# Los Angeles Auto Outlook 

Comprehensive information on the LA County new vehicle market

## FORECAST

## County New Vehicle Market Predicted to Increase in 2024



## Key factors boosting new vehicle sales

Existing vehicle fleet is old. Average age of vehicles in operation has reached an all-time high. No question, modern vehicles are built better and last longer, but today's models offer many upgraded features vs. the average 12.5 year old car. Passive and active safety technology, advanced infotainment options, and alternative powertrains are just a few examples. Many vehicle owners have a strong incentive to upgrade.

Transaction prices are falling. Right now, affordability is a deterrent for new vehicle sales (see right), but increased inventories and rising incentives have pushed down vehicles prices which will spur demand.

Economy is hanging in there. After significant interest rate increases in 2022 and 2023, fingers were crossed for a soft landing. GDP has remained positive, employment levels continue to move higher, and household incomes have largely kept pace with inflation. Interest rates are elevated and prices have risen sharply since 2021, but recession seems unlikely.

Heightened uncertainty. There are always unexpected events lurking that can impact the market. The CDK outage is a recent example. In addition to these surprises, there are ongoing and upcoming events with uncertain outcomes that cloud the sales forecast. The presidential election is at the top of the list. As we have already seen, events related to the campaign are rightfully leading to heightened anxiety and uneasiness. This will last up until election day, and hopefully, for a relatively short period afterwards. Geopolitical unrest surrounding the Ukraine and Middle East conflicts are other examples. Consumer confidence takes a hit when the list of things to worry about lengthens, and this is a negative for new vehicle sales.

New vehicle affordability is a drag. Monthly finance and lease costs remain elevated due to higher interest rates. As noted on the left, vehicle transaction prices have fallen and household incomes are increasing, but inflation has eroded purchasing power. Monthly new vehicle payments as a percent of consumer income will move lower in the coming months, but are high right now and it's holding back sales.

## Key Trends in Los Angeles

 County Market» Forecast summary: replacement demand and falling transaction prices will provide some momentum for the new vehicle market for the rest of ' 24 , while the negative factors will limit growth.
» We think the market still has a good chance to improve for all of this year vs. 2023. Current forecast is for registrations to increase $2.9 \%$.
" Registrations exceeded 112,000 units in the Second Quarter of 2024, essentially unchanged versus 2Q '23.
» Battery electric vehicles accounted for $24.9 \%$ of the market in the Second Quarter of this year, up from $22.8 \%$ in the First Quarter, and above 2Q ' 23 levels (see page 4).
» Lexus, Hyundai, Audi, Honda, and Toyota had the largest percentage increases so far this year (see page 4). Tesla, Honda, BMW, Mercedes, and Lexus are strong performers in the county market based on a comparison to U.S. market share (see page 5).

Forecast for County New Retail Light Vehicle Registrations


The graph above shows annual new retail light vehicle registrations from 2021 through 2023 and Auto Outlook's projection for all of 2024.
Historical data sourced from Experian Automotive.

Market Summary

|  | YTD '23 <br> thru June | YTD '24 <br> thru June | \% Chg. <br> '23 to '24 | Mkt. Share <br> YTD '24 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| TOTAL | 213,232 | 215,301 | $1.0 \%$ |  |
| Car | 73,755 | 66,636 | $-9.7 \%$ | $31.0 \%$ |
| Light Truck | 139,477 | 148,665 | $6.6 \%$ | $69.0 \%$ |
| Domestic | 65,117 | 59,126 | $-9.2 \%$ | $27.5 \%$ |
| European | 41,174 | 41,564 | $0.9 \%$ | $19.3 \%$ |
| Japanese | 86,534 | 94,292 | $9.0 \%$ | $43.8 \%$ |
| Korean | 20,407 | 20,319 | $-0.4 \%$ | $9.4 \%$ |

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

## KEY TRENDS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY NEW VEHICLE MARKET

 COUNTY MARKET VS. U.S.\% Change In<br>New Retail Market<br>YTD 2024 thru June<br>vs.<br>YTD 2023<br>\section*{Los Angeles County<br><br>UP 1.0\%<br><br>}<br>New retail light vehicle registrations in the county increased 1.0\% during the first six months of this year vs. year earlier, below the 3.4\% improvement in the Nation.

Data sourced from Experian Automotive. QUARTERLY RESULTS


Data sourced from Experian Automotive. SAAR estimates: Auto Outlook.

