars for the first quarter, a figure not seen for a quarter in this branch since records have been kept (2006). The top three contributing countries were Germany with \$516.6 million, Korea with \$103.43 million and Japan with \$65.7 million. With this, the states that received the biggest investment in the first quarter of 2024 in this branch were Guanajuato with \$191.6 million dollars and Querétaro with \$143.1 million dollars.

² Reports on the sale of hybrid and electric vehicles are presented with a two-month lag.

Summary

1. Light vehicle production in May 2024 reached record high for the month.
2. Exports of light vehicles reached an all-time high for the month of May.
3. Light vehicle sales are 2.79% below the historical maximum level of May 2017.
4. 87.71% of Mexico's production is exported.
5. 78.95% of light vehicle exports are destined for the United States.
6. There has been an annual increase of 17.64% in the sale of Chinese vehicles in Mexico.
7. The type of vehicle with the highest production in Mexico is the SUV.
8. General Motors, the main producer of light vehicles, had an annual increase of 1.97%.
9. The sale of hybrid and electric vehicles reached an all-time high for the month of March.
10. The United States disinvests \$616.2 million dollars for the manufacture of automotive parts in Mexico.

Gabriela Siller Pagaza, PhD

Directora de Análisis Económico-Financiero

gsiller@bancobase.com

Tel. 81512200 ext. 2231

Jesús A. López Flores

Subdirector de Análisis Económico-Financiero

jlopezf@bancobase.com

Marlene Aiko Brondo Bustos

Practicante de Análisis Económico-Financiero

mbrondo@bancobase.com

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