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for Canada

DECEMBER 1929

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AUTOMOBILE STATISTICS FOR CANADA

DECEMBER 1929

In 1929, a new record was established for motor car production in Canada when 263,295 cars were manufactured. This output was 9 per cent greater than the previous peak of 242,054 cars attained in 1928, and 29 per cent over the output of 204,727 cars in 1926, the third best year for the industry. In 1927 production amounted to 179,054 cars.

Figures for the year under review show that the number of cars made available for consumption in Canada was lower than in 1928. While the output was higher, than in the preceding year, fewer cars were imported and exports reached a new high level for all time. Imports in 1929 numbered 44,724 cars as compared with 47,408 in the previous year while exports advanced to 102,302 from 79,855 cars in 1928. The apparent consumption in Canada during 1929, as determined by deducting the number of cars exported from the sum of production and imports, was 205,717 cars, a decline of 2 per cent from the record of 209,607 established in 1928. Corresponding totals for previous years were as follows: 157,832 in 1927; 158,577 in 1926, and 102,110 in 1925.

Production for 1929 started at a higher rate than in other years with a total of 21,000 cars in January. It then rose rapidly to a new monthly output peak of 40,621 cars in March but this new record was in turn surpassed in April when the greatest monthly output in the history of the industry was reached at 41,901 cars. May marked the first recession from the rapid rise and output then declined steadily each month, with the exception of October, to the lowest level of the year and the second lowest monthly total of recent years at 5,495 cars in December.

Imports of motor cars into Canada numbered 1,780 cars in January, rose to 8,091, in March, receded slightly in April, advanced to the peak of 8,281 in May and then dropped rapidly each month to the lowest point for the year of 847 in December. Exports from Canada numbered 8,997 cars in January and the number rose rapidly to the highest monthly record for the year of 15,561 in March, then from April to November the number exported each month ranged from 6,000 to 9,000; monthly exports dropped to 4,910 cars in December.

Compared with data for the preceding year production figures for 1929 showed increases in the number of closed passenger cars, taxicabs or buses and chassis, and a lower output of open passenger cars and trucks. Closed passenger models advanced to 152,976 cars from 135,401 in 1928; chassis rose to 65,739 from 48,431; and taxicab or buses to 165 from 15. Open passenger cars dropped to 35,523 cars from 40,680 and the number of trucks was lower at 8,892 as against 17,527.

Estimating the population of Canada at 9,796,800 persons in 1929 and taking the number of cars made at 263,295, it follows that in 1929 Canadian automobile manufacturers made one new car for every 37 persons in the Dominion. In 1928 production averaged one new car to 40 persons, in 1927 one car to 53 persons, in 1926 one car to 46 persons and in 1925 the ratio was one car to 57 persons.

Employment in the automobile industry in Canada during 1929 ranged from 7,540 to 20,848, averaging 13,868 for the year. In addition to those working in factories making automobiles, there are many people employed in other industries making parts and accessories used in the manufacture of automobiles. Employment in the parts industries is fairly steady, due no doubt, to diversification of products, but particularly in 1928 and 1929, employment in the factories making automobiles, fluctuated with production.

Investment in the automobile industry proper amounts to about \$100,000,000.

Among the features of the year in the automobile industry in Canada may be noted the change of one popular make of car from a four to a six-cylinder model, one result of this change being that a plant which had been closed for several years was reopened for the manufacture of automobile engines. Company amalgamations were reflected in the closure of some plants and the opening of others; one truck plant and one passenger car factory at Toronto were closed and the business transferred to Windsor and Walkerville; 3 new assembly plants were established during the year, one at Regina and 2 at Vancouver.

Table 1.- Number of Automobiles Produced in Canada during December 1929, and the twelve months ending December, 1928 and 1929.

Class	December 1929			Twelve months ending December	
	For Sale in Canada	For Export	TOTAL	1928	1929
Passenger:					
Open -					
2 to 3 passenger	27	21	48	7,797	8,293
4 to 5 passenger	10	603	613	32,250	27,152
7 passenger	-	-	-	633	78
Total open	37	624	661	40,680	35,523
Closed -					
2 to 3 passenger	183	18	201	15,307	19,723
4 to 5 passenger	2,281	577	2,858	119,011	132,676
7 passenger	38	18	56	1,083	577
Total closed	2,502	613	3,115	135,401	152,976
Trucks:					
Under 1 ton capacity	24	75	99	4,268	6,023
1 ton	12	-	12	10,844	1,225
Over 1 ton and under 5 tons	24	-	24	2,415	1,643
5 tons and over	1	-	1	-	1
Total trucks	61	75	136	17,527	8,892
Chassis:					
Passenger	63	587	650	21,752	18,834
Freight	86	847	933	26,679	46,737
Either passenger or freight	-	-	-	-	168
Total chassis	149	1,434	1,583	48,431	65,739
Taxicabs and buses not included above	-	-	-	15	165
TOTAL	2,749	2,745	5,495	242,054	263,295

Table 2.- Production in Canada, Imports and Exports of Automobiles,
by months, 1928 and 1929.

Month		Production			Customs' Records	
		For Sale in Canada	For Export	TOTAL	Imports	Exports
January	1928	4,561	3,902	8,463	1,586	3,526
	1929	11,505	9,996	21,501	1,780	8,997
February	1928	9,082	3,422	12,504	2,644	4,128
	1929	21,016	10,271	31,287	2,929	10,856
March	1928	14,223	3,246	17,469	6,114	3,592
	1929	31,433	9,188	40,621	8,091	15,561
April	1928	17,533	6,678	24,211	5,150	3,656
	1929	32,979	8,922	41,901	7,484	6,613
May	1928	27,308	6,634	33,942	8,126	6,196
	1929	24,439	7,120	31,559	8,281	9,594
June	1928	21,113	7,286	28,399	6,315	5,653
	1929	13,148	8,344	21,492	4,768	8,270
July	1928	15,897	9,329	25,226	4,210	8,057
	1929	9,529	7,932	17,461	2,828	7,378
August	1928	19,941	11,304	31,245	4,753	11,048
	1929	7,530	6,684	14,214	2,411	7,629
September	1928	13,360	7,833	21,193	3,647	8,706
	1929	6,982	6,835	13,817	2,020	6,754
October	1928	7,190	11,346	18,536	2,460	9,755
	1929	5,066	9,457	14,523	2,026	9,767
November	1928	2,914	8,855	11,769	1,203	8,840
	1929	2,731	6,693	9,424	1,259	5,973
December	1928	1,947	7,150	9,097	1,200	6,688
	1929	2,749	2,746	5,495	847	4,910
TOTAL	1928	155,069	86,985	242,054	47,408	79,855
	1929	169,107	94,188	263,295	44,724	102,302

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