# Silicon Valley Auto Outlook 

## Comprehensive information on the Santa Clara County new vehicle market



NEW VEHICLE MARKET FORECAST

## County Market Predicted to Increase 7\% for Remainder of 2023

Below is a review of key trends in the Santa Clara County new vehicle market.

## Results during 1Q 2023

County new light vehicle registrations increased 17.3\% 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 15 million units, an indicator that county new vehicle sales remained subdued.

## 2023 Forecast

According to the baseline forecast, registrations are expected to exceed 83,000 units this year, an 8.9\% improvement from 2022. See sidebar to right for alternative upside and downside projections. Registrations are predicted to increase 7\% 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 $40.4 \%$ in the First Quarter of 2023, up from $29.9 \%$ a year earlier. Franchised dealership share of the BEV market improved by 9.3 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 $38.1 \%$ of the market in 2012, and increased to 65.2\% last year. In the First Quarter of 2023, however, light truck share was up just 1.2 points versus year earlier.

Brands that fared best in early 2023
Among the top 25 sellers in the county market, Genesis, Rivian, Chevrolet, Tesla, and Hyundai had the largest percentage gains in the First Quarter of this year.

Tesla, Toyota, Honda, Ford, and Chevrolet were market leaders.

Top selling models in Santa Clara County Tesla Model Y, Tesla Model 3, Toyota RAV4, Chevrolet Bolt, Toyota Camry, Toyota Corolla, Honda Civic, Honda Accord, Ford FSeries, and Honda CR-V were the top 10 sellers so far this year.

## County economic conditions

Total employment in the county was 1.02 million, slightly below the pre-pandemic levels. Unemployment rate was $3.1 \%$ (see page 3).


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 <br> March | YTD '23 <br> March | \% Chg. <br> '22 to '23 | Mkt. Share |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 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. MARKET PERFORMANCE DURING PAST TWO YEARS

## Santa Clara 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 14.7 million in the Fourth Quarter of last year to 14.9 million in the First Quarter of this year.

| \% Change In <br> New Retail Market | Santa Clara County | U.S. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | | New retail light vehicle reg- |
| :--- |
| istrations in the county in- |
| creased $17.3 \%$ in the First |

YTD 2022

Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

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## TRACKING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## Total Employment in Santa Clara County





## FEBRUARY 2023 <br> 3.1\%

Average Hourly Earnings for All Workers in County - Feb. 2022


Up $\$ 1.29$ vs. year earlier

High inflation and rising interest rates have raised some concerns that the economy might be headed for recession, but at least so far, most indicators have remained relatively strong. County employment is just below pre-pandemic levels and the unemployment rate was below 4\% early this year. GDP growth has remained positive in each of the past two quarters and county wages are up considerably compared to year-earlier.


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

> TOP TEN RANKINGS IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY MARKET

| Market Share for Top Ten Selling Brands in County Market YTD 2023 thru March | Market Share for Top Ten Selling Models in County Market YTD 2023 thru March |
| :---: | :---: |
| Tesla 29.3\% | Tesla Model Y, 18.5\% |
| Toyota 13.7\% | Tesla Model 3, 9.1\% |
| - Honda 7.3\% | Toyota RAV4, 3.0\% |
| Ford 6.0\% | Chevrolet Bolt, 2.9\% |
| - Chevrolet 4.6\% | Toyota Camry, 2.5\% |
| - BMW 4.5\% | Toyota Corolla, 2.0\% |
| - Subaru 3.9\% | Honda Civic, 1.9\% |
| Hyundai 3.2\% | Honda Accord, 1.7\% |
| Mercedes 2.9\% | Ford F-Series, 1.6\% |
| Lexus 2.9\% Data sourced from Experian Automotive. | Honda CR-V, 1.6\% |

## 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.

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



YTD 2023 thru March


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


Observations: Franchised dealership share of the county BEV market increased from 15.9\% during the first quarter of 2022 to $25.2 \%$ this year. Franchised dealership brand registrations were up $152 \%$ vs. the $41 \%$ increase for direct sellers. Tesla BEV market share declined 10.6 points, while registrations improved by $38.7 \%$. Chevrolet was the second best-selling BEV brand so far this year. Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

