

Japanese Automakers Are Helping Fuel U.S. Recovery

By **Kristin Diczek & Bernard Swicki**
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As the nation begins to recover from the recession brought on by the global pandemic, Japanese automakers are making significant contributions that will help drive U.S. growth in critical areas of the economy, such as manufacturing and high-tech research and development (R&D). These companies have a long track record of making such investments, as evidenced by their role in helping to fuel the U.S. recovery from the 2009 global financial crisis, timely contributing to an unprecedented wave of economic growth. Since Toyota opened its first dealership in Hollywood, California in 1959, Japanese automakers have steadily invested in every aspect of the automotive ecosystem, including sales, distribution, engineering, design, testing, and manufacturing facilities. By growing their investment and expanding their operations in all of these areas, Japanese automakers have become a critical and integral part of the U.S. auto industry and the economy as a whole.

The scale of Japanese automakers' presence in the United States is impressive, with vehicle, component, and significant parts production operations across 24 U.S. manufacturing facilities, 48 R&D and design centers, and dealership networks that span all 50 states. Through this all-encompassing presence, Honda, Nissan, Toyota, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Subaru, and Toyota together support more than 1.6 million jobs in the U.S. economy while directly employing over 90,000 Americans. In U.S. manufacturing alone, Japanese automakers have cumulatively invested USD 53.3 billion since the early 1980s.

As Japanese automakers have invested in localizing production, they have increased their overall share of production in the U.S., accounting for about a third of all light vehicles manufactured in the United States and providing roughly USD 250 billion in added value to the American economy for several years running. Another key indication of the depth of these companies' investments and integration in the American auto industry is their purchase in 2019 of USD 60.3 billion in parts from suppliers in the U.S. for their manufacturing facilities across the country. Japanese automakers have exported 415,000 vehicles with high proportions of U.S. content from their American facilities to countries around the world—more than Germany, Korea, or Chinese automakers export from the United States.