# **Los Angeles Auto Outlook**

**Comprehensive information on the LA County new vehicle market** 

## 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).



up 12.3% vs. '22

Alternative downside: 391,700 up 2.0% 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	YTD '23	% Chg.	Mkt. Share	
	March	March	'22 to '23	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.

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



# **COUNTY MARKET VS. U.S.**

% Change In New Retail Market YTD 2023 thru March vs. 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.

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.

### Los Angeles County New Vehicle Market Dashboard TRACKING ECONOMIC INDICATORS **Total Employment in Los Angeles County** High inflation and rising interest rates have raised some concerns 6.0 Millions that the economy might 5.0 be headed for recession, but at least so far, 4.0 most indicators have remained relatively 3.0 strong. County employ-2.0 ment is slightly below pre-pandemic levels and Feb-20 May-20 Aug-20 Nov-20 Feb-21 May-21 Aug-21 Nov-21 Feb-22 May-22 Aug-22 Nov-22 Feb-23 the unemployment rate was below 6% early this **Monthly Unemployment Rates in Los Angeles County** Average Hourly Earnings for year. GDP growth has re-All Workers in County - Feb. 2023 mained positive in each **FEBRUARY 2022 JANUARY 2023 MARCH 2023** of the past two quarters and county wages are up considerably com-60 pared to year-earlier. **5.8**% 4.9% 5.3% Up \$1.10 vs. year earlier University of 10 year high - 101.4 (Mar. 2018) 10.0 Percent preceding quarter Michigan Change in Consumer 5.0 U.S. Sentiment Gross (U.S.) 12 month high - 67.0 (Feb. 2023) 0.0 Domestic Most recent - 62.0 (Mar. 2023) Product Key -5.0 Values 10 year low - 50.0 (Jun. 2022) ٧s. Change During Chg. vs. previous -10.0 Past 21.1 21.2 21.3 21.4 22.1 22.2 22.3 22.4 quarter 10 Years Quarter

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



# TOP TEN RANKINGS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY MARKET







Honda HR-V 1.9%

Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

# Vehicle Powertrain Dashboard



19.5%

3.5%

9.0% FLAT

### 24.0% Electric (BEV) share 20.0% increased from 5.1% in 1Q YTD Share by Engine Type '19 to 19.5% in 1Q '23. (2022 and 2023, thru March) 16.0% 12.0% YTD '22 YTD '23 8.0% Electric (BEV) 14.8% 4.0% Hybrid 9.0% 0.0% 01 04 01 02 Q2 Q2 02 03 04 Q1 Q3 Q4 Q1 Q3 Q4 01 Plug In Hybrid (PHEV) 2.6% '22 '22 '21 '21 '19 '19 '19 '19 '20 '20 '20 '20 '21 '21 '22 '22 '23 - Plug In Hybrid (PHEV) Electric (BEV)

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

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

32.8%

### YTD 2022 thru March 65.1% Tesla 80.6% 6.5% Chevrolet 0.0% Franchised 4.6% 18.7% Volkswagen 0.9% 3.9% Mercedes 1.2% Direct 3.8% 81.3% Ford ■ YTD '23 □ YTD '22 2.3% 3.0% BMW 0.0% YTD 2023 thru March 2.9% Hyundai 2.4% 1.5% Rivian 0.6% 1.4% Audi Franchised 2.3% 1.2% Kia 3.4% Direct 67.2% 6.2% Others 6.3% 0.0% 100.0% 20.0% 40.0% 60.0% 80.0%

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.

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

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

# **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.



# **Covering Data thru March 2023**

# Los Angeles Auto Outlook

Brand Registrations Report Los Angeles County New Retail Car and Light Truck Registrations												
		Lo	First Q		Light Truck Registrations Annual Totals							
	Registrations			Market Share (%)		Registrations			Market Share (%)			
	10 '22	1Q '23	% change	10 '22	10 '23	Change	2021	2022	% change	2021	2022	Change
TOTAL	99,008	100,759	1.8			0	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
	745	700		0.7		0.1	4.0.44	0.005	07.0	1.0	0.7	0.0
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 -0.3
Audi BMW	2,102	2,462 5 202	17.1 -5.2	2.1	2.4 5.3	0.3 -0.3	11,704	8,737	-25.4 -20.9	2.6 5.4	2.3 5.0	-0.3 -0.4
	5,592	5,303		5.6	5.3 0.2	-0.3 0.1	24,294	19,206	-20.9 -40.4	0.2		
Buick Cadillac	89 627	161 678	80.9 8.1	0.1 0.6	0.2	0.1	835 2,902	498 2,547	-40.4	0.2	0.1 0.7	-0.1 0.0
Chevrolet	3,926	5,186	32.1	4.0	5.1	1.1	2,902	18,487	-12.2	4.9	4.8	-0.1
	133	3,180 165	32.1 24.1	4.0 0.1	0.2	0.1	22,008 876	10,407 607	-30.7	4.9 0.2	4.8 0.2	0.0
Chrysler Dodge	1,026	647	-36.9	1.0	0.2	-0.4	5,822	3,623	-30.7	0.2 1.3	0.2	-0.4
Ford	5,332	5,106	-30.9	5.4	5.1	-0.4	19,616	19,738	0.6	4.4	5.1	-0.4
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	20.0 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 Aut	tomotive. To	p 10 in per	cent change a	re shaded	yellow.						

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Bob Smith, Executive Director

Phone: 213-748-0240 Web: www.glancda.org Published by:

Auto Outlook, Inc. PO Box 390 Exton, PA 19341

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

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