## 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.


Electric (BEV) and Plug in Hybrid (PHEV) Market Share During 1Q ‘23


Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

| Brand Registrations Report <br> Santa Clara County New Retail Car and Light Truck Registrations |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | First Quarter |  |  |  |  |  | Annual Totals |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Registrations |  |  | Market Share (\%) |  |  | Registrations |  |  | Market Share (\%) |  |  |
|  | 1Q '22 | 1Q '23 | \% change | 1Q '22 | 1Q '23 | Change | 2021 | 2022 | \% change | 2021 | 2022 | Change |
| TOTAL | 18,381 | 21,564 | 17.3 |  |  |  | 75,394 | 76,562 | 1.5 |  |  |  |
| Cars | 6,312 | 7,130 | 13.0 | 34.3 | 33.1 | -1.2 | 26,919 | 26,621 | -1.1 | 35.7 | 34.8 | -0.9 |
| Light Trucks | 12,069 | 14,434 | 19.6 | 65.7 | 66.9 | 1.2 | 48,475 | 49,941 | 3.0 | 64.3 | 65.2 | 0.9 |
| Domestic Brands | 7,160 | 9,683 | 35.2 | 39.0 | 44.9 | 5.9 | 23,935 | 29,436 | 23.0 | 31.7 | 38.4 | 6.7 |
| European Brands | 3,312 | 3,240 | -2.2 | 18.0 | 15.0 | -3.0 | 13,672 | 13,342 | -2.4 | 18.1 | 17.4 | -0.7 |
| Japanese Brands | 6,912 | 7,292 | 5.5 | 37.6 | 33.8 | -3.8 | 33,457 | 28,441 | -15.0 | 44.4 | 37.1 | -7.3 |
| Korean Brands | 997 | 1,349 | 35.3 | 5.4 | 6.3 | 0.9 | 4,330 | 5,343 | 23.4 | 5.7 | 7.0 | 1.3 |
| Acura | 220 | 229 | 4.1 | 1.2 | 1.1 | -0.1 | 1,128 | 801 | -29.0 | 1.5 | 1.0 | -0.5 |
| Alfa Romeo | 13 | 7 | -46.2 | 0.1 | 0.0 | -0.1 | 104 | 49 | -52.9 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Audi | 426 | 494 | 16.0 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 0.0 | 1,895 | 1,680 | -11.3 | 2.5 | 2.2 | -0.3 |
| BMW | 970 | 968 | -0.2 | 5.3 | 4.5 | -0.8 | 3,804 | 4,017 | 5.6 | 5.0 | 5.2 | 0.2 |
| Buick | 12 | 32 | 166.7 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 148 | 68 | -54.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| Cadillac | 78 | 62 | -20.5 | 0.4 | 0.3 | -0.1 | 318 | 277 | -12.9 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| Chevrolet | 358 | 988 | 176.0 | 1.9 | 4.6 | 2.7 | 3,379 | 2,700 | -20.1 | 4.5 | 3.5 | -1.0 |
| Chrysler | 58 | 71 | 22.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 382 | 231 | -39.5 | 0.5 | 0.3 | -0.2 |
| Dodge | 87 | 52 | -40.2 | 0.5 | 0.2 | -0.3 | 521 | 347 | -33.4 | 0.7 | 0.5 | -0.2 |
| Ford | 1,144 | 1,285 | 12.3 | 6.2 | 6.0 | -0.2 | 4,402 | 4,520 | 2.7 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 0.1 |
| Genesis | 26 | 123 | 373.1 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 167 | 359 | 115.0 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| GMC | 207 | 225 | 8.7 | 1.1 | 1.0 | -0.1 | 901 | 758 | -15.9 | 1.2 | 1.0 | -0.2 |
| Honda | 1,452 | 1,576 | 8.5 | 7.9 | 7.3 | -0.6 | 7,860 | 5,812 | -26.1 | 10.4 | 7.6 | -2.8 |
