# Los Angeles Auto Outlook 

## NEW VEHICLE MARKET FORECAST

## County Market Predicted to Increase 8\% for Remainder of 2023

Below is a review of key trends in the Los Angeles County new vehicle market.

## Results during 1Q 2023

County new light vehicle registrations increased $1.8 \%$ during the first three months of 2023 vs. weak year-earlier levels. National retail market fell $1.0 \%$. As shown on page 2, equivalent U.S. SAAR levels stayed below 14 million units, an indicator that county new vehicle sales remained subdued.

## 2023 Forecast

According to the baseline forecast, registrations are expected to exceed 408,000 units this year, a $6.4 \%$ improvement from 2022. See sidebar to right for alternative upside and downside projections. Registrations are predicted to increase $8 \%$ from April thru December of this year versus the same period in 2022.

## Key determinants for the market

During the past three years, the new vehicle market has been impacted by a series of speed bumps that have put the brakes on sales. The pandemic, supply chain issues, depleted inventories, rising interest rates, weakening consumer affordability, and concern over the banking system have pushed sales below trend levels. Despite this lengthy list, primary factors driving the
market during 2023 are fairly evident. Following three years of below average sales, pent-up demand is at elevated levels as the volume of postponed purchases continues to grow. Weakening consumer affordability will hold back the release of pent-up demand, but improving vehicle inventories should be sufficient to push sales above current levels.

## Battery Electric Vehicle sales gains

BEV market share in the county increased to $19.5 \%$ in the First Quarter of 2023, up from $14.8 \%$ a year earlier. Franchised dealership share of the BEV market improved by 14.1 share points so far this year (see page 4).

## Light truck sales

There are signs that the climb in light truck market share could be reaching its peak. Light trucks (consisting of SUVs, pickups, and vans) accounted for $34.0 \%$ of the market in 2012, and increased to 64.4\% last year. In the First Quarter of 2023, however, light truck share was up just 1.3 points versus year earlier.

Brands that fared best in early 2023
Among the top 25 sellers in the county market, Chevrolet, Land Rover, Genesis, Hyundai, and GMC had the largest percentage gains in the First Quarter of this year.

Toyota, Tesla, Honda, Kia, and BMW were market leaders.

Top selling models in Los Angeles County Tesla Model Y, Tesla Model 3, Toyota Camry, Toyota RAV4, Honda Civic, Honda Accord, Toyota Corolla, Toyota Tacoma, Kia Forte, and Honda HR-V were the top 10 sellers so far this year.

## County economic conditions

Total employment in the county was 4.78 million, still below pre-pandemic levels. Unemployment rate was $5.3 \%$ (see page 3 ).


Forecast for County New Retail Light Vehicle Registrations


The graph above shows annual new retail light vehicle registrations from 2020 through 2022 and Auto Outlook's baseline projection for 2023. Historical data sourced from Experian Automotive.

Market Summary

|  | YTD '22 <br> March | YTD '23 <br> March | \% Chg. <br> '22 to '23 | Mkt. Share <br> YTD '23 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| TOTAL | 99,008 | 100,759 | $1.8 \%$ |  |
| Car | 35,661 | 34,938 | $-2.0 \%$ | $34.7 \%$ |
| Light Truck | 63,347 | 65,821 | $3.9 \%$ | $65.3 \%$ |
| Domestic | 28,803 | 29,723 | $3.2 \%$ | $29.5 \%$ |
| European | 18,981 | 19,385 | $2.1 \%$ | $19.2 \%$ |
| Japanese | 42,411 | 41,849 | $-1.3 \%$ | $41.5 \%$ |
| Korean | 8,813 | 9,802 | $11.2 \%$ | $9.7 \%$ |

Domestics consist of vehicles sold by GM, Ford, Stellantis (excluding Alfa Romeo and FIAT), Tesla, Rivian, and Lucid.
Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

## Los Angeles County New Vehicle Market Dashboard



MARKET PERFORMANCE DURING PAST TWO YEARS

Los Angeles County Quarterly Registrations Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate, Converted to Equivalent U.S. New Vehicle Market SAAR (millions of units)



The graph on the left provides an easily recognizable way to gauge the strength of the county market. It shows quarterly registrations based on a seasonally adjusted annual rate. These figures are then indexed to SAAR sales figures for the U.S. new vehicle market. So just like in the national market, when the quarterly SAAR is above 17 million units, the county market is strong, 15 million is about average, and below 13 million is weak. Equivalent SAAR levels in the county increased from 13.7 million in the Fourth Quarter of last year to 13.9 million in the First Quarter of this year.

# \% Change In New Retail Market YTD 2023 thru March <br> vs. <br> YTD 2022 

New retail light vehicle registrations in the county increased $1.8 \%$ in the First Quarter of this year versus the $1.0 \%$ drop in the Nation.

Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

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## Los Angeles County New Vehicle Market Dashboard



## TRACKING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Total Employment in Los Angeles County


| FEBRUARY 2022 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| su |  |


|  | JANUARY 2023 |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | wo тu we |
|  | $4.0 \%$ |


|  | MARCH 2023 |
| :---: | :---: |
| sv | wo nu we mi |
|  | $5.3 \%$ |

University of
Michigan Consumer Sentiment
(U.S.)
Key
Values
During
Past
10 Years

Average Hourly Earnings for All Workers in County - Feb. 2023


High inflation and rising interest rates have raised some concerns that the economy might be headed for recession, but at least so far, most indicators have remained relatively strong. County employment is slightly below pre-pandemic levels and the unemployment rate was below 6\% early this year. GDP growth has remained positive in each of the past two quarters and county wages are up considerably compared to year-earlier.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, University of Michigan, and U.S. Bureau of Econ. Analysis.


> TOP TEN RANKINGS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY MARKET

Market Share for Top Ten Selling Brands in County Market YTD 2023 thru March

Toyota 15.5\%
Tesla 12.7\%
Honda 11.4\%
Kia 5.6\%
BMW 5.3\%
Mercedes 5.2\%
Chevrolet 5.1\%
Ford 5.1\%
Lexus 3.9\%
Nissan 3.7\%
Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

Market Share for Top Ten Selling Models in County Market YTD 2023 thru March


## Vehicle Powertrain Dashboard



## Quarterly Alternative Powertrain Market Share (includes hybrid and electric vehicles)



Data sourced from Experian Automotive. Hybrid vehicle market share excludes mild hybrids.

## Share of County BEV Market for Franchised Dealerships and Direct Sellers



YTD 2023 thru March


Brand Share of County BEV Market YTD 2022 and YTD 2023 thru March


Observations: Franchised dealership share of the county BEV market increased from $18.7 \%$ during the First Quarter of 2022 to $32.8 \%$ this year. Franchised dealership brand registrations were up $134 \%$ vs. the $11 \%$ increase for direct sellers. Tesla BEV market share declined 15.5 points, while registrations improved by $8 \%$. Chevrolet was the second best-selling BEV brand so far this year. Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

## Comparison of Selected Metro Area Markets



The graph above provides a comparison of how metro area new vehicle markets performed last year and in the First Quarter of this year. The blue dots on the graph represent the percent change in new vehicle registrations from 2021 to 2022, and the orange dots show the change from the First Quarter of 2022 to the First Quarter of this year. Orange dots are higher for all markets, reflecting relative improvement in sales early this year compared to results last year. Data sourced from Experian Automotive.


