

READING THE METER

A Look Inside A Cleaner, Safer, Smarter Auto Industry.

May 19, 2021

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Forecast Meter

Forecast Summary (Updated 5/5)

2020-2021 Sales, ¹ Extended Sales Forecast ² and Production Forecasts ³		
	U.S. Sales & Forecasts	North American Production
June '20	1,103,791 (-24% YoY)	743,216 (-17% YoY)
July '20	1,227,091 (-12.1% YoY)	1,261,884 (+2.2% YoY)
August '20	1,325,144 (-19.1% YoY)	951,983 (-1.1% YoY)
September '20	1,344,310 (6.4% YoY)	1,395,830 (+2.1% YoY)
October '20	1,345,401 (0.9% YoY)	1,413,207 (+3.7% YoY)
November '20	1,193,180 (-15.4% YoY)	1,260,763 (-6.4% YoY)
December '20	1,608,875 (5.9% YoY)	1,115,542 (+2.8% YoY)
January '21	1,094,689 (-3.6% YoY)	1,175,940 (-14.0% YoY)
February '21	1,180,506 (-5.3% YoY)	1,120,200 (-22.9% YoY)
March '21	1,581,067 (+59.7% YoY)	1,376,904 (31% YoY)
April '21	1,512,186 (+111.4 YoY)	
1 st Quarter '20	3,476,512 (-12.7% YoY)	3,754,533 (-11.7% YoY)
2 nd Quarter '20	2,948,410 (-33.3% YoY)	1,371,420 (-67.6% YoY)
3 rd Quarter '20	3,904,539 (-9.2% YoY)	3,989,982 (-.5% YoY)
4 th Quarter '20	4,159,622 (-2.1% YoY)	3,789,512 (-2.5% YoY)
1 st Quarter '21	3,869,872 (+11.3 YoY)	3,688,512 (-4.7% YoY)
2020 Calendar Year	14,463,935 (-14.7% YoY)	12,905,447 (-23.1%)
2021 Full Year Estimate	16.6 million units (14.5% YoY)	15.8 million units (22.7% YoY)

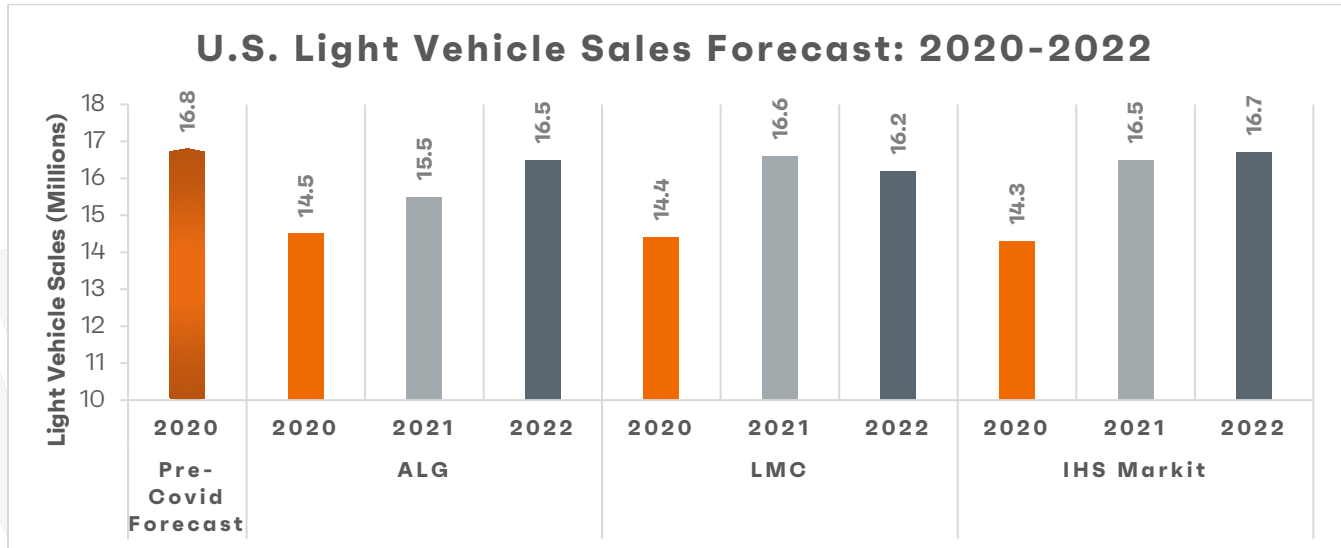
U.S. Light Vehicle Sales Outlook (Updated 5/5)

Wards Intelligence May Outlook⁴: “Current demand is enough to keep sales above an 18 million annualized rate in the short term, but the inventory drain – which is not expected to start improving until Q3 – at some point will drag sales down to much lower levels.

“Normal month-to-month patterns are broken, making it tougher to get a bead on the rest of Q2. Sales likely will start off May continuing March-April demand but how strong they can remain through the end of the month is an open question.

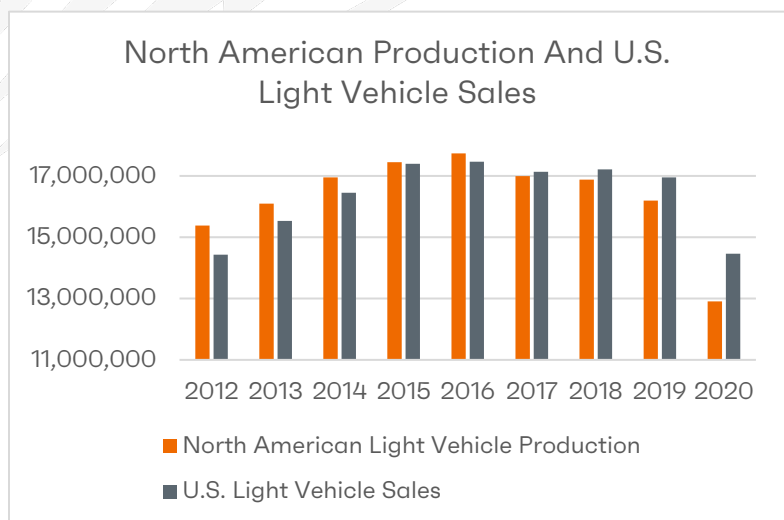
“Theoretically, sales could be as high as beginning-month inventory plus deliveries dealers get during the month. How well dealers can facilitate turnover – getting a customer into a vehicle in stock, including products not their first choice, and turnover vehicles in transit to dealerships – could keep sales at March-April levels. ...

[O]ur initial outlook for May is a SAAR range of 16.3 million to 18 million units. June will decline – perhaps significantly – from May’s results. Sales should start turning upward again in Q3. Wards Intelligence/LMC Automotive is forecasting 2021 light-vehicle sales of 16.6 million units with a strong end-of-year expected. But if the chip shortage continues to worsen, that will put downward pressure on the 2021 forecast.”



North American Production Outlook (Updated 5/19)

IHS Markit MayUpdate: “The outlook for North America light vehicle production was reduced by 267,000 units and increased by 152,000 units for 2021 and 2022, respectively (and increased by 117,000 units for 2023). The production outlook for 2021 was reduced amid the ongoing semiconductor shortage and other supply chain and logistical issues. The quarterly progression for 2021 reflects the first and second quarter as being most impacted by the shortages with the second quarter impact having intensified. While US automakers are communicating plans to recover volume in the second half at select plants with a combination of reduced summer shutdowns and added overtime, the forecast does not represent a full progression given the issues still facing these manufacturers which have been more heavily impacted



in North America compared to their transplant counterparts. Should the situation improve for the US manufacturers at a faster rate over the coming months, the forecast will begin to reflect more vigorous volume recovery efforts. Despite robust demand, production remains constrained further bolstering the outlook for 2022 and 2023. Market conditions support the need for around 1.0 million units of additional inventory to align with the industry norm of a 60 to 65 days' supply of vehicles. Inventory is projected to reach a low point of 1.58 million units or a 28 days' supply in July before beginning to improve, though forecasted to remain under 2.0 million units through the balance of 2021.”⁵

WardsIntelligence Update: “Production losses mostly related to the microchip shortage continue to stack up. North America production of light-vehicles and medium-/heavy-duty trucks is tracking to 199,000 units less in the second quarter than what was projected for the period a month ago in Wards Intelligence’s Production Tracker. It was offset partially by the first quarter finishing higher than expected, but total first-half 2021 output has been reduced 117,000 units from March’s revision. Thanks to the global microchip shortage and a winter-storm-caused reduction in oil produced to make petrochemicals for automotive parts, the short-term production outlook remains shaky. During March, and in the first half of April, scheduled production slowdowns in the second quarter continually grew, creating a sense that the microchip shortage still has more to play out in terms of production stoppages before summer.

“Furthermore, although the messaging remains that most of the supply issues can be smoothed out heading in the second half of the year, there are rumblings that microchip capacity for the automotive industry still will be a problem throughout the remainder of the year. . . .

