## FORECAST

## New Vehicle Market Predicted to Decline Slightly in 2020

Below is a summary of seven key trends and developments in the Orange County new vehicle market.

County new retail light vehicle registrations exceeded 170,000 units in 2019
The new vehicle market fell by $4.2 \%$ last year. Despite the decline, 2019 marked the seventh consecutive year that new registrations exceeded 160,000 units, which is a very respectable total for the County market.

## New vehicle sales likely to soften in 2020

The gradual market slowdown that has been ongoing for the past three years should extend into 2020. Affordability is currently the biggest drag on new vehicle sales. Vehicle prices are increasing, interest rates are likely to hold steady, and household incomes are struggling to keep pace.

Trucks grab a larger share of county market Light truck market share increased from $37.2 \%$ in 2012 to $55.7 \%$ in 2019.

## Alternative powertrain market improves

County registrations of hybrid and electric cars and trucks increased $6 \%$ during the first 11 months of 2019, while the overall market was down for the entire year.

Toyota, Honda, Mercedes, and Ford are leaders in county market
Toyota was the best selling brand last year, with a $17.1 \%$ share. Honda's county share was $14.4 \%$, well above its $10.4 \%$ share in the U.S.

Nine brands had gains in registrations from 2018 to 2019
Registrations increased last year for the following nine brands: Kia, Hyundai, Subaru, BMW, Ram, Porsche, Mercedes, Volkswagen, and Volvo.

Non Luxury SUVs account for 29\% of market Market share for Non Luxury SUVs increased to $29 \%$ last year. Small Car market share has fallen by more than seven points during the past three years.

## Percent Change in County Light Truck and Car Registrations 2019 vs. 2018

Light Trucks (Pickups, SUVs, and Vans)
 Passenger Cars


DOWN
9.4\%

Source: AutoCount data from Experian.


## County New Vehicle Market Stabilizes at End of 2019

The graph to the right provides a clear picture of the general trending direction of the Orange County new retail light vehicle market. The graph shows the year-over-year percent change in the three month moving average of new retail light vehicle registrations. The three month moving average provides a clearer picture of the trending direction than individual monthly registrations, which can fluctuate due to such factors as the timing of manufacturer incentive programs, weather, and vehicle title processing delays by governmental agencies.

## Percent Change in Orange County New Retail Light Vehicle Registrations Three Month Moving Average versus Year Earlier



## MARKET TRACKER: QUARTERLY PERSPECTIVE

## 4Q ‘19 Total Trails 5 Year Average

QUARTERLY PERSPECTIVE
4Q 2019 Registrations Versus Average for Previous Five Years


Quarterly new retail light vehicle registrations


## Details on Data

Data presented measures new vehicles registered to purchasers (or lessees) residing in Orange County. Monthly recording of registrations occurs when vehicle title is processed.

Data Source: AutoCount Data from Experian.

60,000

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## MARKET TRACKER: HYBRID AND ELECTRIC VEHICLES

## Orange County Hybrid/Electric Vehicle Share Above U.S.




Hybrid/electric vehicle market share, YTD '19 thru Nov.

Orange County: 15.7\%
U.S. : 5.4\%

The graph above shows hybrid powertrain and electric vehicle quarterly market share in the county. *Fourth Quarter 2019 includes October and November. Source: IHS.

MARKET TRACKER: THREE YEAR CHANGE IN SEGMENT SHARES
Non Luxury SUV Market Share Increases to 29\% Over Last Four Years


Data Source: AutoCount data from Experian.

The two graphs above show market shares for primary segments during 2016 and 2019.

## BRAND SCOREBOARD

## Registrations Increased for Nine Brands in 2019

The graph below presents a comprehensive picture of brands that are gaining (or losing) ground in the county market. It shows both the unit and percent change in registrations from 2018 to 2019. Viewing both measures on the same graph provides a more clearcut signal on how each brand is doing.


## Nine brands posted increases:

| Kia | Porsche |
| :---: | :---: |
| Hyundai | Mercedes |
| Subaru | Volkswagen |
| BMW | Volvo |

Change in New Retail Light Vehicle Registrations (2019 vs. 2018)


# Three Key Factors Impacting New Vehicle Sales 

| Factor | The numbers... | $\qquad$ | What it means for new vehicle sales... |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| GDP <br> Growth | \% Change in GDP vs. Previous Period | GDP growth has remained positive for each of the past 22 quarters, but the pace of growth is predicted to ease in 2020. | Growth will not likely be strong enough to push new vehicle sales higher |
| Pent-Up <br> Demand | U.S. New Vehicle Sales | Sales have exceeded trend levels for the past few years and are due for a mild slowdown. | The release of pent up demand during the sales recovery will likely prohibit further increases |

## Consumer Debt



Debt service as a percent disposable income has remained below 10\% in each of the past nine quarters, although debt levels have increased.