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 slipped from 14.7 million in the First Quarter of this year to 14.5 million in the Second Quarter.
\% Change in quarterly registrations vs. year earlier
(2Q ‘24 vs. 2Q ‘23)

DOWN
0.1\%

\% Change in registrations vs. previous quarter (2Q '24 vs. 1Q ‘24)


[^0]
## KEY TRENDS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY NEW VEHICLE MARKET



## VEHICLE AND BRAND SEGMENTS - COUNTY AND U.S. (YTD ‘24 thru June)



Combining the blue and orange sections in the graph above corresponds to the standard industry definition of light trucks. Small crossovers are broken out, however, since many are more similar to compact hatchbacks than to trucks. Light truck share (excluding small CUVs) was $\mathbf{4 1 . 1}$ \% so far this year, below the $\mathbf{5 6 . 6 \%}$ share in the U.S.

Data sourced from Experian Automotive.


Japanese brand market share in the county was higher than U.S. levels: $\mathbf{4 3 . 8} \%$ vs. $\mathbf{3 9 . 9} \%$. County Domestic brand share (which includes Tesla and Rivian) was $\mathbf{2 7 . 5}$ \% in the first half of this year. European brands accounted for a higher share of the county market than in the Nation.
Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

COMPARE

Percent Change in New Retail Light Vehicle Registrations - YTD 2024 thru June vs. YTD 2023


## Observations and Key Facts

- Los Angeles County registrations increased 1.0\% in the first half of this year, below the average for other areas, but in line with California markets. The Miami market improved by $9.3 \%$.
- BEV market share in the county was $\mathbf{2 3 . 9}$ \% vs. 8.5\% in the Nation. BEV penetration was highest in Silicon Valley - 37.3\%
- Toyota was the best-selling brand in the county during the first six months of this year and was also the leader in 12 out of the other 20 markets. Highest share for Toyota was in Portland, OR (24.1\%).


## BRANDS AND MODELS

## WINNERS AND LOSERS

The primary metric used to identify winning and losing brands is the percent change in registrations vs. year earlier, shown on the graph below. Lexus and Hyundai were the biggest gainers in the county market in the first six months of this year among the top 20 brands. BUT this snapshot does not capture the shorter term trend in sales, and this matters! Registrations for a brand may have posted a big year-over year increase (definitely a positive), but if growth has stalled during the most recent quarter, that's significant. The tables to the right of the graph show results from the First to the Second Quarters of 2024.
\% Change in County Registrations for Top 20 Brands- YTD '24 thru June vs. YTD '23
Lexus, 26.2\%


Volkswagen, -0.8\%
Nissan, -5.3\% $\square$
Ford, -7.6\%
Subaru, -9.4\%
Porsche, -9.8\%
Tesla, -10.1\%
Mercedes, -10.1\%
Kia, -13.5\%
Chevrolet, -17.7\%
Jeep, -26.5\%

| Brands Gaining Ground |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | ---: |
| Largest \% increases |  |  |
| from 1Q '24 to 2Q '24 |  |  |
| Hyundai | Up | $47.5 \%$ |
| Nissan | Up | $32.1 \%$ |
| GMC | Up | $21.0 \%$ |
| Mazda | Up | $12.6 \%$ |
| Chevrolet | Up | $10.9 \%$ |


| Brands Losing Ground  <br> Largest $\%$ declines <br> from 1Q '24 to 2Q '24  <br> Audi $\quad$ Down |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Jeep | Down | $8.5 \%$ |
| Mercedes | Down | $2.1 \%$ |
| Land Rover | Down | $1.5 \%$ |
| Subaru | Down | $1.1 \%$ |

Largest \% increases during YTD '24
vs. YTD '23: Lexus, Hyundai, Audi, Honda, and Toyota.

Largest \% increases in 2Q '24 vs. 1Q '24: Hyundai, Nissan, GMC, Mazda, and Chevrolet.

Data sourced from Experian Automotive.


Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

## BRANDS AND MODELS



## BRAND SALES PERFORMANCE

The graph below provides an indicator of brands that are popular in Los Angeles County (relative to the National standard), and those that are not. Here's how it works: For the top 30 selling brands, each brand's share of the U.S. market is multiplied by industry retail registrations in the county during the first six months of 2024. This yields a "target" for the county market. Target registrations are subtracted from actual registrations to derive the measurement of sales performance. Brands at the top of the graph (i.e., Tesla, Honda, BMW, Mercedes, and Lexus) are relatively strong sellers in the county, with actual registrations exceeding calculated targets by large margins. For instance, Tesla registrations exceeded the target by 7,145 units.

Los Angeles County Retail Market Performance based on registrations during YTD 24 thru June
Actual registrations minus target (county industry registrations times U.S. market share)


Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

## TOP SELLING MODELS



Table on the left presents the top 20 selling models in the county during the first six months of this year. Share of industry registrations and the percent change versus the same period a year earlier is also shown. Models with the five largest percentage increase are shaded blue.

Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

## ALTERNATIVE POWERTRAIN MARKET



## BEV, PHEV, AND HYBRID MARKET SHARE

Percent Share of Industry Registrations by Powertrain Type


Data sourced from Experian Automotive. Hybrid registrations exclude mild hybrids.

| YTD thru June |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | YTD '23 | YTD '24 |
| Electric (BEV) | $21.3 \%$ | $23.9 \%$ |
| Hybrid | $10.1 \%$ | $13.4 \%$ |
| Plug In Hybrid (PHEV) | $3.4 \%$ | $3.7 \%$ |


| Quarterly |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- |
|  | 10 '24 | $2 Q$ |

## FRANCHISED DEALERSHIPS AND DIRECT SELLERS

## New Hybrid, BEV, and PHEV Registrations in Los Angeles County by Type of Selling Dealership



| BEV Registrations and Market Share |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Franchised <br> Dealerships | Direct <br> Sellers |
| YTD '23 thru Jun. regs. | 14,322 | 31,096 |
| YTD '24 thru Jun. regs. | 22,153 | 29,258 |
| \% change | $54.7 \%$ | $-5.9 \%$ |
| YTD '23 mkt. share \% | 31.5 | 68.5 |
| YTD '24 mkt. share \% | 43.1 | 56.9 |
| change | 11.6 | -11.6 |
| 1Q '24 regs. | 9,691 | 13,750 |
| 2Q '24 regs. | 12,462 | 15,508 |
| \% change | $28.6 \%$ | $12.8 \%$ |
| 1Q '24 mkt. share \% | 41.3 | 58.7 |
| 2Q '24 mkt. share \% | 44.6 | 55.4 |
| change | 3.3 | -3.3 |

The dark green areas in the graph show registrations by powertrain type for franchised dealerships. Sum of the green areas is 59,013 units, $67 \%$ of the overall total.
Data sourced from Experian Automotive. Hybrid registrations exclude mild hybrids.

## ALTERNATIVE POWERTRAIN MARKET

Share of Brand Registrations in County by Type of Powertrain - Second Quarter, 2024 (top 30 brands)


The graph above shows the breakdown of new vehicle registrations by powertrain type for each of the top 30 selling brands in the county during the Second Quarter of 2024. Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