| Hyundai | 547 | 698 | 27.6 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 0.2 | 2,485 | 2,782 | 12.0 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 0.3 |
| Infiniti | 30 | 46 | 53.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 201 | 133 | -33.8 | 0.3 | 0.2 | -0.1 |
| Jaguar | 23 | 9 | -60.9 | 0.1 | 0.0 | -0.1 | 93 | 56 | -39.8 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Jeep | 340 | 269 | -20.9 | 1.8 | 1.2 | -0.6 | 1,548 | 1,206 | -22.1 | 2.1 | 1.6 | -0.5 |
| Kia | 424 | 528 | 24.5 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 0.1 | 1,678 | 2,202 | 31.2 | 2.2 | 2.9 | 0.7 |
| Land Rover | 135 | 87 | -35.6 | 0.7 | 0.4 | -0.3 | 573 | 388 | -32.3 | 0.8 | 0.5 | -0.3 |
| Lexus | 634 | 628 | -0.9 | 3.4 | 2.9 | -0.5 | 2,778 | 2,530 | -8.9 | 3.7 | 3.3 | -0.4 |
| Lincoln | 15 | 22 | 46.7 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 90 | 64 | -28.9 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Maserati | 19 | 5 | -73.7 | 0.1 | 0.0 | -0.1 | 36 | 52 | 44.4 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Mazda | 547 | 522 | -4.6 | 3.0 | 2.4 | -0.6 | 2,519 | 2,059 | -18.3 | 3.3 | 2.7 | -0.6 |
| Mercedes | 676 | 631 | -6.7 | 3.7 | 2.9 | -0.8 | 2,982 | 3,130 | 5.0 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 0.1 |
| MINI | 119 | 67 | -43.7 | 0.6 | 0.3 | -0.3 | 261 | 361 | 38.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.2 |
| Mitsubishi | 29 | 37 | 27.6 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 84 | 83 | -1.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Nissan | 460 | 446 | -3.0 | 2.5 | 2.1 | -0.4 | 1,955 | 1,490 | -23.8 | 2.6 | 1.9 | -0.7 |
| Other | 38 | 69 | 81.6 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 116 | 213 | 83.6 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Polestar | 56 | 39 | -30.4 | 0.3 | 0.2 | -0.1 | 92 | 284 | 208.7 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| Porsche | 233 | 261 | 12.0 | 1.3 | 1.2 | -0.1 | 932 | 907 | -2.7 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.0 |
| Ram | 244 | 159 | -34.8 | 1.3 | 0.7 | -0.6 | 1,069 | 778 | -27.2 | 1.4 | 1.0 | -0.4 |
| Rivian | 51 | 153 | 200.0 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 35 | 336 | 860.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Subaru | 775 | 851 | 9.8 | 4.2 | 3.9 | -0.3 | 3,173 | 3,174 | 0.0 | 4.2 | 4.1 | -0.1 |
| Tesla | 4,554 | 6,315 | 38.7 | 24.8 | 29.3 | 4.5 | 11,137 | 18,037 | 62.0 | 14.8 | 23.6 | 8.8 |
| Toyota | 2,765 | 2,957 | 6.9 | 15.0 | 13.7 | -1.3 | 13,759 | 12,359 | -10.2 | 18.2 | 16.1 | -2.1 |
| Volkswagen | 392 | 465 | 18.6 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 0.1 | 1,866 | 1,503 | -19.5 | 2.5 | 2.0 | -0.5 |
| Volvo | 224 | 188 | -16.1 | 1.2 | 0.9 | -0.3 | 923 | 816 | -11.6 | 1.2 | 1.1 | -0.1 |
| Data sourced from Experian Automotive. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