Consumer debt would appear to be at manageable levels, but are rising

LONG TERM TRENDS

## Registrations Likely to Exceed 165K for 7th Straight Year in 2020

The two graphs below provide a long term perspective of trends in the Orange County new retail light vehicle market. The first graph shows historical registrations from 2008 thru 2019, along with Auto Outlook's forecast for 2020. The second graph shows light truck share of the overall light vehicle market.

County New Retail Light Vehicle Registrations - 2008 thru 2019, 2020 Forecast



County market improved 100\% between '09 and '15, and remained above average in the ensuing four years. Small decline is predicted in '20, with annual total exceeding 165,000 units

Historical Data Source: AutoCount data from Experian.

County New Retail Light Truck Market Share - 2008 thru 2019



Light truck market share increased steadily from $\mathbf{3 7 . 2 \%}$ in 2012 to 55.7\% last year.

COMPARISON OF ORANGE COUNTY AND U.S. MARKETS
Orange County and U.S. Markets Post Similar Results in 2019

| \% change in registrations | Orange County Retail Market | U.S. Retail Market |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 9}$ vs. $\mathbf{2 0 1 8}$ | $-4.2 \%$ | $-3.3 \%$ |
| Car share of industry retail light vehicle market <br> $\mathbf{2 0 1 9}$ | $44.3 \%$ | $27.8 \%$ |
| Domestic brand share of industry retail light vehicle market <br> $\mathbf{2 0 1 9}$ | $23.4 \%$ | $41.2 \%$ |


| Brand | New Retail Registrations - 2019 Annual Totals |  |  |  | Market Share (2019) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Orange County |  | U.S. |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | \% ch. vs. |  | \% ch. vs. | Orange |  |  |
|  | Regs. | 2018 | Regs. | 2018 | County | U.S. | Variance |
| Acura | 2,233 | -14.9\% | 148,827 | -1.4\% | 1.3 | 1.1 | 0.2 |
| Alfa Romeo | 248 | -58.5\% | 17,144 | -25.0\% | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Audi | 4,011 | -9.6\% | 194,134 | -1.6\% | 2.4 | 1.4 | 1.0 |
| BMW | 7,155 | 2.3\% | 303,900 | 9.8\% | 4.2 | 2.2 | 2.0 |
| Buick | 399 | -38.4\% | 179,789 | -0.9\% | 0.2 | 1.3 | -1.1 |
| Cadillac | 754 | -4.2\% | 122,055 | 1.3\% | 0.4 | 0.9 | -0.5 |
| Chevrolet | 7,846 | -20.3\% | 1,479,464 | -4.4\% | 4.6 | 10.9 | -6.3 |
| Chry Dodge Jeep Ram | 9,181 | -5.0\% | 1,565,064 | -6.6\% | 5.4 | 11.5 | -6.1 |
| Chrysler | 499 | -39.5\% | 80,284 | -29.5\% | 0.3 | 0.6 | -0.3 |
| Dodge | 1,507 | -7.8\% | 212,789 | -16.9\% | 0.9 | 1.6 | -0.7 |
| Jeep | 5,242 | -3.6\% | 774,210 | -8.9\% | 3.1 | 5.7 | -2.6 |
| Ram | 1,933 | 9.1\% | 497,781 | 9.1\% | 1.1 | 3.7 | -2.6 |
| Fiat | 71 | -75.4\% | 8,880 | -41.3\% | 0.0 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| Ford | 9,704 | -12.6\% | 1,511,614 | -7.4\% | 5.7 | 11.1 | -5.4 |
| GMC | 1,633 | -20.5\% | 464,036 | -0.7\% | 1.0 | 3.4 | -2.4 |
| Honda | 24,571 | -2.1\% | 1,410,125 | -0.4\% | 14.4 | 10.4 | 4.0 |
| Hyundai | 8,417 | 3.3\% | 533,907 | 2.2\% | 4.9 | 3.9 | 1.0 |
| Infiniti | 1,747 | -23.6\% | 86,168 | -24.3\% | 1.0 | 0.6 | 0.4 |
| Jaguar | 567 | -6.7\% | 23,644 | -2.8\% | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Kia | 4,753 | 10.8\% | 517,724 | 7.3\% | 2.8 | 3.8 | -1.0 |
| Land Rover | 2,129 | -8.9\% | 78,781 | -3.0\% | 1.2 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| Lexus | 7,633 | -2.5\% | 274,829 | -1.7\% | 4.5 | 2.0 | 2.5 |
| Lincoln | 673 | -7.7\% | 94,257 | 3.7\% | 0.4 | 0.7 | -0.3 |
| Maserati | 185 | -58.9\% | 6,878 | -31.9\% | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Mazda | 5,282 | -4.6\% | 251,603 | -5.1\% | 3.1 | 1.9 | 1.2 |
| Mercedes | 10,679 | 1.1\% | 301,675 | 0.3\% | 6.3 | 2.2 | 4.1 |
| MINI | 496 | -22.9\% | 31,276 | -18.9\% | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Mitsubishi | 709 | -20.2\% | 81,567 | -11.3\% | 0.4 | 0.6 | -0.2 |
| Nissan | 6,434 | -8.4\% | 772,662 | -13.6\% | 3.8 | 5.7 | -1.9 |
| Porsche | 1,952 | 8.7\% | 56,344 | 9.2\% | 1.1 | 0.4 | 0.7 |
| Subaru | 6,332 | 3.9\% | 640,361 | 1.7\% | 3.7 | 4.7 | -1.0 |
| Toyota | 29,226 | -5.4\% | 1,817,556 | -3.5\% | 17.1 | 13.4 | 3.7 |
| Volkswagen | 4,165 | 2.8\% | 308,818 | -0.8\% | 2.4 | 2.3 | 0.1 |
| Volvo | 1,184 | 2.1\% | 92,200 | 5.4\% | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.0 |
| Other | 10,201 | 17.8\% | 216,496 | 16.9\% | 6.0 | 1.6 | 4.4 |

