Orange County New Retail Automotive Market Data - Retail Sales *Does Not Include Fleet Sales

## NEW VEHICLE MARKET FORECAST

## County Market Predicted to Increase 6.8\% for Remainder of 2023

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

## Results during $1 Q 2023$

County new light vehicle registrations increased $2 \%$ 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 14.5 million units, an indicator that county new vehicle sales remained subdued.

## 2023 Forecast

According to the baseline forecast, registrations are expected to exceed 160,000 units this year, a $5.2 \%$ improvement from 2022. See sidebar to right for alternative upside and downside projections. Registrations are predicted to increase 6.8\% 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 $25.0 \%$ in the First Quarter of 2023, up from 19.9\% a year earlier. Franchised dealership share of the BEV market improved by 11.3 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 $38.5 \%$ of the market in 2012, and increased to 69.1\% last year. In the First Quarter of 2023, however, light truck share was up just 1.7 points versus year earlier.

## Brands that fared best in early 2023

Among the top 25 sellers in the county market, Land Rover, Chevrolet, Rivian, Audi, and Genesis had the largest percentage gains in the First Quarter of this year.

Tesla, Toyota, Honda, Ford, and Mercedes were market leaders.

## Top selling models in Orange County

Tesla Model Y, Tesla Model 3, Toyota RAV4, Toyota Camry, Toyota Tacoma, Ford F-Series, Honda Civic, Toyota Corolla, Honda Accord, and Honda CR-V were the top 10 sellers so far this year.

## County economic conditions

Total employment in Orange County was 1.55 million, slightly below pre-pandemic levels. Unemployment rate was 3.4\% (see page 3).

## Outlook for

Orange County New Retail Light Vehicle Market

2023 Annual Forecast
Baseline scenario: 160,100 up $5.2 \%$ vs. ' 22
Alternative upside: 168,200 up $10.5 \%$ vs. ' 22

Alternative downside: 152,300 up $0.1 \%$ vs. ' 22

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 | 39,349 | 40,133 | $2.0 \%$ |  |
| Car | 12,246 | 11,796 | $-3.7 \%$ | $29.4 \%$ |
| Light Truck | 27,103 | 28,337 | $4.6 \%$ | $70.6 \%$ |
| Domestic | 13,274 | 14,212 | $7.1 \%$ | $35.4 \%$ |
| European | 7,514 | 7,815 | $4.0 \%$ | $19.5 \%$ |
| Japanese | 15,149 | 14,358 | $-5.2 \%$ | $35.8 \%$ |
| Korean | 3,412 | 3,748 | $9.8 \%$ | $9.3 \%$ |

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

MARKET PERFORMANCE DURING PAST TWO YEARS
Orange County
Quarterly Registrations
Seasonally Adjusted
Annual Rate, Converted
to Equivalent U.S. New
Vehicle Market SAAR
(millions of units)

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 increased from 14.0 million in the Fourth Quarter of last year to 14.4 million in the First Quarter of this year.

| \% Change In <br> New Retail Market | Orange County | U.S. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | | New retail light vehicle reg. |
| :--- |
| istrations in the county in- |
| creased $2.0 \%$ in the First |

YTD 2022

Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

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## Orange County New Vehicle Market Dashboard



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


## 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 2022 thru March


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 18.8\% during the first quarter of 2022 to $30.1 \%$ this year. Franchised dealership brand registrations were up $105 \%$ vs. the $10 \%$ increase for direct sellers. Tesla BEV market share declined 12.1 points, while registrations improved by $8.5 \%$. 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 SEGMENT MARKET SHARES

## Top Selling Brands in 7 Primary Segments



The seven graphs on this page show brand market share in seven key segments in the First Quarter 2023 in both the Orange County and U.S. markets. County percent share is depicted by the red bars, U.S. share is light gray. Top ten brands in each segment are ranked from top to bottom based on Orange County market share.

Segments were defined based on model classifications instead of overall brand positioning. For instance, Chevrolet appears on the Luxury and Sports cars graph because of the Corvette. Small SUVs consists of both Sub Compact and Compact models.

