## FORECAST

## New Vehicle Market Predicted to Trend Higher During Next Two Years

## Key factors boosting new vehicle sales



## Key factors holding back

 new vehicle salesPent-up demand is growing. New vehicle registrations since the onset of the pandemic have been well below average. And although sales recovered from the low point of the recession in 2009, it took several years for the market to rebound. The pent-up demand that accrued between 2009 and 2015 had barely been released before the pandemic and ensuing supply chain issues boosted the total again. Pent-up demand will support new vehicle sales for several years.

Employment and household incomes are strong. As mentioned on the right, recession is still a possibility and affordability has weakened, but the unemployment rate is low and wage growth is steady.

Impressive array of new products. Today's new vehicles offer significant improvements compared to the average 10 year old car. Aside from the fact that their current vehicle may be wearing out, advances in safety features, performance, alternative powertrains, and infotainment are all factors luring shoppers into dealerships.

Interest rates are high. The prime interest rate has increased by more than five points during the past three years, placing significant upward pressure on vehicle loan and lease payments.

Vehicle prices are high. Average transaction prices moved higher last year due to supply chain issues, inflationary pressures, and higher vehicle content. Escalating prices and higher rates have weakened vehicle affordability, which will be an issue holding back sales.

Soft landing not guaranteed. Most economists expect growth to remain positive despite higher interest rates, but this is not a sure thing. The economy is essentially at break even right now, and it wouldn't take much to push it to recession.

Other threats. After being put on hold since the pandemic hit in March of 2020, student loan payments are restarting, gas prices are high, excess household savings have been depleted, and if the UAW strike lingers, sales could be impacted.

## Key Trends in Orange County Market

» Forecast summary: pent-up demand will provide momentum for the new vehicle market over the next 15 months, while the negative factors will place a ceiling on how high sales can go.
» County new retail light vehicle registrations are predicted to increase 12.9\% this year and $5.1 \%$ in 2024.
» Registrations exceeded 43,000 units in the Third Quarter of this year and increased $18.9 \%$ versus depressed yearearlier levels.
» Battery electric vehicles accounted for $28.2 \%$ of the market in the first nine months of this year, up from 20.3\% last year. BEV share declined from the Second to the Third Quarter of 2023, however (see page 4).
» Rivian, Tesla, Honda, Buick, and Land Rover had the largest percentage increases so far this year.

Forecast for County New Retail Light Vehicle Registrations


The graph above shows annual new retail light vehicle registrations in 2021 and 2022 and Auto Outlook's projections for 2023 and 2024.
Historical data sourced from Experian Automotive.

## Market Summary

|  | YTD '22 <br> Sept. | YTD '23 <br> Sept. | \% Chg. | Mkt. Share |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | 113,584 | 128,657 | $13.3 \%$ |  |
| YTD '23 |  |  |  |  |

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

# Orange County New Vehicle Market Dashboard 



COUNTY MARKET VS. U.S.

| \% Change In |  |  | New retail light vehicle regis- |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| New Retail Market | Orange County | U.S. | trations in Orange County in- creased by $13.3 \%$ duund the |
| YTD 2023 thru September vs. | UP 13.3\% | UP 7.0\% | first nine months of this year, better than the $7 \%$ improve- |

Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

## TRACKING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## Monthly Unemployment Rates in Orange County

|  | AUGUST 2022 |
| :---: | :---: |
| ${ }^{\text {su }}$ | mo Tu we mi |
|  | $3.2 \%$ |



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


The county unemployment rate stayed below 4\% in August of this year. Wages were up slightly versus year earlier. Consumer sentiment remains subdued, while GDP growth has stayed positive during the past four quarters.

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

At Auto Outlook, we strive to provide sound and accurate analyses and forecasts based upon the data available to us. However, our forecasts are derived from third-party data and contain a number of assumptions made by Auto Outlook and its management, including, without limitation, the accuracy of the data compiled. As a result, Auto Outlook can make no representation or warranty with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the data we provide or the forecasts or projections that we make based upon such data. Auto Outlook expressly disclaims any such warranties, and undue reliance should not be placed on any such data, forecasts, projections, or predictions. Auto Outlook undertakes no obligation to update or revise any predictions or forecasts, whether as a result of any new data, the occurrence of future events, or otherwise.