The table shows new retail light vehicle (car and light truck) registrations in the Santa Clara County market. Figures are shown for the 1 st Quarters of ' 22 and ' 23 , and annual totals for 2021 and 2022. The top ten ranked brands in each change category are shaded yellow.

## Summary of San Mateo County New Retail Light Vehicle Market

| New Vehicle Registrations in San Mateo County-YTD thru Mar. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | New Retail Registrations |  |  | Market Share (\%) |  |  |
|  | YTD '22 | YTD '23 | \% chg. | YTD '22 | YTD '23 | Change |
| TOTAL | 7,469 | 8138 | 9.0 |  |  |  |
| Acura | 51 | 78 | 52.9 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 0.3 |
| Alfa Romeo | 3 | 2 | -33.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Audi | 177 | 244 | 37.9 | 2.4 | 3.0 | 0.6 |
| BMW | 372 | 411 | 10.5 | 5.0 | 5.1 | 0.1 |
| Buick | 2 | 7 | 250.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Cadillac | 32 | 36 | 12.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| Chevrolet | 172 | 368 | 114.0 | 2.3 | 4.5 | 2.2 |
| Chrysler | 18 | 20 | 11.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Dodge | 31 | 24 | -22.6 | 0.4 | 0.3 | -0.1 |
| Ford | 503 | 420 | -16.5 | 6.7 | 5.2 | -1.6 |
| Genesis | 16 | 49 | 206.3 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.4 |
| GMC | 68 | 77 | 13.2 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.0 |
| Honda | 787 | 760 | -3.4 | 10.5 | 9.3 | -1.2 |
| Hyundai | 127 | 203 | 59.8 | 1.7 | 2.5 | 0.8 |
| Infiniti | 17 | 13 | -23.5 | 0.2 | 0.2 | -0.1 |
| Jaguar | 11 | 3 | -72.7 | 0.1 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| Jeep | 163 | 129 | -20.9 | 2.2 | 1.6 | -0.6 |
| Kia | 171 | 229 | 33.9 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 0.5 |
| Land Rover | 55 | 68 | 23.6 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.1 |
| Lexus | 242 | 246 | 1.7 | 3.2 | 3.0 | -0.2 |
| Lincoln | 8 | 8 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Maserati | 6 | 3 | -50.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Mazda | 197 | 178 | -9.6 | 2.6 | 2.2 | -0.5 |
| Mercedes | 361 | 356 | -1.4 | 4.8 | 4.4 | -0.5 |
| MINI | 38 | 30 | -21.1 | 0.5 | 0.4 | -0.1 |
| Mitsubishi | 25 | 22 | -12.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | -0.1 |
| Nissan | 196 | 150 | -23.5 | 2.6 | 1.8 | -0.8 |
| Other | 25 | 42 | 68.0 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.2 |
| Polestar | 21 | 19 | -9.5 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Porsche | 125 | 135 | 8.0 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 0.0 |
| Ram | 76 | 54 | -28.9 | 1.0 | 0.7 | -0.4 |
| Rivian | 22 | 77 | 250.0 | 0.3 | 0.9 | 0.7 |
| Subaru | 343 | 353 | 2.9 | 4.6 | 4.3 | -0.3 |
| Tesla | 1,506 | 1,728 | 14.7 | 20.2 | 21.2 | 1.1 |
| Toyota | 1,213 | 1,265 | 4.3 | 16.2 | 15.5 | -0.7 |
| Volkswagen | 199 | 216 | 8.5 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 0.0 |
| Volvo | 90 | 115 | 27.8 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 0.2 |
| Top ten brands are shaded yellow. Includes cars and light trucks. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Percent Change in New Retail Registrations
YTD 2023 thru March vs. YTD 2022 (Top 20 brands)


Volkswagen

| Porsche | 8.0 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Toyota | 4.3 |



Mercedes


Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

Top 20

## Selling Models in County: YTD 2023

| 1 | Tesla Model Y |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2 | Tesla Model 3 |
| 3 | Toyota RAV4 |
| 4 | Toyota Corolla |
| 5 | Chevrolet Bolt |


| 6 | Honda Civic |
| :---: | :--- |
| 7 | Honda CR-V |
| 8 | Honda Accord |
| 9 | Toyota Camry |
| 10 | Toyota Highlander |

16 BMW X5
17 Tesla Model X
18 Ford Mustang Mach-E
19 Lexus NX
20 BMW i4

[^2]
[^0]:    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.

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    Editor: Jeffrey A. Foltz EMail: jfoltz@autooutlook.com
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[^2]:    Data sourced from Experian Automotive.