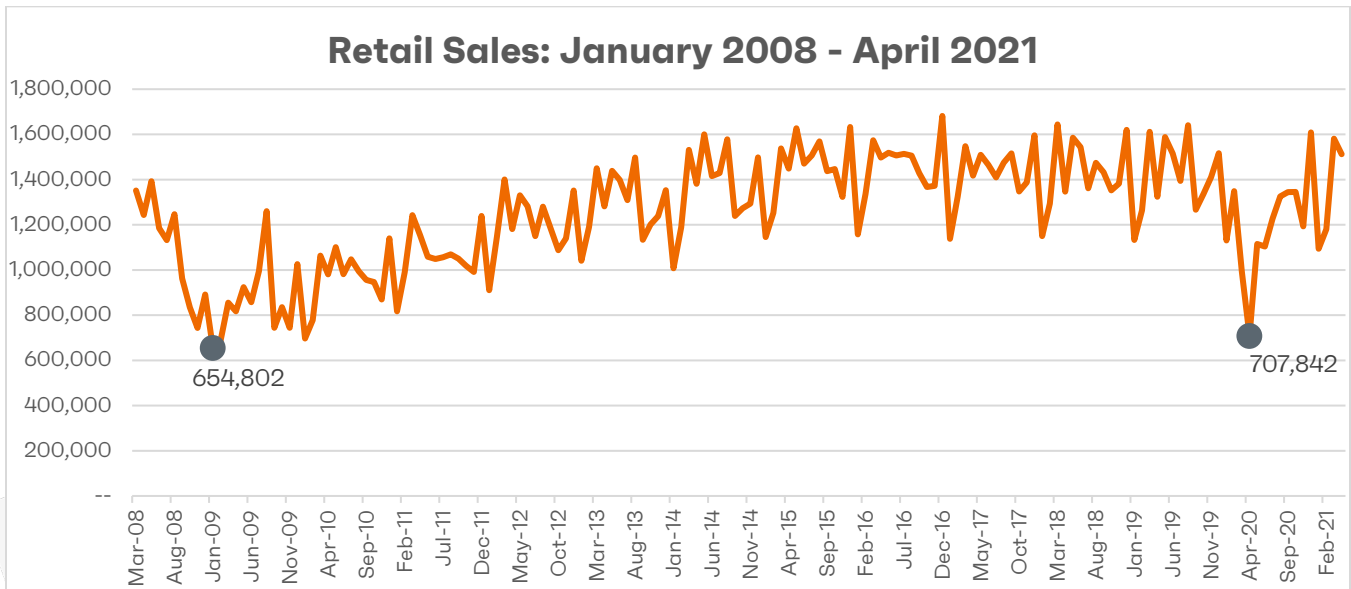
“The second-quarter outlook is 191,000 units below December’s projection for the period. Thus, the estimated total first-half loss stands at 678,000 units. Second-quarter production is pegged at 3.941 million units, 176% above Q2-2020’s pandemic-smacked total of 1.427 million units.”⁶

Market Meter

U.S. Light Vehicle Sales (Updated 5/5)

Monthly Sales (Updated 5/4)

This chart helps to put into context the monthly retail sales due to the COVID pandemic and showing the relative drop in sales compared to the 2008 financial crisis.



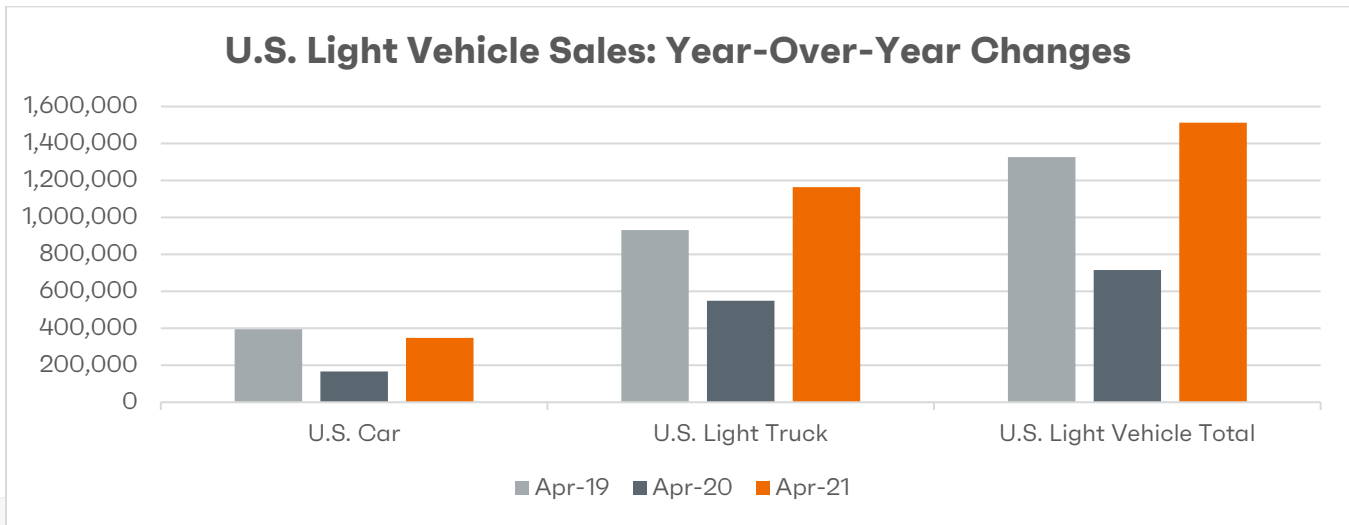
April Sales (Updated 5/5)

WardsIntelligence: “U.S. new-vehicle sales continued to roar in April, even finishing above extremely high expectations for the month, which, given recent history, was not surprising even in the face of the inventory drain the industry has undergone since the beginning of the year.

“April light-vehicle sales totaled an 18.5 million-unit seasonally adjusted annual rate, topping the prior month’s revised 18.0 million and highest for any month since July 2005’s 20.6 million. It more than doubled April 2020’s 8.7 million-unit SAAR, which was the first full month the industry was in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Though there are other reasons, March-April’s combined 18.2 million-unit SAAR was mostly spurred by pent-up demand created from purchases delayed from last year and early-2021 due to uncertainty caused by the pandemic. There also could be a small amount of pull-ahead from consumers who otherwise might have waited to buy fearing the vehicle they want will not be there later because of the ever-worsening depletion of inventory. . . .

“April’s raw sales volume totaled 1.51 million units, good for a daily selling rate of 58,165, 111% above like-2020 – 26 selling days both periods. April’s DSR was the highest for the month since 2000’s 59,813.”⁷



Fleet Sales (Updated 4/7)

Wards Intelligence: “Fleet increased an estimated 88% from April 2020 but was 42% below same-month 2019.

If fleet were at pre-pandemic levels, and enough inventory available, April’s SAAR could have hit 20 million units. In fact, the first four months of 2021 would have been much higher than the 17.3 million-unit SAAR the period totaled.

With the economy expected to keep running on all cylinders as it did in the first quarter when annualized GDP grew 6.4%, increased confidence is boosting signs for more travel, which should lift fleet demand. However, and the trend started months ago, fleet operators will be hard pressed in several cases to get vehicles due to the lack of supply. While the economy continues chugging along, pent-up demand will build up in the fleet sector – upward pressure on overall sales that might continue into 2022.”⁸

Segments vs. Gas Prices (Updated 5/5)

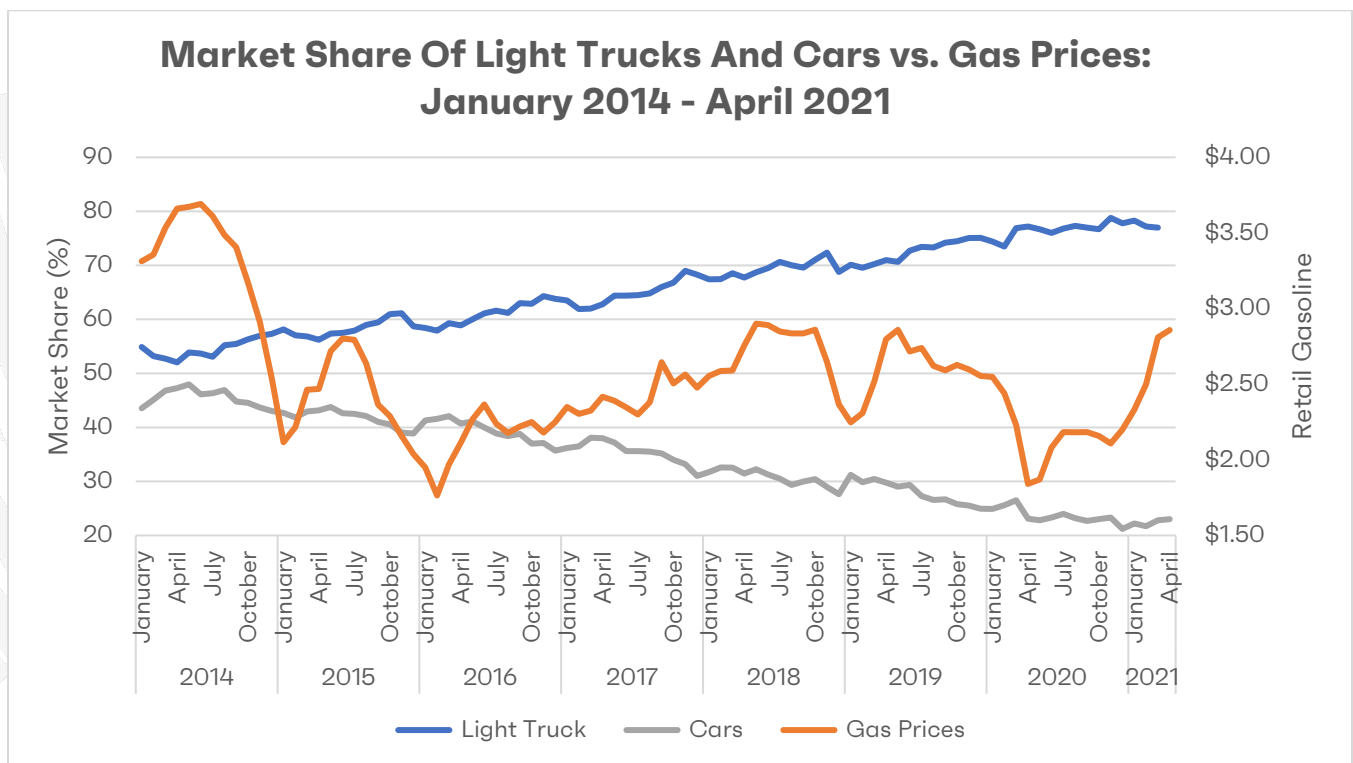
Wards Intelligence: “Although there is anecdotal evidence more consumers, and perhaps some fleet operators, are increasingly opting to take what they can get over what they want, which presumably could be advantageous to cars, penetration in April of the vehicle type declined year-over-year to 23.0% from 23.3%. Car penetration has declined every month since December 2012.