The two tables above provide a comparison of the Orange County and U.S. new retail light vehicle markets.
Data Source: AutoCount data from Experian. Note: some time periods for U.S. data were estimated due to incomplete reporting by some states.

| Orange County New Retail Car and Light Truck Registrations |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | December |  |  | Annual Totals |  |  | Annual Market Share |  |  |
|  | Orange County |  |  | Orange County |  |  | Orange County |  |  |
|  | 2018 | 2019 | \% chg. | 2018 | 2019 | \% chg. | 2018 | 2019 | Chg. |
| MARKET SUMMARY |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TOTAL | 14,964 | 14,880 | -0.6\% | 178,132 | 170,570 | -4.2\% | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Cars | 6,538 | 5,894 | -9.9\% | 83,452 | 75,567 | -9.4\% | 46.8 | 44.3 | -2.5 |
| Light Trucks | 8,426 | 8,986 | 6.6\% | 94,680 | 95,003 | 0.3\% | 53.2 | 55.7 | 2.5 |
| Domestic | 3,859 | 3,051 | -20.9\% | 43,104 | 39,893 | -7.4\% | 24.2 | 23.4 | -0.8 |
| European | 2,917 | 3,306 | 13.3\% | 34,318 | 33,340 | -2.8\% | 19.3 | 19.5 | 0.3 |
| Japanese | 6,896 | 7,212 | 4.6\% | 88,271 | 84,167 | -4.6\% | 49.6 | 49.3 | -0.2 |
| Korean | 1,292 | 1,311 | 1.5\% | 12,439 | 13,170 | 5.9\% | 7.0 | 7.7 | 0.7 |
| BRAND REGISTRATIONS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Acura | 186 | 181 | -2.7\% | 2,625 | 2,233 | -14.9\% | 1.5 | 1.3 | -0.2 |
| Alfa Romeo | 60 | 12 | -80.0\% | 598 | 248 | -58.5\% | 0.3 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
| Audi | 388 | 377 | -2.8\% | 4,436 | 4,011 | -9.6\% | 2.5 | 2.4 | -0.1 |
| BMW | 568 | 686 | 20.8\% | 6,992 | 7,155 | 2.3\% | 3.9 | 4.2 | 0.3 |
| Buick | 69 | 33 | -52.2\% | 648 | 399 | -38.4\% | 0.4 | 0.2 | -0.2 |
| Cadillac | 92 | 77 | -16.3\% | 787 | 754 | -4.2\% | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| Chevrolet | 852 | 668 | -21.6\% | 9,850 | 7,846 | -20.3\% | 5.5 | 4.6 | -0.9 |
| C/D/J/R | 785 | 767 | -2.3\% | 9,669 | 9,181 | -5.0\% | 5.4 | 5.4 | 0.0 |
| Chrysler | 72 | 25 | -65.3\% | 825 | 499 | -39.5\% | 0.5 | 0.3 | -0.2 |
| Dodge | 123 | 117 | -4.9\% | 1,634 | 1,507 | -7.8\% | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.0 |
| Jeep | 401 | 416 | 3.7\% | 5,439 | 5,242 | -3.6\% | 3.1 | 3.1 | 0.0 |