## Legend for all graphs

Brand share of segment in Orange County during YTD '23

Brand share of seg ment in U.S. market during YTD '23


Small Non Luxury SUVs


Mid and Full Size Luxury SUVs


Data Source: AutoCount data from Experian.

Pickups


Small Luxury SUVs


COMPARISON OF ORANGE COUNTY AND U.S. MARKET
Domestic Brand Share in Orange County Market Reached 35.4\%

| \% change in registrations | Orange County Retail Market | U.S. Retall Market |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| YTD '23 thru March vs. YTD '22 | $2.0 \%$ | $-1.0 \%$ |
| Car share of industry retail light vehicle market <br> YTD '23 thru March | $29.4 \%$ | $20.1 \%$ |
| Domestic brand market share <br> YTD '23 thru March | $35.4 \%$ | $40.4 \%$ |


| Brand | New Retail Registrations and U.S. Sales-YTD '23 thru March |  |  |  | Market Share (YTD 2023) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Orange <br> Regs. | $\begin{gathered} \text { \% ch. vs. } \\ \text { YTD '22 } \end{gathered}$ | Regs. | \% ch. vs. YTD '22 | Orange County | U.S. | Variance |
| Acura | 309 | -3.4\% | 27,099 | 7.7\% | 0.8 | 1.0 | -0.2 |
| Alfa Romeo | 37 | -5.1\% | 1,905 | -36.7\% | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Audi | 1,130 | 25.0\% | 39,265 | 23.7\% | 2.8 | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| BMW | 1,883 | -2.2\% | 76,037 | -2.9\% | 4.7 | 2.7 | 2.0 |
| Buick | 53 | 39.5\% | 28,954 | 65.9\% | 0.1 | 1.0 | -0.9 |
| Cadillac | 265 | 6.4\% | 29,186 | 20.7\% | 0.7 | 1.0 | -0.3 |
| Chevrolet | 1,866 | 40.0\% | 293,694 | 21.1\% | 4.6 | 10.5 | -5.9 |
| Chry Dodge Jeep Ram | 1,423 | -27.8\% | 209,521 | -33.9\% | 3.5 | 7.5 | -4.0 |
| Chrysler | 87 | 16.0\% | 10,194 | -16.4\% | 0.2 | 0.4 | -0.2 |
| Dodge | 165 | -27.0\% | 22,372 | -24.9\% | 0.4 | 0.8 | -0.4 |
| Jeep | 752 | -24.6\% | 109,196 | -34.9\% | 1.9 | 3.9 | -2.0 |
| Ram | 419 | -37.8\% | 67,759 | -36.9\% | 1.0 | 2.4 | -1.4 |
| Ford | 2,809 | 5.9\% | 301,492 | -5.9\% | 7.0 | 10.8 | -3.8 |
| Genesis | 280 | 21.2\% | 13,202 | 13.2\% | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.2 |
| GMC | 646 | 19.6\% | 112,186 | 7.6\% | 1.6 | 4.0 | -2.4 |
| Honda | 3,182 | 7.4\% | 225,032 | -0.6\% | 7.9 | 8.0 | -0.1 |
| Hyundai | 1,924 | 11.1\% | 156,795 | 4.4\% | 4.8 | 5.6 | -0.8 |
| Infiniti | 113 | -16.9\% | 12,452 | 20.6\% | 0.3 | 0.4 | -0.1 |
| Jaguar | 28 | -39.1\% | 1,965 | -4.9\% | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Kia | 1,544 | 6.6\% | 158,586 | 20.4\% | 3.8 | 5.7 | -1.9 |
| Land Rover | 463 | 46.1\% | 17,324 | 22.3\% | 1.2 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| Lexus | 1,346 | -5.2\% | 58,926 | -4.7\% | 3.4 | 2.1 | 1.3 |
| Lincoln | 129 | 12.2\% | 17,151 | -2.0\% | 0.3 | 0.6 | -0.3 |
| Maserati | 26 | -46.9\% | 1,379 | -24.7\% | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Mazda | 907 | -31.9\% | 66,651 | 0.8\% | 2.3 | 2.4 | -0.1 |
| Mercedes | 2,340 | 5.7\% | 61,498 | -2.4\% | 5.8 | 2.2 | 3.6 |
| MINI | 114 | -20.8\% | 7,048 | -4.3\% | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| Mitsubishi | 48 | -18.6\% | 18,296 | -11.5\% | 0.1 | 0.7 | -0.6 |
| Nissan | 1,243 | -15.4\% | 134,367 | -11.0\% | 3.1 | 4.8 | -1.7 |
| Polestar | 20 | -74.0\% | 814 | -58.8\% | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Porsche | 502 | 7.0\% | 15,973 | 23.0\% | 1.3 | 0.6 | 0.7 |
| Rivian | 226 | 35.3\% | 6,408 | 735.5\% | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| Subaru | 1,267 | -11.6\% | 133,473 | -0.8\% | 3.2 | 4.8 | -1.6 |
| Tesla | 6,720 | 8.5\% | 132,054 | 23.5\% | 16.7 | 4.7 | 12.0 |
| Toyota | 5,943 | -1.2\% | 357,879 | -6.1\% | 14.8 | 12.8 | 2.0 |
| Volkswagen | 866 | -0.8\% | 55,774 | -14.7\% | 2.2 | 2.0 | 0.2 |
| Volvo | 281 | -11.6\% | 22,180 | -0.1\% | 0.7 | 0.8 | -0.1 |
| Other | 200 | 33.3\% | 4,835 | 47.6\% | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.3 |