“However, April was the first month since October – prior to then it was March 2020 - any car segment group increased share over the same year-ago period, as market share for Small increased to 9.9% from 9.0%.

“CUV (46.0%) and Van (4.7%) increased share in April over the year-ago month, while SUV (8.9%) and Pickup – 17.4% vs. like-2020’s 25.6% - declined. After increasing market share year-over-year in 27 of

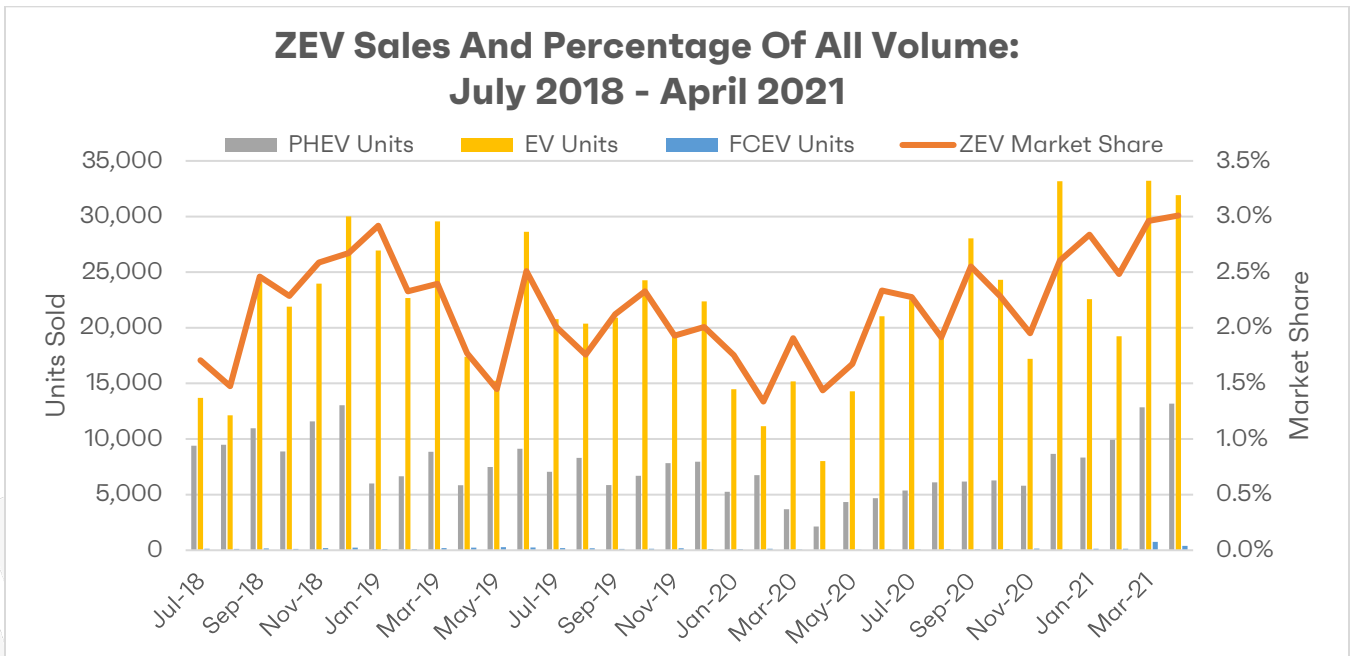
28 months, April was the second straight decline for Pickup. Share of SUV had risen 12 straight months until April. Both also have the leanest inventory relative to demand among all segment groups.”⁹

Historic Perspective: The upward trend in the popularity of light trucks over cars has been steady since 2013, when only 2% of annual market share separated the two segments¹⁰ and gas was over \$3.00¹¹ a gallon. As fuel prices dropped below the \$3.00 mark in mid-September 2014, light truck sales began to take off – and never looked back. Gas prices since have averaged only \$2.68 a gallon (through October 2020) and when combined with increased fuel economy for light trucks, an increase of 4 mpg since 2013, the perfect conditions existed to continue fueling light truck market growth.¹²



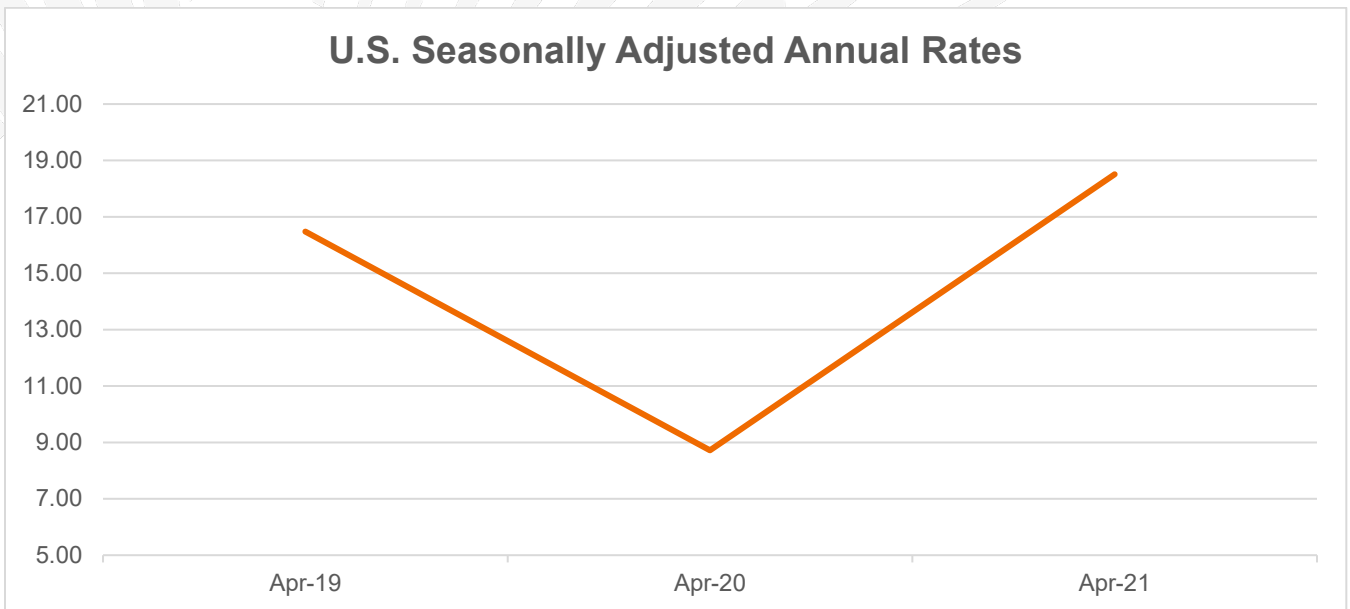
ZEV Powertrain Sales (Updated 5/5)

Sales of zero emission vehicles (BEV, PHEV, & Fuel Cell) accounted for 3% of total vehicle sales in April 2021, up from 1.4% from a year ago and the same as March 2021. Sales of battery electric vehicles led the way for ZEVs, accounting for 2.11% of total sales, up .98% from April 2020. Plug-in hybrids accounted for 0.87%, nearly triple the amount from the same time last year.¹³



Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rates (Updated 5/5)