# Orange County New Vehicle Market Dashboard 



## MARKET PERFORMANCE DURING PAST TWO YEARS



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 16.0 million in the Second Quarter of this year to 15.9 million in the Third Quarter.

## NON LUXURY BRAND SUV RANKINGS

New Registrations by Brand for Mid Size/Large and Small Non Luxury SUVs in County Market - YTD ‘23 thru September


The graph shows registrations by brand for Mid Size/Large SUVs (blue bar) and Small SUVs (orange bar). Table shows the percentage breakdown for each brand. Toyota was the best-selling non luxury SUV brand, with Small SUV registrations accounting for 64\% of total. Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

## 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.

## Alternative Powertrain Registrations in Orange County by Brand YTD 2023 thru September



Market Share for Top 25 Selling BEVs, PHEVs, and Hybrids YTD '23 thru September

| Model | Type | Mkt. Share |
| :--- | :---: | ---: |
| Tesla Model Y | BEV | $28.7 \%$ |
| Tesla Model 3 | BEV | $15.6 \%$ |
| Honda CR-V | Hybrid | $3.0 \%$ |
| Toyota RAV4 | Hybrid | $2.7 \%$ |
| Tesla Model X | BEV | $2.3 \%$ |
| Honda Accord | Hybrid | $2.0 \%$ |
| Chevrolet Bolt | BEV | $1.8 \%$ |
| Volkswagen ID.4 | BEV | $1.8 \%$ |
| Toyota Corolla | Hybrid | $1.7 \%$ |
| Ford Mustang Mach-E | BEV | $1.5 \%$ |
| BMW i4 | BEV | $1.5 \%$ |
| Hyundai loniq 5 | BEV | $1.3 \%$ |
| Toyota Sienna | Hybrid | $1.3 \%$ |
| Rivian R1S | BEV | $1.2 \%$ |
| Lexus RX | Hybrid | $1.2 \%$ |
| Jeep Wrangler | PHEV | $1.2 \%$ |
| Toyota Highlander | Hybrid | $1.1 \%$ |
| Ford Maverick | Hybrid | $1.1 \%$ |
| Mercedes EQS SUV | BEV | $1.0 \%$ |
| Toyota RAV4 | PHEV | $1.0 \%$ |
| Hyundai Tucson | Hybrid | $1.0 \%$ |
| Tesla Model S | BEV | $0.9 \%$ |
| Mercedes EQS Sedan | BEV | $0.8 \%$ |
| Toyota Camry | Hybrid | $0.8 \%$ |
| Toyota Prius | Hybrid | $0.8 \%$ |
|  |  |  |

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

## Comparison of Selected Metro Area Markets

aN Results in Area New Vehicle Markets

The graph below provides a comparison of how metro area new vehicle markets have performed so far this year. It shows the percent change in new retail light vehicle registrations during the first nine months of this year versus the same period a year earlier.

Percent Change in New Retail Light Vehicle Registrations - YTD 2023 vs. YTD 2022 (thru September)


## Comparison of BEV and PHEV Market Share

Electric (BEV) and Plug in Hybrid (PHEV) Market Share - YTD 2023 thru September


## 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 during the first nine months of 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 county during YTD '23


Luxury and Sports Cars

Mid and Full Size Non Luxury SUVs


Pickups



Small Non Luxury SUVs


Mid and Full Size Luxury SUVs


[^0]
## COMPARISON OF ORANGE COUNTY AND U.S. MARKET

## Orange County Market Improved at Twice the Rate of U.S.

| \% change in registrations | Orange County Retall Market | U.S. Retall Market |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| YTD '23 thru Sept. vs. YTD '22 | $13.3 \%$ | $7.0 \%$ |
| Car share of industry retail light vehicle market | $29.9 \%$ | $20.5 \%$ |
| YTD '23 thru Sept. | $36.7 \%$ | $40.2 \%$ |
| Domestic brand market share <br> YTD '23 thru Sept. |  |  |