| Brand Registrations Report <br> Los Angeles County New Retail Car and Light Truck Registrations |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Second Quarter |  |  |  |  |  | Year to date thru June |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Registrations |  |  | Market Share (\%) |  |  | Registrations |  |  | Market Share (\%) |  |  |
|  | 2Q '23 | 2Q '24 | \% change | 2Q '23 | 2Q '24 | Change | YTD '23 | YTD '24 | \% change | YTD '23 | YTD '24 | Change |
| TOTAL | 112,539 | 112,469 | -0.1 |  |  |  | 213,232 | 215,301 | 1.0 |  |  |  |
| Cars | 39,110 | 34,260 | -12.4 | 34.8 | 30.5 | -4.3 | 73,755 | 66,636 | -9.7 | 34.6 | 31.0 | -3.6 |
| Light Trucks | 73,429 | 78,209 | 6.5 | 65.2 | 69.5 | 4.3 | 139,477 | 148,665 | 6.6 | 65.4 | 69.0 | 3.6 |
| Domestic Brands | 35,401 | 30,986 | -12.5 | 31.5 | 27.6 | -3.9 | 65,117 | 59,126 | -9.2 | 30.5 | 27.5 | -3.0 |
| European Brands | 21,838 | 20,678 | -5.3 | 19.4 | 18.4 | -1.0 | 41,174 | 41,564 | 0.9 | 19.3 | 19.3 | 0.0 |
| Japanese Brands | 44,694 | 49,487 | 10.7 | 39.7 | 44.0 | 4.3 | 86,534 | 94,292 | 9.0 | 40.6 | 43.8 | 3.2 |
| Korean Brands | 10,606 | 11,318 | 6.7 | 9.4 | 10.1 | 0.7 | 20,407 | 20,319 | -0.4 | 9.6 | 9.4 | -0.2 |
| Acura | 961 | 725 | -24.6 | 0.9 | 0.6 | -0.3 | 1,745 | 1,440 | -17.5 | 0.8 | 0.7 | -0.1 |
| Alfa Romeo | 154 | 108 | -29.9 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 276 | 297 | 7.6 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Audi | 3,169 | 2,948 | -7.0 | 2.8 | 2.6 | -0.2 | 5,632 | 6,356 | 12.9 | 2.6 | 3.0 | 0.4 |
| Bmw | 5,912 | 5,946 | 0.6 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 0.0 | 11,184 | 11,460 | 2.5 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 0.1 |
| Buick | 163 | 171 | 4.9 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 324 | 335 | 3.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Cadillac | 770 | 943 | 22.5 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.1 | 1,459 | 1,701 | 16.6 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.1 |
| Chevrolet | 4,974 | 4,392 | -11.7 | 4.4 | 3.9 | -0.5 | 10,150 | 8,352 | -17.7 | 4.8 | 3.9 | -0.9 |
| Chrysler | 213 | 174 | -18.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 378 | 368 | -2.6 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Dodge | 820 | 931 | 13.5 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.1 | 1,466 | 1,617 | 10.3 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.1 |
| Ford | 5,238 | 4,962 | -5.3 | 4.7 | 4.4 | -0.3 | 10,355 | 9,572 | -7.6 | 4.9 | 4.4 | -0.5 |
| Genesis | 568 | 600 | 5.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 1,129 | 1,055 | -6.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.0 |
| GMC | 1,199 | 1,325 | 10.5 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 0.1 | 2,299 | 2,420 | 5.3 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 0.0 |
| Honda | 13,203 | 14,586 | 10.5 | 11.7 | 13.0 | 1.3 | 24,718 | 27,755 | 12.3 | 11.6 | 12.9 | 1.3 |
| Hyundai | 4,250 | 5,440 | 28.0 | 3.8 | 4.8 | 1.0 | 7,848 | 9,127 | 16.3 | 3.7 | 4.2 | 0.5 |
| Infiniti | 516 | 437 | -15.3 | 0.5 | 0.4 | -0.1 | 958 | 967 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| Jaguar | 68 | 66 | -2.9 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 124 | 145 | 16.9 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Jeep | 2,703 | 1,756 | -35.0 | 2.4 | 1.6 | -0.8 | 4,988 | 3,665 | -26.5 | 2.3 | 1.7 | -0.6 |
| Kia | 5,761 | 5,104 | -11.4 | 5.1 | 4.5 | -0.6 | 11,403 | 9,864 | -13.5 | 5.3 | 4.6 | -0.7 |
| Land Rover | 1,021 | 1,215 | 19.0 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 2,204 | 2,448 | 11.1 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 0.1 |
| Lexus | 4,929 | 5,851 | 18.7 | 4.4 | 5.2 | 0.8 | 8,841 | 11,156 | 26.2 | 4.1 | 5.2 | 1.1 |
| Lincoln | 257 | 339 | 31.9 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 518 | 609 | 17.6 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Maserati | 75 | 157 | 109.3 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 136 | 299 | 119.9 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Mazda | 2,250 | 2,347 | 4.3 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 0.1 | 4,269 | 4,432 | 3.8 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 0.1 |
| Mercedes | 6,128 | 5,044 | -17.7 | 5.4 | 4.5 | -0.9 | 11,349 | 10,198 | -10.1 | 5.3 | 4.7 | -0.6 |
| MINI | 406 | 274 | -32.5 | 0.4 | 0.2 | -0.2 | 808 | 710 | -12.1 | 0.4 | 0.3 | -0.1 |
| Mitsubishi | 260 | 251 | -3.5 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 520 | 460 | -11.5 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Nissan | 4,041 | 4,180 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 0.1 | 7,755 | 7,344 | -5.3 | 3.6 | 3.4 | -0.2 |
| Polestar | 71 | 179 | 152.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 151 | 286 | 89.4 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Porsche | 1,282 | 1,127 | -12.1 | 1.1 | 1.0 | -0.1 | 2,474 | 2,231 | -9.8 | 1.2 | 1.0 | -0.2 |
| Ram | 1,161 | 660 | -43.2 | 1.0 | 0.6 | -0.4 | 2,111 | 1,503 | -28.8 | 1.0 | 0.7 | -0.3 |
| Rivian | 403 | 917 | 127.5 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 689 | 1,442 | 109.3 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.4 |
| Subaru | 3,214 | 3,044 | -5.3 | 2.9 | 2.7 | -0.2 | 6,760 | 6,123 | -9.4 | 3.2 | 2.8 | -0.4 |
| Tesla | 17,360 | 14,171 | -18.4 | 15.4 | 12.6 | -2.8 | 30,111 | 27,077 | -10.1 | 14.1 | 12.6 | -1.5 |
| Toyota | 15,320 | 18,066 | 17.9 | 13.6 | 16.1 | 2.5 | 30,968 | 34,615 | 11.8 | 14.5 | 16.1 | 1.6 |
| Volkswagen | 2,282 | 2,244 | -1.7 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 4,540 | 4,504 | -0.8 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 0.0 |
| Volvo | 1,005 | 1,004 | -0.1 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 1,799 | 1,977 | 9.9 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.1 |
| Other | 432 | 785 | 81.7 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 793 | 1,391 | 75.4 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.2 |

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

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714 W Olympic Boulevard, Suite 601
Los Angeles, CA 90015
Bob Smith, Executive Director
Phone: 213-748-0240
Web: www.glancda.org

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PO Box 390
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Phone: 610-640-1233
Email: jfoltz@autooutlook.com
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