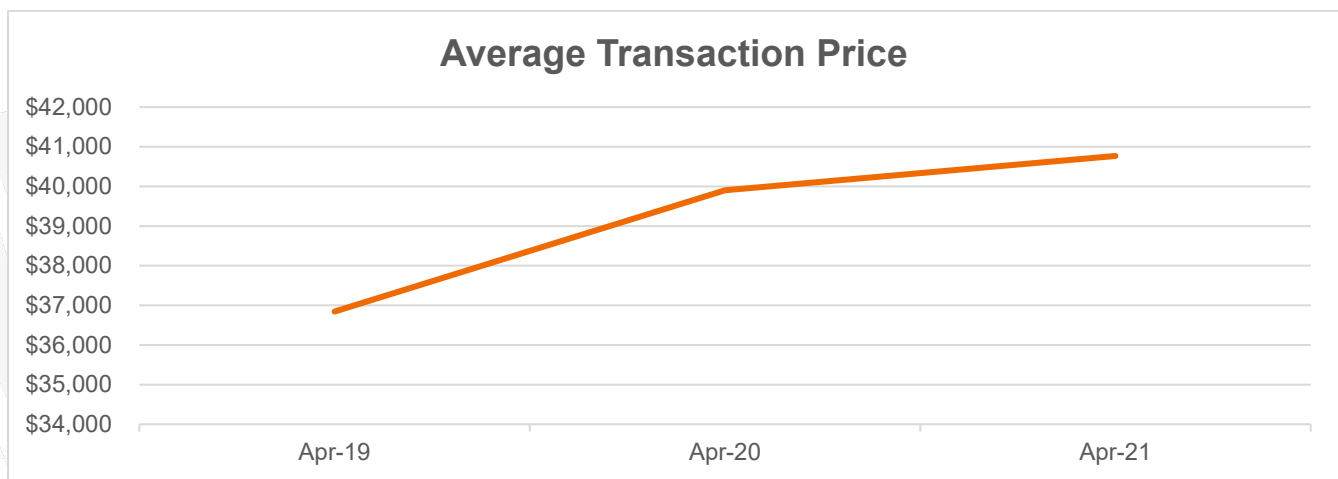
“April light-vehicle sales totaled an 18.5 million-unit seasonally adjusted annual rate, topping the prior month’s revised 18.0 million and highest for any month since July 2005’s 20.6 million. It more than doubled April 2020’s 8.7 million-unit SAAR, which was the first full month the industry was in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic.”¹⁴



Average Transaction Price (Updated 5/19)

Kelley Blue Book: “The estimated average transaction price for a light vehicle in the United States was \$40,768 in April 2021, according to the analysts at Kelley Blue Book. New-vehicle prices increased \$864 (up 2.2%) from April 2020, while increasing \$92 (up 0.23%) from March 2021.”¹⁵

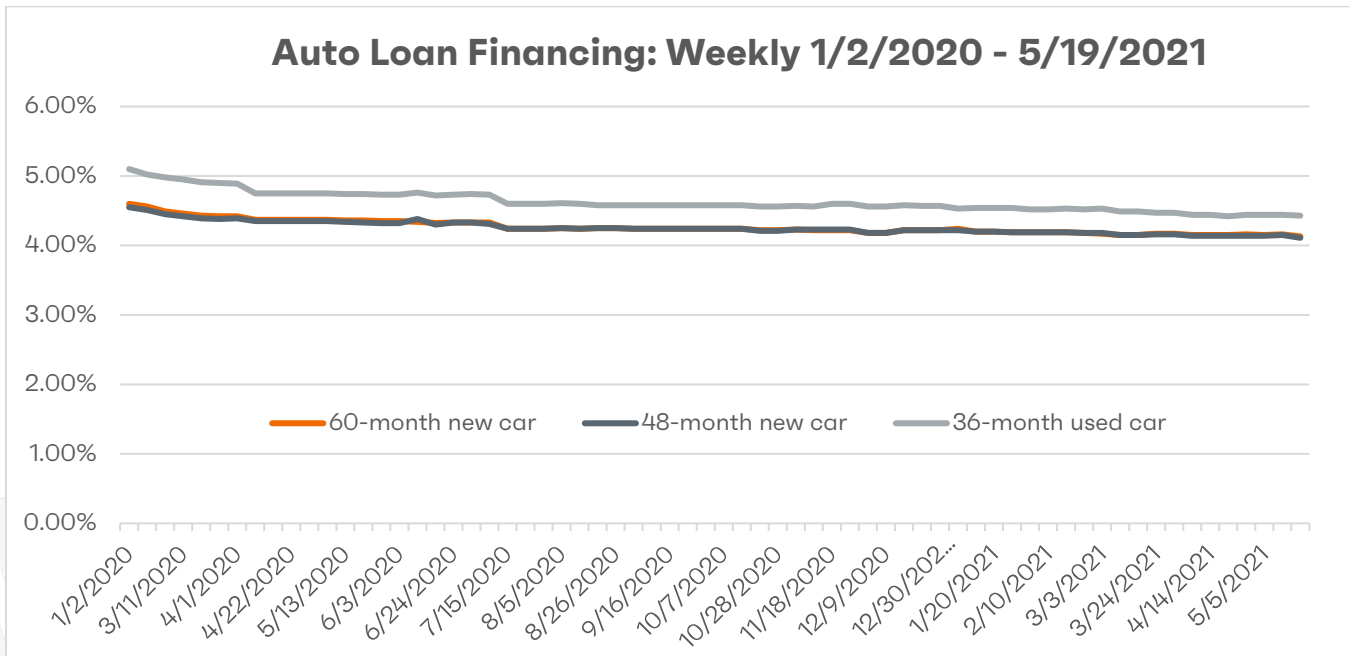
J.D. Power: “Average transaction prices are expected reach another monthly high, rising 6.8% to \$37,572, the highest ever for the month of April and second highest all time on record behind December 2020. For context, average transaction prices are 20% higher in April 2021 than they were in April 2016 at \$31,240.”¹⁶



Auto Loan Financing (Updated 5/19)

Financing Rates Generally Holding Steady: Interest rates for new cars and used cars remained mostly the same. The interest rate for 60 months currently stands at 4.13%, down .03% from last week. Rates moved slightly to 4.43% for a 36-month used car loan. Since the beginning of last year, rates are down 0.47%, but only down 0.23% since the same time a year ago.¹⁷

Dates	60-month new car	48-month new car	36-month used car
5/20/2020	4.36%	4.33%	4.74%
1/2/2020	4.60%	4.55%	5.10%
5/12/2021	4.16%	4.15%	4.44%
5/19/2021	4.13%	4.11%	4.43%
One Week Change	-0.03%	-0.04%	-0.01%
Two Week Change	-0.02%	-0.03%	-0.01%
Change since 1/3/20	-0.47%	-0.44%	-0.67%
One Year Change	-0.23%	-0.22%	-0.31%



Crude Oil and Gas Prices (Updated 5/19)

EIA Outlook For Gasoline: “We expect that gasoline consumption in the United States will average almost 9.0 million b/d this summer (April–September), which is 1.2 million b/d more than last summer but almost 0.6 million b/d less than summer 2019. We increased our summer gasoline consumption forecast by 0.1 million b/d from last month based on weekly data that suggested more gasoline consumption than we had previously forecast. The increase also reflects IHS Markit’s increased employment forecast. For all of 2021, we forecast that U.S. gasoline consumption will average 8.7 million b/d, which is up from 2020 (8.0 million b/d) but down from 2019 (9.3 million b/d).”¹⁸

EIA Outlook For Oil: “Brent crude oil spot prices averaged \$65 per barrel (b) in April, unchanged from the average in March. Brent prices were steady in April as market participants considered diverging trends in global COVID-19 cases. In some regions, notably the United States, oil demand is rising as both COVID-19 vaccination rates and economic activity increase. In other regions, notably India, oil demand is declining because of a sharp rise in COVID-19 cases. EIA forecasts that Brent prices will average \$65/b in the second quarter of 2021, \$61/b during the second half of 2021, and \$61/b in 2022.”¹⁹

Special Statement From EIA On Colonia Pipeline Attack (5/12)²⁰: “Colonial Pipeline, a major delivery system spanning from the U.S. Gulf Coast to the East Coast for transportation fuels and other refined petroleum products, halted operations on Friday, May 7, to contain the effects of a cyberattack. As of Monday, May 10, the pipeline had not resumed operations of its main lines, although some smaller lines are operational. The company announced that it hopes to restore service by the end of the week.