Electric (BEV) and Plug in Hybrid (PHEV) Market Share During 1Q ‘23


Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

| Brand Registrations ReportLos Angeles County New Retail Gar and Light Truck Registrations |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | First Quarter |  |  |  |  |  | Annual Totals |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Registrations |  |  | Market Share (\%) |  |  | Registrations |  |  | Market Share (\%) |  |  |
|  | 1Q '22 | 1Q '23 | \% change | 1Q '22 | 1Q '23 | Change | 2021 | 2022 | \% change | 2021 | 2022 | Change |
| TOTAL | 99,008 | 100,759 | 1.8 |  |  |  | 446,154 | 384,013 | -13.9 |  |  |  |
| Cars | 35,661 | 34,938 | -2.0 | 36.0 | 34.7 | -1.3 | 168,937 | 136,718 | -19.1 | 37.9 | 35.6 | -2.3 |
| Light Trucks | 63,347 | 65,821 | 3.9 | 64.0 | 65.3 | 1.3 | 277,217 | 247,295 | -10.8 | 62.1 | 64.4 | 2.3 |
| Domestic Brands | 28,803 | 29,723 | 3.2 | 29.1 | 29.5 | 0.4 | 108,734 | 115,177 | 5.9 | 24.4 | 30.0 | 5.6 |
| European Brands | 18,981 | 19,385 | 2.1 | 19.2 | 19.2 | 0.0 | 90,927 | 72,890 | -19.8 | 20.4 | 19.0 | -1.4 |
| Japanese Brands | 42,411 | 41,849 | -1.3 | 42.8 | 41.5 | -1.3 | 204,458 | 156,060 | -23.7 | 45.8 | 40.6 | -5.2 |
| Korean Brands | 8,813 | 9,802 | 11.2 | 8.9 | 9.7 | 0.8 | 42,035 | 39,886 | -5.1 | 9.4 | 10.4 | 1.0 |
| Acura | 715 | 786 | 9.9 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.1 | 4,241 | 2,665 | -37.2 | 1.0 | 0.7 | -0.3 |
| Alfa Romeo | 304 | 123 | -59.5 | 0.3 | 0.1 | -0.2 | 1,824 | 1,024 | -43.9 | 0.4 | 0.3 | -0.1 |
| Audi | 2,102 | 2,462 | 17.1 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 0.3 | 11,704 | 8,737 | -25.4 | 2.6 | 2.3 | -0.3 |
| BMw | 5,592 | 5,303 | -5.2 | 5.6 | 5.3 | -0.3 | 24,294 | 19,206 | -20.9 | 5.4 | 5.0 | -0.4 |
| Buick | 89 | 161 | 80.9 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 835 | 498 | -40.4 | 0.2 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| Cadillac | 627 | 678 | 8.1 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.1 | 2,902 | 2,547 | -12.2 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.0 |
| Chevrolet | 3,926 | 5,186 | 32.1 | 4.0 | 5.1 | 1.1 | 22,008 | 18,487 | -16.0 | 4.9 | 4.8 | -0.1 |
| Chrysler | 133 | 165 | 24.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 876 | 607 | -30.7 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Dodge | 1,026 | 647 | -36.9 | 1.0 | 0.6 | -0.4 | 5,822 | 3,623 | -37.8 | 1.3 | 0.9 | -0.4 |
| Ford | 5,332 | 5,106 | -4.2 | 5.4 | 5.1 | -0.3 | 19,616 | 19,738 | 0.6 | 4.4 | 5.1 | 0.7 |
| Genesis | 448 | 560 | 25.0 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 1,489 | 1,956 | 31.4 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.2 |
| GMC | 921 | 1,097 | 19.1 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 4,185 | 4,261 | 1.8 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 0.2 |
| Honda | 10,553 | 11,526 | 9.2 | 10.7 | 11.4 | 0.7 | 56,437 | 35,594 | -36.9 | 12.6 | 9.3 | -3.3 |
| Hyundai | 2,970 | 3,600 | 21.2 | 3.0 | 3.6 | 0.6 | 16,073 | 14,060 | -12.5 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 0.1 |
| Infiniti | 526 | 443 | -15.8 | 0.5 | 0.4 | -0.1 | 2,726 | 1,537 | -43.6 | 0.6 | 0.4 | -0.2 |
| 'Jaguar | 94" | 56 | -40.4 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 694 | 319 | -54"0 | 0.2 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| Jeep | 3,119 | 2,284 | -26.8 | 3.2 | 2.3 | -0.9 | 12,901 | 11,092 | -14.0 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 0.0 |
| Kia | 5,395 | 5,642 | 4.6 | 5.4 | 5.6 | 0.2 | 24,473 | 23,870 | -2.5 | 5.5 | 6.2 | 0.7 |
| Land Rover | 945 | 1,182 | 25.1 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 0.2 | 5,741 | 3,419 | -40.4 | 1.3 | 0.9 | -0.4 |
| Lexus | 4,196 | 3,911 | -6.8 | 4.2 | 3.9 | -0.3 | 21,696 | 16,140 | -25.6 | 4.9 | 4.2 | -0.7 |
| Lincoln | 228 | 261 | 14.5 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 1,263 | 900 | -28.7 | 0.3 | 0.2 | -0.1 |
| Maserati | 124 | 60 | -51.6 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 474 | 410 | -13.5 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Mazda | 2,424 | 2,020 | -16.7 | 2.4 | 2.0 | -0.4 | 10,472 | 7,816 | -25.4 | 2.3 | 2.0 | -0.3 |
| Mercedes | 4,636 | 5,227 | 12.7 | 4.7 | 5.2 | 0.5 | 21,420 | 20,430 | -4.6 | 4.8 | 5.3 | 0.5 |
| MINI | 492 | 403 | -18.1 | 0.5 | 0.4 | -0.1 | 1,848 | 1,683 | -8.9 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| Mitsubishi | 309 | 258 | -16.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 1,090 | 1,056 | -3.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Nissan | 4,070 | 3,716 | -8.7 | 4.1 | 3.7 | -0.4 | 17,570 | 14,501 | -17.5 | 3.9 | 3.8 | -0.1 |
| Other | 279 | 358 | 28.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 1,265 | 1,246 | -1.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| Polestar | 202 | 80 | -60.4 | 0.2 | 0.1 | -0.1 | 285 | 729 | 155.8 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Porsche | 1,150 | 1,193 | 3.7 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 5,357 | 4,459 | -16.8 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.0 |
| Ram | 1,473 | 954 | -35.2 | 1.5 | 0.9 | -0.6 | 6,558 | 4,951 | -24.5 | 1.5 | 1.3 | -0.2 |
| Rivian | 84 | 286 | 240.5 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 24 | 677 | 2720.8 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Subaru | 3,820 | 3,554 | -7.0 | 3.9 | 3.5 | -0.4 | 13,553 | 13,456 | -0.7 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 0.5 |
| Tesla | 11,822 | 12,771 | 8.0 | 11.9 | 12.7 | 0.8 | 31,733 | 47,599 | 50.0 | 7.1 | 12.4 | 5.3 |
| Toyota | 15,798 | 15,635 | -1.0 | 16.0 | 15.5 | -0.5 | 76,673 | 63,295 | -17.4 | 17.2 | 16.5 | -0.7 |
| Volkswagen | 2,231 | 2,266 | 1.6 | 2.3 | 2.2 | -0.1 | 11,651 | 8,431 | -27.6 | 2.6 | 2.2 | -0.4 |
| Volvo | 853 | 799 | -6.3 | 0.9 | 0.8 | -0.1 | 4,381 | 2,994 | -31.7 | 1.0 | 0.8 | -0.2 |

Data sourced from Experian Automotive. Top 10 in percent change are shaded yellow.

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