| Ram | 189 | 209 | 10.6\% | 1,771 | 1,933 | 9.1\% | 1.0 | 1.1 | 0.1 |
| Fiat | 28 | 3 | -89.3\% | 289 | 71 | -75.4\% | 0.2 | 0.0 | -0.2 |
| Ford | 901 | 853 | -5.3\% | 11,103 | 9,704 | -12.6\% | 6.2 | 5.7 | -0.5 |
| GMC | 182 | 151 | -17.0\% | 2,053 | 1,633 | -20.5\% | 1.2 | 1.0 | -0.2 |
| Honda | 1,791 | 2,000 | 11.7\% | 25,093 | 24,571 | -2.1\% | 14.1 | 14.4 | 0.3 |
| Hyundai | 956 | 908 | -5.0\% | 8,148 | 8,417 | 3.3\% | 4.6 | 4.9 | 0.3 |
| Infiniti | 203 | 158 | -22.2\% | 2,286 | 1,747 | -23.6\% | 1.3 | 1.0 | -0.3 |
| Jaguar | 56 | 64 | 14.3\% | 608 | 567 | -6.7\% | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| Kia | 336 | 403 | 19.9\% | 4,291 | 4,753 | 10.8\% | 2.4 | 2.8 | 0.4 |
| Land Rover | 251 | 202 | -19.5\% | 2,337 | 2,129 | -8.9\% | 1.3 | 1.2 | -0.1 |
| Lexus | 813 | 753 | -7.4\% | 7,828 | 7,633 | -2.5\% | 4.4 | 4.5 | 0.1 |
| Lincoln | 81 | 60 | -25.9\% | 729 | 673 | -7.7\% | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| Maserati | 30 | 15 | -50.0\% | 450 | 185 | -58.9\% | 0.3 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
| Mazda | 414 | 469 | 13.3\% | 5,539 | 5,282 | -4.6\% | 3.1 | 3.1 | 0.0 |
| Mercedes | 890 | 1,266 | 42.2\% | 10,564 | 10,679 | 1.1\% | 5.9 | 6.3 | 0.4 |
| MINI | 51 | 39 | -23.5\% | 643 | 496 | -22.9\% | 0.4 | 0.3 | -0.1 |
| Mitsubishi | 68 | 35 | -48.5\% | 889 | 709 | -20.2\% | 0.5 | 0.4 | -0.1 |
| Nissan | 551 | 501 | -9.1\% | 7,021 | 6,434 | -8.4\% | 3.9 | 3.8 | -0.1 |
| Porsche | 135 | 159 | 17.8\% | 1,795 | 1,952 | 8.7\% | 1.0 | 1.1 | 0.1 |
| smart | 4 | 1 | -75.0\% | 51 | 33 | -35.3\% | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Subaru | 467 | 532 | 13.9\% | 6,095 | 6,332 | 3.9\% | 3.4 | 3.7 | 0.3 |
| Toyota | 2,403 | 2,583 | 7.5\% | 30,895 | 29,226 | -5.4\% | 17.3 | 17.1 | -0.2 |
| Volkswagen | 318 | 335 | 5.3\% | 4,051 | 4,165 | 2.8\% | 2.3 | 2.4 | 0.1 |
| Volvo | 107 | 105 | -1.9\% | 1,160 | 1,184 | 2.1\% | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.0 |
| Other | 928 | 484 | -47.8\% | 8,609 | 10,168 | 18.1\% | 4.8 | 6.0 | 1.2 |

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

## Orange County Auto Outlook

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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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Data Source: AutoCount data from Experian.