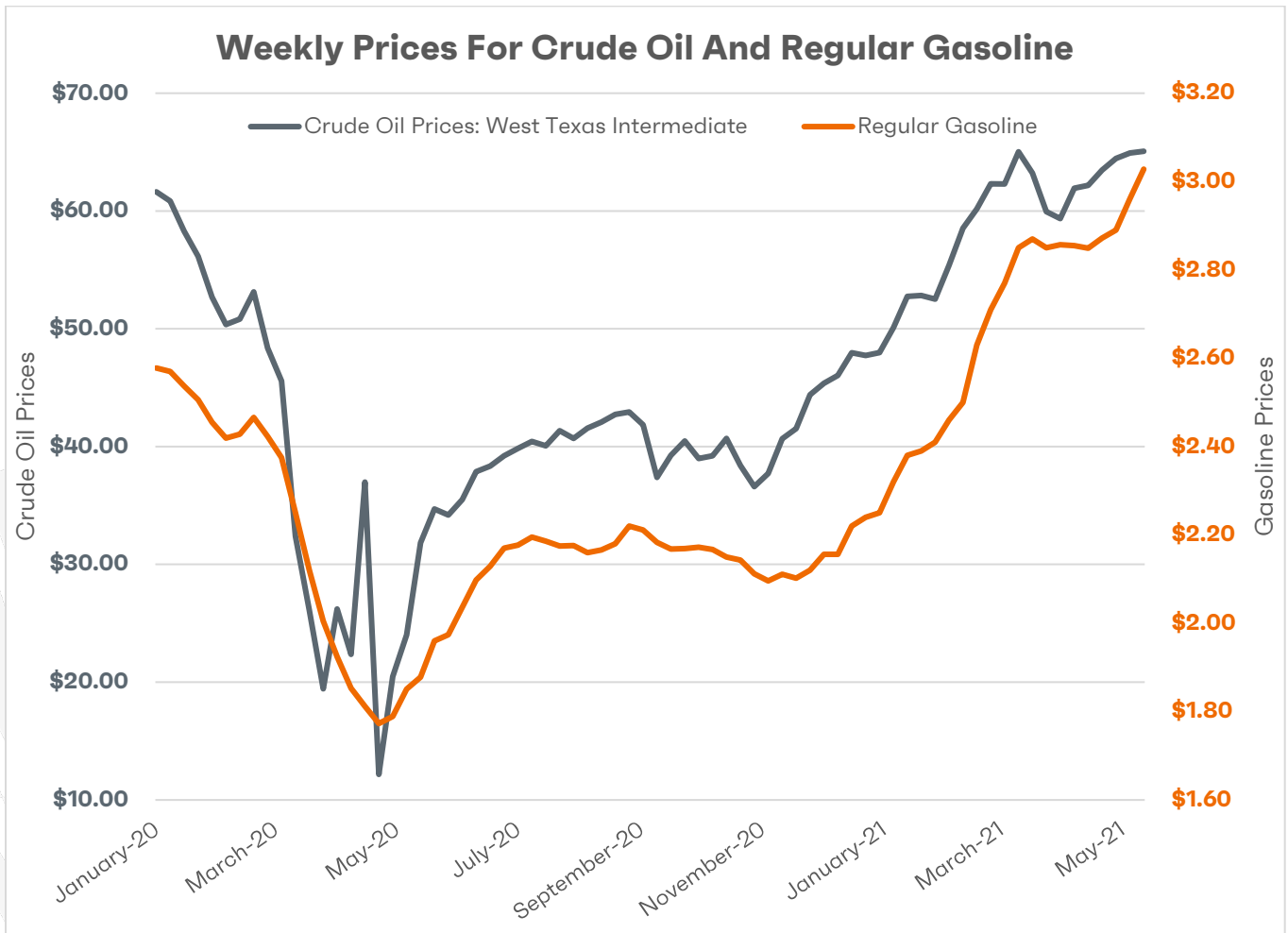
“Colonial Pipeline, a 2.5-million-barrel-per-day (b/d) system of approximately 5,500 miles of pipeline, is a significant mode of shipment for transportation fuels for the East Coast, particularly for several states in the southeastern United States. The pipeline carries refined petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel, heating oil, and jet fuel from Houston, Texas, on the U.S. Gulf Coast up to Linden, New Jersey, and serves several markets along the route through various branch lines. Because no refineries between Alabama and the mid-Atlantic produce substantial quantities of transportation fuels, the southeastern United States is supplied primarily by pipeline flows, and to a lesser degree, with marine shipments from the U.S. Gulf Coast and imports.

“Until Colonial Pipeline resumes operation, petroleum distribution terminals in the Southeast will rely on inventories and on supplies obtained from alternative sources, such as the smaller 720,000 b/d Plantation Pipeline that also carries petroleum products from the U.S. Gulf Coast to as far as Washington, DC.

“Pipeline shipments move at approximately five miles per hour, so some markets may need to rely on inventories for several days after Colonial Pipeline service is restored. Markets along the Atlantic Coast with access to deepwater ports, such as Savannah, Georgia; Charleston, South Carolina; Wilmington, North Carolina; and Norfolk, Virginia, can receive limited imports from the global market and from marine shipments via coastwise compliant shipping originating from the U.S. Gulf Coast. Central Atlantic and Northeast markets can import petroleum products from Europe and Canada, and they can also obtain supplies from in-region refineries.

“Federal and state governments have issued regulatory waivers and notices to loosen restrictions on trucked shipments of petroleum products. As of May 9, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration issued waivers on driving time for truckers delivering refined petroleum products for 17 states and the District of Columbia.”

Gas Prices Continue To Rise: Oil prices, as benchmarked at West Texas Intermediate, rose by \$.15 the week of May 17 to \$65.07 per barrel. Since election day, oil prices have climbed over \$27 a barrel. Gas rose \$.07 this week, topping \$3.00 a gallon for the first time since October 2014. Gas is about 17 percent higher than the beginning of 2020.²¹

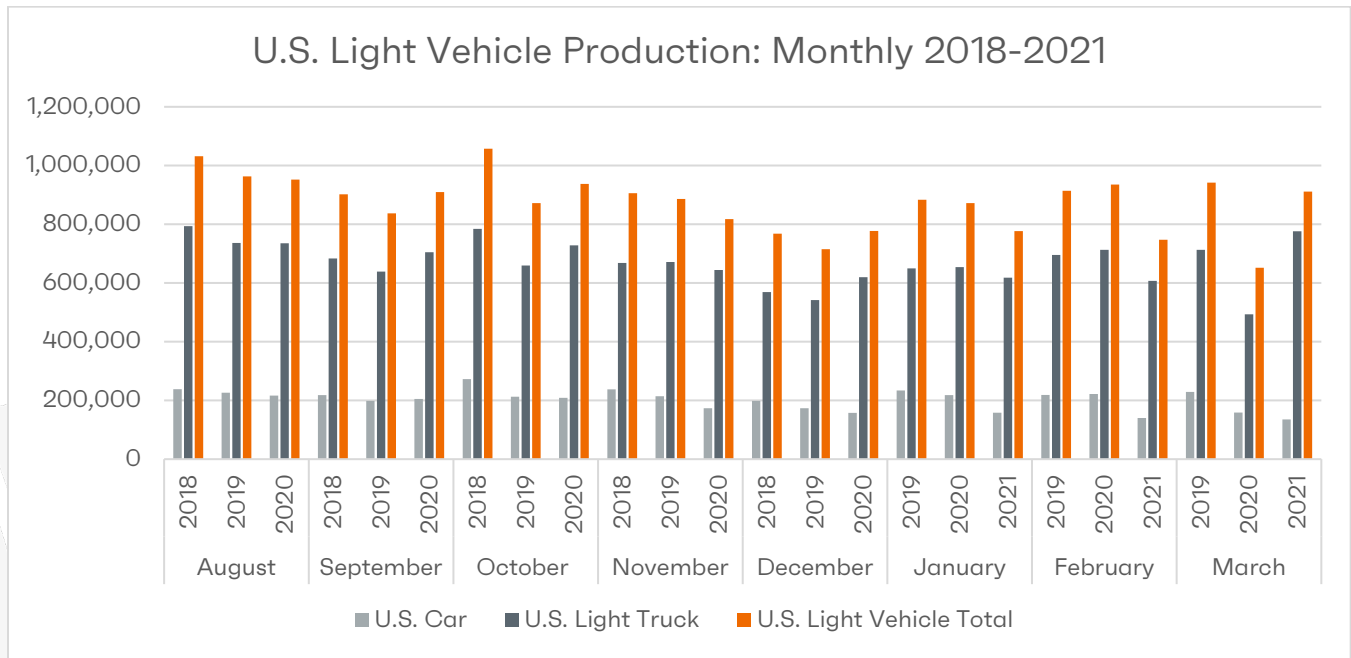


Production Meter

U.S. Light Vehicle Production (Updated 4/21)

WardsIntelligence: “Production losses mostly related to the microchip shortage continue to stack up. . . Production in March, which temporarily includes some estimates for medium-/heavy-duty trucks, totaled 1.377 million units, 31.0% above like-2020’s 1.051 million - the pandemic first impacted North American manufacturers in March 2020 cutting 475,000 units from what was expected in that month. . . First-quarter 2021 production totaled 3.689 million units, 4.7% below like-2020’s 3.872 million. Compared with the outlook for the period in December, prior to the development of the chip shortage, petrochemical issue and severe weather that temporarily closed some plants in February, the Q1 total was down 487,000 units. Most of the losses are related to the chip issue.”²²

Light vehicle production for March 2021 totaled 911,245, 40% higher than March 2020, and down 3% from 2019:



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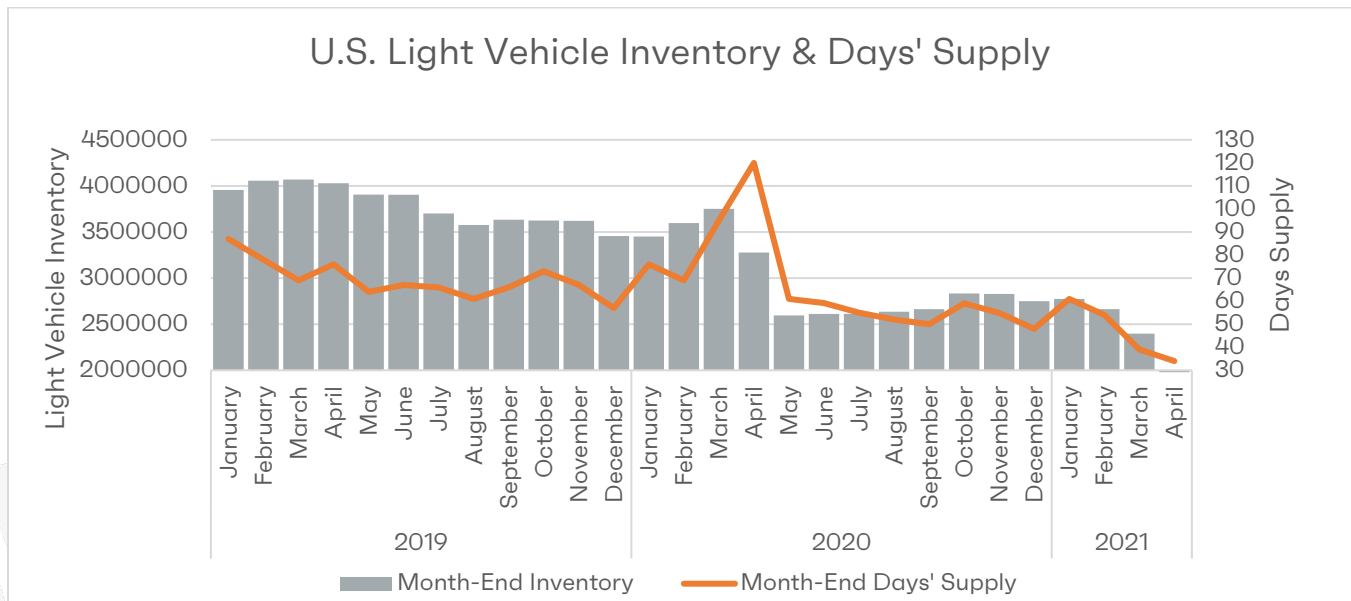
U.S. Light Vehicle Inventory and Days' Supply (Updated 5/5)

WardsIntelligence Inventory Update: “The ongoing plague of production slowdowns and stoppages at a time when vehicle availability is at a premium sent April U.S. light-vehicle inventory spiraling down 17.9% from the prior month to a depleted total of 1.972 million units. The April 30 total was the lowest in at least three-plus decades for the month and lowest for any month since 1.969 million in July 2011. By comparison, April 2020 inventory, which was slashed from the prior month due to a nearly total Covid-19-related shutdown of manufacturing operations in North America, totaled 3.26 million. The five years through 2019, or prior to the pandemic, saw April average 3.9 million units.

“The shortfall of chips for the automotive industry has become worse in the second quarter than the first, and signs point to pockets of shortages continuing throughout second-half 2021. With sales at nearly record highs, automakers, and their suppliers, will be strained to the maximum just to meet demand, much less fill inventory holes, over the remainder of the year.

“Current demand is enough to keep sales above an 18 million annualized rate in the short term, but the inventory drain – which is not expected to start improving until Q3 – at some point will drag sales down to much lower levels.”

“Days’ supply fell to 34, lowest since 29 in August 2009, and well below the optimal range of 70 to 75 for the month.”²⁴



Global Meter

Global Light Vehicle Sales Outlook (Updated 5/19)

Wards Intelligence Outlook: “Global vehicle sales totaled 8.75 million in March, jumping 53.1% over year-ago’s early pandemic low of 5.72 million. Despite the impressive growth, the month still fell 4.5% short of March 2019’s 9.16 million tally.

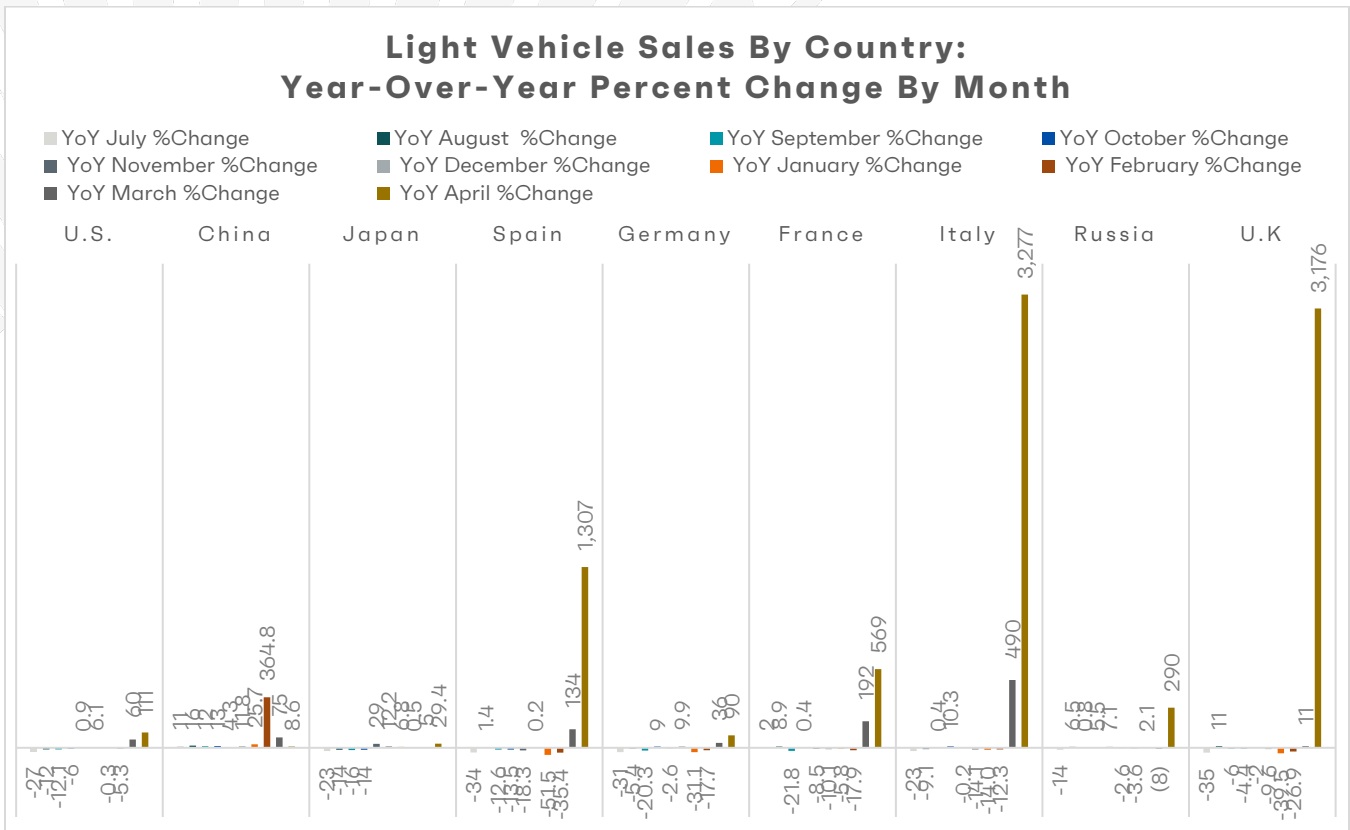
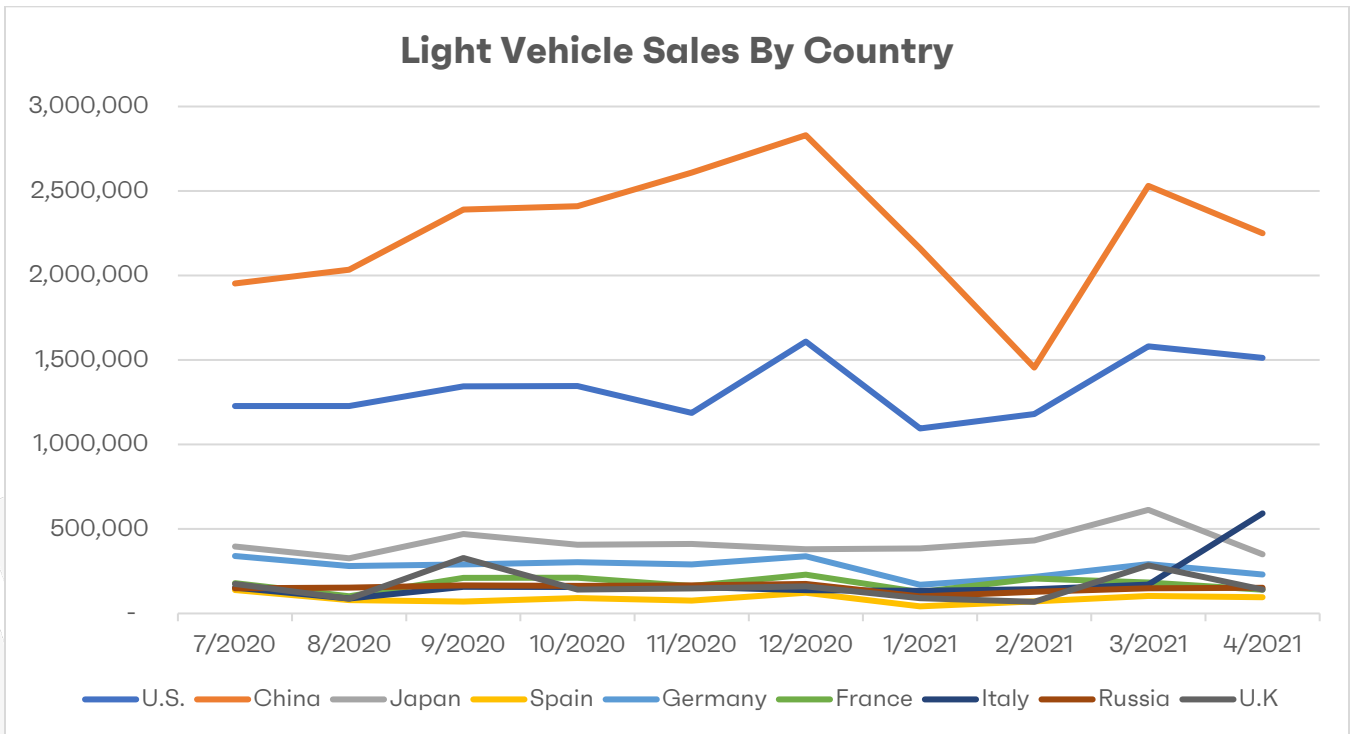
“The rebound over year-ago’s dramatic slowdown was seen in every region, with Europe seeing the highest increase. Sales soared 57.6% to 1.93 million from year-ago’s 1.22 million. It was the region’s first positive result since October 2020.