| Brand | New Retail Registrations -YTD '23 thru Sept. |  |  |  | Market Share (YTD 2023) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Orange County |  | U.S. |  | Orange County | U.S. | Variance |
|  |  | $\%$ ch. vs. YTD '22 | Regs. | $\%$ ch. vs. YTD '22 |  |  |  |
| Acura | 965 | 11.6\% | 97,380 | 33.8\% | 0.8 | 1.1 | -0.3 |
| Alfa Romeo | 87 | -27.5\% | 6,138 | -29.0\% | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Audi | 3,567 | 19.4\% | 131,188 | 21.8\% | 2.8 | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| BMW | 5,524 | 4.5\% | 224,202 | 1.2\% | 4.3 | 2.4 | 1.9 |
| Buick | 189 | 42.1\% | 107,343 | 52.5\% | 0.1 | 1.2 | -1.1 |
| Cadillac | 906 | 16.5\% | 94,796 | 11.4\% | 0.7 | 1.0 | -0.3 |
| Chevrolet | 5,366 | 17.1\% | 941,918 | 15.0\% | 4.2 | 10.2 | -6.0 |
| Chry Dodge Jeep Ram | 4,413 | -17.9\% | 726,879 | -19.4\% | 3.4 | 7.9 | -4.5 |
| Chrysler | 274 | 37.0\% | 38,229 | 12.3\% | 0.2 | 0.4 | -0.2 |
| Dodge | 573 | -9.5\% | 85,357 | -7.8\% | 0.4 | 0.9 | -0.5 |
| Jeep | 2,272 | -19.5\% | 374,790 | -22.7\% | 1.8 | 4.1 | -2.3 |
| Ram | 1,294 | -24.7\% | 228,503 | -21.2\% | 1.0 | 2.5 | -1.5 |
| Ford | 7,780 | 0.6\% | 938,445 | -0.9\% | 6.0 | 10.2 | -4.2 |
| Genesis | 819 | 3.9\% | 42,095 | 12.7\% | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| GMC | 1,853 | 7.6\% | 354,113 | 7.4\% | 1.4 | 3.8 | -2.4 |
| Honda | 10,501 | 46.3\% | 802,428 | 26.2\% | 8.2 | 8.7 | -0.5 |
| Hyundai | 5,922 | -1.6\% | 510,438 | 1.8\% | 4.6 | 5.5 | -0.9 |
| Infiniti | 404 | 19.5\% | 41,059 | 37.0\% | 0.3 | 0.4 | -0.1 |
| Jaguar | 64 | -42.3\% | 5,130 | -14.5\% | 0.0 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| Kia | 5,196 | 9.5\% | 536,600 | 15.0\% | 4.0 | 5.8 | -1.8 |
| Land Rover | 1,208 | 39.5\% | 48,426 | 36.9\% | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.4 |
| Lexus | 4,455 | 7.5\% | 200,559 | 6.5\% | 3.5 | 2.2 | 1.3 |
| Lincoln | 314 | -8.7\% | 51,866 | -9.1\% | 0.2 | 0.6 | -0.4 |
| Maserati | 122 | -8.3\% | 4,420 | -8.5\% | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Mazda | 3,260 | 0.6\% | 233,442 | 16.9\% | 2.5 | 2.5 | 0.0 |
| Mercedes | 7,128 | 0.9\% | 198,197 | -3.5\% | 5.5 | 2.1 | 3.4 |
| MINI | 316 | -17.7\% | 21,406 | 10.7\% | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Mitsubishi | 157 | -8.7\% | 57,637 | -4.6\% | 0.1 | 0.6 | -0.5 |
| Nissan | 4,087 | 4.1\% | 454,494 | 9.8\% | 3.2 | 4.9 | -1.7 |
| Polestar | 50 | -76.7\% | 1,951 | -67.0\% | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Porsche | 1,552 | 1.4\% | 46,688 | 6.1\% | 1.2 | 0.5 | 0.7 |
| Rivian | 989 | 126.8\% | 23,102 | 211.6\% | 0.8 | 0.3 | 0.5 |
| Subaru | 3,619 | -8.0\% | 421,152 | 9.7\% | 2.8 | 4.6 | -1.8 |
| Tesla | 25,179 | 53.3\% | 470,554 | 50.9\% | 19.6 | 5.1 | 14.5 |
| Toyota | 18,506 | 1.9\% | 1,159,904 | -0.5\% | 14.4 | 12.6 | 1.8 |