The two tables above provide a comparison of the Orange County and U.S. new light vehicle markets. Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

| Orange County New Retail Car and Light Truck Registrations |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | March |  |  | YTD thru March |  |  | Market Share (\%) |  |  |
|  | 2022 | 2023 | \% chg. | YTD '22 | YTD '23 | \% chg. | YTD '22 | YTD '23 | Chg. |
| MARKET SUMMARY |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TOTAL | 12,305 | 12,066 | 1.9\% | 39,349 | 40,133 | 2.0\% |  |  |  |
| Cars | 3,892 | 3,501 | -10.0\% | 12,246 | 11,796 | -3.7\% | 31.1 | 29.4 | -1.7 |
| Light Trucks | 8,413 | 8,565 | 1.8\% | 27,103 | 28,337 | 4.6\% | 68.9 | 70.6 | 1.7 |
| Domestic | 4,108 | 4,104 | -0.1\% | 13,274 | 14,212 | 7.1\% | 33.7 | 35.4 | 1.7 |
| European | 2,238 | 2,251 | 0.6\% | 7,514 | 7,815 | 4.0\% | 19.1 | 19.5 | 0.4 |
| Japanese | 4,755 | 4,530 | -4.7\% | 15,149 | 14,358 | -5.2\% | 38.5 | 35.8 | -2.7 |
| Korean | 1,204 | 1,181 | -1.9\% | 3,412 | 3,748 | 9.8\% | 8.7 | 9.3 | 0.7 |
| BRAND REGISTRATIONS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Acura | 88 | 126 | 43.2\% | 320 | 309 | -3.4\% | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.0 |
| Alfa Romeo | 19 | 17 | -10.5\% | 39 | 37 | -5.1\% | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Audi | 289 | 404 | 39.8\% | 904 | 1,130 | 25.0\% | 2.3 | 2.8 | 0.5 |
| BMW | 586 | 470 | -19.8\% | 1,926 | 1,883 | -2.2\% | 4.9 | 4.7 | -0.2 |
| Buick | 9 | 16 | 77.8\% | 38 | 53 | 39.5\% | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Cadillac | 84 | 72 | -14.3\% | 249 | 265 | 6.4\% | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.1 |
| Chevrolet | 384 | 500 | 30.2\% | 1,333 | 1,866 | 40.0\% | 3.4 | 4.6 | 1.2 |
| C/D/J/R | 617 | 469 | -24.0\% | 1,972 | 1,423 | -27.8\% | 5.0 | 3.5 | -1.5 |
| Chrysler | 20 | 18 | -10.0\% | 75 | 87 | 16.0\% | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Dodge | 59 | 58 | -1.7\% | 226 | 165 | -27.0\% | 0.6 | 0.4 | -0.2 |
| Jeep | 344 | 243 | -29.4\% | 997 | 752 | -24.6\% | 2.5 | 1.9 | -0.6 |
| Ram | 194 | 150 | -22.7\% | 674 | 419 | -37.8\% | 1.7 | 1.0 | -0.7 |
| Ford | 797 | 834 | 4.6\% | 2,653 | 2,809 | 5.9\% | 6.7 | 7.0 | 0.3 |
| Genesis | 59 | 82 | 39.0\% | 231 | 280 | 21.2\% | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.1 |
| GMC | 188 | 181 | -3.7\% | 540 | 646 | 19.6\% | 1.4 | 1.6 | 0.2 |