“Several countries posted triple-digit gains, including Austria (+173.9%), France (+185.7%) and Spain (+132.3%).

“In Italy, the early epicenter of the pandemic in Europe, sales surged 441.7% to 191,000 vehicles over year-ago’s 35,000.

“Through the first quarter, Europe sales were up 5.2% to 4.31 million, with many countries still not pulling ahead of same-period 2019. The full impact of the early broad lockdowns to slow the spread of the coronavirus was seen in April, so next month is expected to show an even bigger year-over-year increase for most markets.”²⁵

Sales in select countries around the globe, including year-over-year percent change by month as well as raw volume by month:

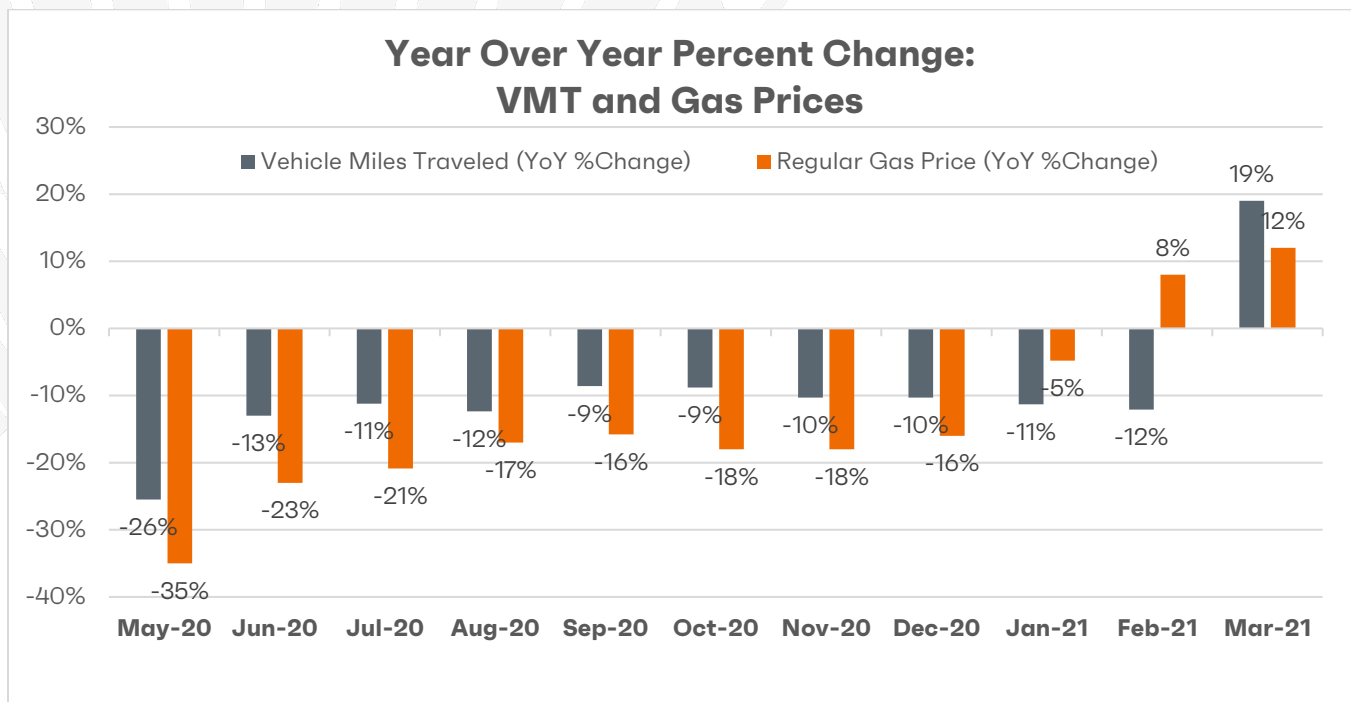


Recovery Meter

Roadway Travel (Updated 5/19)

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, seasonally-adjusted vehicle miles traveled in March rose 19 percent from the same time a year ago. The cumulative travel estimate for 2021 is 691.5 billion vehicle miles.²⁶

- Travel on all roads and streets changed by +19.0% (+42.0 billion vehicle miles) for March 2021 as compared with March 2020. Travel for the month is estimated to be 263.0 billion vehicle miles.
- The seasonally adjusted vehicle miles traveled for March 2021 is 261.1 billion miles, an 18.5% (40.7 billion vehicle miles) increase over March 2020. It also represents a 6.2% increase (15.2 billion vehicle miles) compared with February 2021.
- Cumulative Travel for 2021 changed by -2.1% (-14.9 billion vehicle miles). The Cumulative estimate for the year is 691.5 billion vehicle miles of travel.



Economic News (Updated 5/12)

Manufacturing Employment Declined By 18,000 In April, Mainly In Motor Vehicles, As Factories Were Idled From Semiconductor Shortages. “U.S. employers added a modest 266,000 jobs in April, a report Friday by the Labor Department showed, far short of the one million that economists had

forecast and the weakest monthly gain since January. . . Manufacturing employment was down 18,000—predominantly in motor vehicles, where semiconductor-chip shortages idled some factories.²⁷

- **Motor Vehicle And Parts Manufacturing Lost 27,000 Jobs In April (not seasonally adjusted).²⁸**

Auto Sales Make Big Contribution To Increase In GDP In The First Quarter. “In the first months of 2021, what was good for the auto industry was decidedly good for the American economy. Spending on motor vehicles and parts rose almost 13 percent in the first quarter, making a big contribution to the increase in gross domestic product, the Commerce Department reported Thursday. . . In fact, demand in the first quarter was robust enough that the auto industry was able to post healthy results despite a shortage of computer chips that forced temporary shutdowns of many auto plants.”²⁹

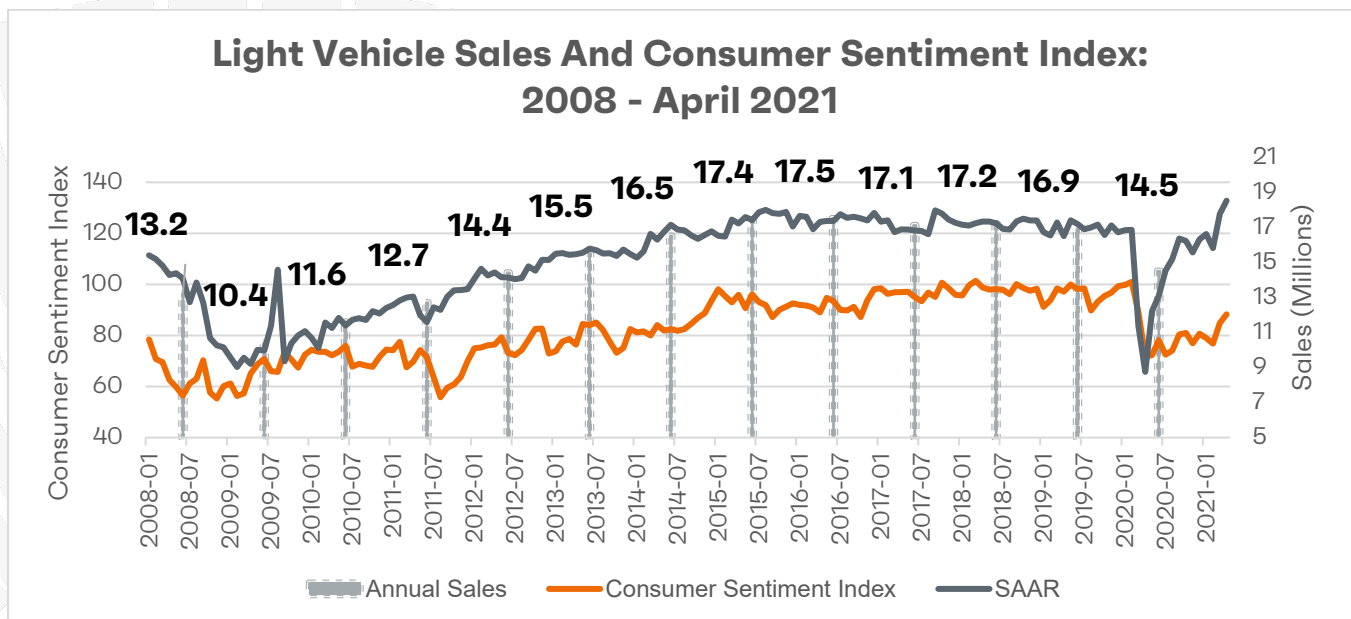
Manufacturing Activity Grew At A Smaller Pace In April, Due To Supply Chain Disruption. “U.S. manufacturing activity grew at a slower pace in April, restrained by shortages of inputs as rising vaccinations against COVID-19 and massive fiscal stimulus unleashed pent-up demand. The survey from the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) on Monday showed record-long lead times, wide-scale shortages of critical basic materials, rising commodities prices and difficulties in transporting products across industries.”³⁰