| Volkswagen | 2,589 | 3.8\% | 193,350 | -6.6\% | 2.0 | 2.1 | -0.1 |
| Volvo | 904 | 3.4\% | 74,540 | 11.3\% | 0.7 | 0.8 | -0.1 |
| Other | 666 | 36.2\% | 14,711 | 25.6\% | 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 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Third Quarter |  |  | YTD thru September |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { YTD } \\ \text { Market Share (\%) } \end{gathered}$ |  |  |
|  | 2022 | 2023 | \% chg. | YTD '22 | YTD '23 | \% chg. | YTD '22 | YTD '23 | Chg. |
| MARKET SUMMARY |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TOTAL | 36,227 | 43,078 | 18.9\% | 113,584 | 128,657 | 13.3\% |  |  |  |
| Cars | 11,127 | 13,488 | 21.2\% | 34,901 | 38,521 | 10.4\% | 30.7 | 29.9 | -0.8 |
| Light Trucks | 25,100 | 29,590 | 17.9\% | 78,683 | 90,136 | 14.6\% | 69.3 | 70.1 | 0.8 |
| Domestic | 12,348 | 15,301 | 23.9\% | 37,602 | 47,229 | 25.6\% | 33.1 | 36.7 | 3.6 |
| European | 7,435 | 7,494 | 0.8\% | 22,479 | 23,509 | 4.6\% | 19.8 | 18.3 | -1.5 |
| Japanese | 12,203 | 16,056 | 31.6\% | 41,949 | 45,954 | 9.5\% | 36.9 | 35.7 | -1.2 |
| Korean | 4,241 | 4,227 | -0.3\% | 11,554 | 11,965 | 3.6\% | 10.2 | 9.3 | -0.9 |
| BRAND REGISTRATIONS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Acura | 216 | 302 | 39.8\% | 865 | 965 | 11.6\% | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.0 |
| Alfa Romeo | 39 | 28 | -28.2\% | 120 | 87 | -27.5\% | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Audi | 1,031 | 1,194 | 15.8\% | 2,987 | 3,567 | 19.4\% | 2.6 | 2.8 | 0.2 |
| BMW | 1,731 | 1,641 | -5.2\% | 5,284 | 5,524 | 4.5\% | 4.7 | 4.3 | -0.4 |
| Buick | 43 | 69 | 60.5\% | 133 | 189 | 42.1\% | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Cadillac | 281 | 344 | 22.4\% | 778 | 906 | 16.5\% | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.0 |
| Chevrolet | 1,715 | 1,785 | 4.1\% | 4,584 | 5,366 | 17.1\% | 4.0 | 4.2 | 0.2 |
| C/D/J/R | 1,745 | 1,388 | -20.5\% | 5,372 | 4,413 | -17.9\% | 4.7 | 3.4 | -1.3 |
| Chrysler | 39 | 92 | 135.9\% | 200 | 274 | 37.0\% | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Dodge | 217 | 203 | -6.5\% | 633 | 573 | -9.5\% | 0.6 | 0.4 | -0.2 |
| Jeep | 959 | 688 | -28.3\% | 2,821 | 2,272 | -19.5\% | 2.5 | 1.8 | -0.7 |
| Ram | 530 | 405 | -23.6\% | 1,718 | 1,294 | -24.7\% | 1.5 | 1.0 | -0.5 |
| Ford | 2,435 | 2,316 | -4.9\% | 7,735 | 7,780 | 0.6\% | 6.8 | 6.0 | -0.8 |
| Genesis | 327 | 260 | -20.5\% | 788 | 819 | 3.9\% | 0.7 | 0.6 | -0.1 |
| GMC | 582 | 653 | 12.2\% | 1,722 | 1,853 | 7.6\% | 1.5 | 1.4 | -0.1 |
| Honda | 1,723 | 3,668 | 112.9\% | 7,176 | 10,501 | 46.3\% | 6.3 | 8.2 | 1.9 |
| Hyundai | 2,132 | 1,987 | -6.8\% | 6,021 | 5,922 | -1.6\% | 5.3 | 4.6 | -0.7 |