| Honda | 924 | 1,049 | 13.5\% | 2,964 | 3,182 | 7.4\% | 7.5 | 7.9 | 0.4 |
| Hyundai | 607 | 585 | -3.6\% | 1,732 | 1,924 | 11.1\% | 4.4 | 4.8 | 0.4 |
| Infiniti | 43 | 31 | -27.9\% | 136 | 113 | -16.9\% | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| Jaguar | 17 | 8 | -52.9\% | 46 | 28 | -39.1\% | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Kia | 538 | 514 | -4.5\% | 1,449 | 1,544 | 6.6\% | 3.7 | 3.8 | 0.1 |
| Land Rover | 81 | 119 | 46.9\% | 317 | 463 | 46.1\% | 0.8 | 1.2 | 0.4 |
| Lexus | 396 | 499 | 26.0\% | 1,420 | 1,346 | -5.2\% | 3.6 | 3.4 | -0.2 |
| Lincoln | 29 | 29 | 0.0\% | 115 | 129 | 12.2\% | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| Maserati | 14 | 10 | -28.6\% | 49 | 26 | -46.9\% | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Mazda | 465 | 276 | -40.6\% | 1,332 | 907 | -31.9\% | 3.4 | 2.3 | -1.1 |
| Mercedes | 594 | 637 | 7.2\% | 2,214 | 2,340 | 5.7\% | 5.6 | 5.8 | 0.2 |
| MINI | 33 | 27 | -18.2\% | 144 | 114 | -20.8\% | 0.4 | 0.3 | -0.1 |
| Mitsubishi | 23 | 15 | -34.8\% | 59 | 48 | -18.6\% | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Nissan | 472 | 440 | -6.8\% | 1,469 | 1,243 | -15.4\% | 3.7 | 3.1 | -0.6 |
| Polestar | 14 | 7 | -50.0\% | 77 | 20 | -74.0\% | 0.2 | 0.0 | -0.2 |
| Porsche | 109 | 149 | 36.7\% | 469 | 502 | 7.0\% | 1.2 | 1.3 | 0.1 |
| Rivian | 27 | 77 | 185.2\% | 167 | 226 | 35.3\% | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.2 |
| Subaru | 430 | 376 | -12.6\% | 1,433 | 1,267 | -11.6\% | 3.6 | 3.2 | -0.4 |
| Tesla | 1,969 | 1,914 | 2.8\% | 6,195 | 6,720 | 8.5\% | 15.7 | 16.7 | 1.0 |
| Toyota | 1,914 | 1,718 | -10.2\% | 6,016 | 5,943 | -1.2\% | 15.3 | 14.8 | -0.5 |
| Volkswagen | 329 | 272 | -17.3\% | 873 | 866 | -0.8\% | 2.2 | 2.2 | 0.0 |
| Volvo | 109 | 92 | -15.6\% | 318 | 281 | -11.6\% | 0.8 | 0.7 | -0.1 |
| Other | 48 | 51 | 6.3\% | 150 | 200 | 33.3\% | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.1 |

Other includes Aston Martin, Bentley, Ferrari, Freightliner, GEM, Lamborghini, Lotus, Lucid, McLaren, and Rolls Royce.

## Orange County Auto Outlook

Published by Auto Outlook, Inc.
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## Explanation of Data

Data presented in Auto Outlook measures new vehicle registrations in Orange County. Monthly recording of registrations occurs when vehicle title information is processed.

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