The Institute For Supply Management’s Manufacturing Index For March Reached Its Highest Level In Nearly 40 Years. “The manufacturing economy has been strengthening in recent months as it recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Institute for Supply Management said last week its manufacturing index for March reached its highest level in almost 40 years. That index is considered a leading indicator and is a barometer of where manufacturing is headed economically.”³¹

Paul Traub Of The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Predicted The U.S. Economy Will Rebound In 2021 From Previous Peaks If Vaccines And Public Action Stops The Virus. “The economy recovered relatively quickly after the initial hit of the Covid-19 pandemic. We saw a V-shape recovery in GDP. ‘We spent our way out of it,’ Paul said. While personal consumption expenditures on service were down greatly, spending on durable and non-durable goods shot up. The new-car-buying population is high-income, the group least affected by unemployment and reduced wages. Employment figures look better than they really are. Unemployment looks low, but participation is down (people, especially women, have given up looking for a job, and thus are no longer counted as ‘unemployed’). Wages seem to have risen, but the lower-income population was hit most by job losses, shifting the average to those who were able to retain their position. Economic forecasts estimate the U.S. economy could get back to its previous peak sometime in 2021, but only if vaccines and public action are successful at controlling the spread of the virus. Current trends that could have a negative impact on light-vehicle sales in the future: decline in the rate of licensed drivers, lower number of households plus household size declining, normalizing of working from home, and overall drop in average vehicles miles traveled.”³²

Consumer Confidence and Sales (Updated 5/5)

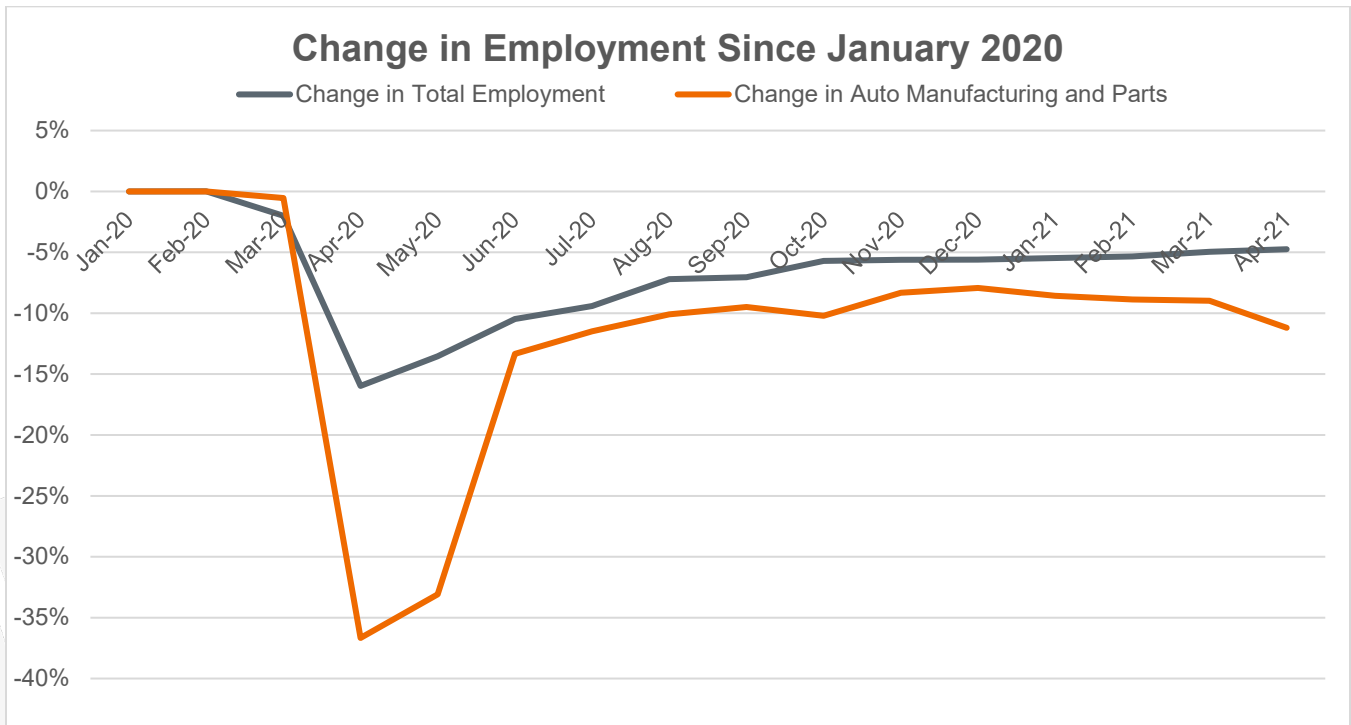
“The April survey recorded continued gains in consumer confidence due to a growing sense that the upward momentum in jobs and incomes will persist. The renewed confidence is due to record federal stimulus spending, both recently passed and proposed, as well as the positive impact from a growing share of the population who are vaccinated. The largest and most important change in April was that an all-time record number of consumers expected declines in the unemployment rate during the year ahead. Even if a booming economy resulted in higher inflation, consumer optimism would not diminish since consumers have already anticipated a temporary increase. Overall, the data indicate an exceptional outlook for consumer spending through mid-2022. The size and persistence of the spending gains depend on continued job growth as well as wages that effectively draw people back into the labor force.”³³



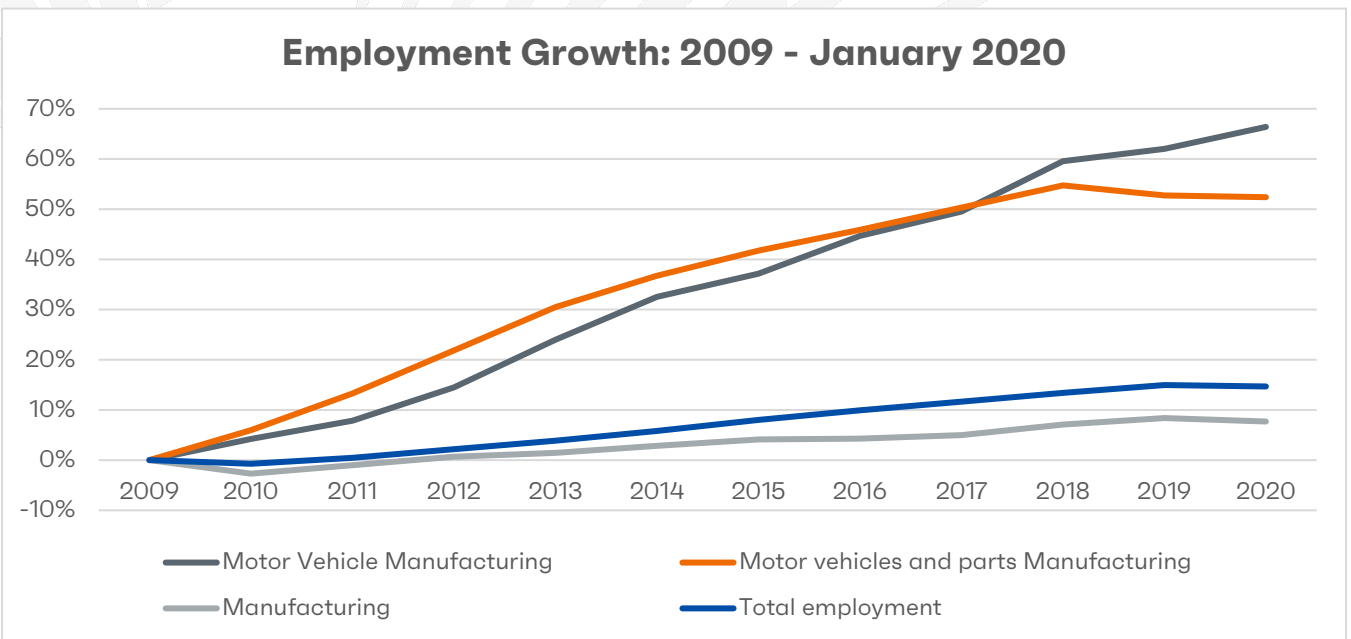
Employment (Updated 5/12)

After a loss of nearly 350,000 employees (about 35% of the workforce) in the height of the pandemic, employment in the Automobile Manufacturing and Parts sectors raced back but is now fighting losses due to supply chain disruptions with semiconductors. Employment in motor vehicles and parts is down 95,000 since January 2020.³⁴

- **Motor Vehicle And Parts Manufacturing Lost 27,000 Jobs In April (not seasonally adjusted).³⁵**



After the recession in 2009, the auto industry was credited with being on the leading edge of the recovery, which began a ripple effect through other parts of the country.³⁶ Additionally, the chart below shows how the recovery of jobs in motor vehicle manufacturing alone and motor vehicle and parts manufacturing far outpaced the recovery of manufacturing and total jobs.



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