| Infiniti | 76 | 133 | 75.0\% | 338 | 404 | 19.5\% | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| Jaguar | 26 | 12 | -53.8\% | 111 | 64 | -42.3\% | 0.1 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| Kia | 1,782 | 1,976 | 10.9\% | 4,745 | 5,196 | 9.5\% | 4.2 | 4.0 | -0.2 |
| Land Rover | 245 | 369 | 50.6\% | 866 | 1,208 | 39.5\% | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.1 |
| Lexus | 1,345 | 1,573 | 17.0\% | 4,146 | 4,455 | 7.5\% | 3.7 | 3.5 | -0.2 |
| Lincoln | 121 | 79 | -34.7\% | 344 | 314 | -8.7\% | 0.3 | 0.2 | -0.1 |
| Maserati | 42 | 50 | 19.0\% | 133 | 122 | -8.3\% | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Mazda | 856 | 1,097 | 28.2\% | 3,241 | 3,260 | 0.6\% | 2.9 | 2.5 | -0.4 |
| Mercedes | 2,398 | 2,206 | -8.0\% | 7,064 | 7,128 | 0.9\% | 6.2 | 5.5 | -0.7 |
| MINI | 154 | 104 | -32.5\% | 384 | 316 | -17.7\% | 0.3 | 0.2 | -0.1 |
| Mitsubishi | 34 | 54 | 58.8\% | 172 | 157 | -8.7\% | 0.2 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| Nissan | 1,050 | 1,365 | 30.0\% | 3,925 | 4,087 | 4.1\% | 3.5 | 3.2 | -0.3 |
| Polestar | 50 | 14 | -72.0\% | 215 | 50 | -76.7\% | 0.2 | 0.0 | -0.2 |
| Porsche | 457 | 533 | 16.6\% | 1,530 | 1,552 | 1.4\% | 1.3 | 1.2 | -0.1 |
| Rivian | 143 | 458 | 220.3\% | 436 | 989 | 126.8\% | 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.4 |
| Subaru | 1,322 | 1,204 | -8.9\% | 3,933 | 3,619 | -8.0\% | 3.5 | 2.8 | -0.7 |
| Tesla | 5,254 | 8,120 | 54.5\% | 16,425 | 25,179 | 53.3\% | 14.5 | 19.6 | 5.1 |
| Toyota | 5,581 | 6,660 | 19.3\% | 18,153 | 18,506 | 1.9\% | 16.0 | 14.4 | -1.6 |
| Volkswagen | 900 | 892 | -0.9\% | 2,495 | 2,589 | 3.8\% | 2.2 | 2.0 | -0.2 |
| Volvo | 227 | 310 | 36.6\% | 874 | 904 | 3.4\% | 0.8 | 0.7 | -0.1 |
| Other | 164 | 234 | 42.7\% | 489 | 666 | 36.2\% | 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.
Phone: 610-640-1233 EMail: jfoltz@autooutlook.com
Any material quoted must be attributed to Orange County Auto Outlook, published by Auto Outlook, Inc. on behalf of the Orange County Automobile Dealers Association. Unforeseen events may affect the forecast projections in Orange County Auto Outlook. Consequently, Auto Outlook, Inc. is not responsible for management decisions based on the content of the publication.

## 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.

Orange County Auto Outlook is distributed free of charge to members of the Orange County Automobile Dealers Association. The publication is sponsored and supported by the Association. Orange County Auto Outlook is published and edited by Auto Outlook, Inc., an independent automotive market analysis firm. Opinions expressed are solely those of Auto Outlook, Inc., and are not necessarily shared by the Association.

Copyright Auto Outlook, Inc., October, 2023


[^0]:    Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

