Comprehensive information on the Calfornia vehicle market
Volume 17, Number 2
Released May 2021
Covering First Quarter 2021

## State New Light Vehicle Registrations Predicted to Increase by 10 Percent in 2021



California Total New Light Vehicle Registrations - YTD 2020 and 2021, thru March

TWO YEAR PERSPECTIVE


|  | Year to date thru March |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | YTD '20 | YTD '21 | Change |
| Registrations |  |  |  |
| TOTAL | 507,646 | 493,160 | -2.9\% |
| Car | 194,945 | 163,587 | -16.1\% |
| Light Truck | 312,701 | 329,573 | 5.4\% |
| Domestic | 166,784 | 164,378 | -1.4\% |
| European | 74,108 | 74,292 | 0.2\% |
| Japanese | 230,165 | 218,441 | -5.1\% |
| Korean | 36,589 | 36,049 | -1.5\% |
| Market Share |  |  |  |
| Car | 38.4 | 33.2 | -5.2 |
| Light Truck | 61.6 | 66.8 | 5.2 |
| Domestic | 32.9 | 33.3 | 0.4 |
| European | 14.6 | 15.1 | 0.5 |
| Japanese | 45.3 | 44.3 | -1.0 |
| Korean | 7.2 | 7.3 | 0.1 |

Data source: AutoCount data from Experian.

California new light vehicle registrations declined a slim 2.9 percent during the first three months of this year versus the same period in 2020. However, there would have undoubtedly been an increase were it not for the typical lag in measuring registrations. The recording of registrations can occur 15 days, or more, after the date of sale. So the March 2020 total likely reflects vehicles that were sold from around the middle of February to the middle of March, when COVID was barely a factor.

California Quarterly New Light Vehicle Registrations
Percent Change vs. Year Earlier

QUARTERLY RESULTS


The full impact of the pandemic during 2020 was reflected in the registration figures for the Second Quarter of last year, when the market tumbled by nearly 50 percent versus 2019. Registrations in the Second Quarter of this year could increase by as much 70 percent from 2020.

[^0]
# Luxury SUV Market Share in California Increased by Three Share Points in First Quarter of 2021 

Segment Market Shares in California
YTD 2020 thru March


Data Source: AutoCount data from Experian.

Segment Market Shares in California YTD 2021 thru March

Data Source: AutoCount data from Experian.

The two graphs above show market shares for primary segments during the first three months of 2020 and 2021.

## Estimated Combined Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Market Share Exceeded 20 Percent in $1 Q 2021$




Hybrid/electric vehicle market share - YTD '21 thru Mar:
20.6 percent

The graph above shows estimated hybrid powertrain and electric vehicle market share in the state. Registrations by powertrain for vehicles equipped with multiple engine types were estimated by Auto Outlook. The estimates are based on model registrations compiled by Experian, and engine installation rates collected from other sources.

## MODEL RANKINGS

## Toyota RAV4 Is Top Selling Model in California

The table below shows the top five selling models during the first three months of 2021 in 20 segments. In addition to unit registrations, it also shows each model's market share in its respective segment.


## BEST SELLERS IN PRIMARY SEGMENTS

Compact Car: Toyota Corolla Mid Size Car: Toyota Camry<br>Near Luxury Car: Tesla Model 3<br>Luxury Car: BMW 5-Series

Full Size Pickup: Ford F-Series Compact SUV: Toyota RAV4 Mid Size SUV: Toyota Highlander Luxury Mid Size SUV: Lexus RX

| Top Selling Models in Each Segment - New Light Vehicle Registrations (YTD 2021 thru March) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cars |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Subcompact |  |  | Compact |  |  | Sports/Pony Cars |  |  | Mid Size |  |  |
| Model | Regs. | Share | Model | Regs. | Share | Model | Regs. | Share | Model | Regs. | Share |
| Nissan Versa | 2995 | 29.6 | Toyota Corolla | 13180 | 23.9 | Ford Mustang | 2737 | 39.8 | Toyota Camry | 15526 | 35.9 |
| Chevrolet Bolt | 2839 | 28.0 | Honda Civic | 12942 | 23.5 | Dodge Challenger | 2246 | 32.7 | Honda Accord | 10839 | 25.0 |
| Chevrolet Spark | 1624 | 16.0 | Toyota Prius | 5257 | 9.5 | Chevrolet Camaro | 951 | 13.8 | Nissan Altima | 4271 | 9.9 |
| Honda Fit | 1184 | 11.7 | Nissan Sentra | 4490 | 8.2 | Mazda MX5 | 472 | 6.9 | Kia K5/Optima | 3307 | 7.6 |
| Kia Rio | 622 | 6.1 | Kia Forte | 3476 | 6.3 | Toyota 86 | 202 | 2.9 | Chevrolet Malibu | 3058 | 7.1 |
| Large |  |  | Entry Luxury |  |  | Near Luxury |  |  | Luxury and High End Sports Cars |  |  |
| Model | Regs. | Share | Model | Regs. | Share | Model | Regs. | Share | Model |  | Share |
| Dodge Charger | 2970 | 60.0 | BMW 2-Series | 1036 | 26.7 | Tesla Model 3 | 9731 | 38.9 | BMW 5-Series | 1852 | 14.0 |
| Chrysler 300 | 743 | 15.0 | Mercedes A-Class | 867 | 22.3 | BMW 3-Series | 2634 | 10.5 | Mercedes E-Class | 1768 | 13.4 |
| Toyota Avalon | 716 | 14.5 | Mercedes CLA-Class | 738 | 19.0 | Lexus ES | 2466 | 9.9 | Porsche 911 | 974 | 7.4 |
| Nissan Maxima | 478 | 9.7 | Audi A3 | 475 | 12.2 | Mercedes C-Class | 2254 | 9.0 | Tesla Model S | 889 | 6.7 |
| Chevrolet Impala | 25 | 0.5 | Acura ILX | 472 | 12.2 | Lexus IS | 1268 | 5.1 | Chevrolet Corvette | 850 | 6.4 |
| Light Trucks |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Compact/Mid Size Pickup |  |  | Full Size Pickup |  |  | Mini Van |  |  | Large Van |  |  |
| Model | Regs. | Share | Model | Regs. | Share | Model | Regs. | Share | Model | Regs. | Share |
| Toyota Tacoma | 12515 | 56.2 | Ford F-Series | 12978 | 28.3 | Toyota Sienna | 4344 | 38.7 | Ford Transit Connect | 5416 | 49.4 |
| Ford Ranger | 2886 | 13.0 | Ram Pickup | 12477 | 27.2 | Chrysler Pacifica | 2483 | 22.1 | Ram Promaster | 1570 | 14.3 |
| Chevrolet Colorado | 2483 | 11.2 | Chevrolet Silverado | 12049 | 26.3 | Honda Odyssey | 2142 | 19.1 | Nissan NV | 1313 | 12.0 |
| Jeep Gladiator | 1696 | 7.6 | GMC Sierra | 5617 | 12.2 | Chrysler Voyager | 2055 | 18.3 | Chevrolet Express | 1248 | 11.4 |
| Nissan Frontier | 1135 | 5.1 | Toyota Tundra | 2367 | 5.2 | Kia Sedona | 157 | 1.4 | Mercedes Sprinter | 1180 | 10.8 |
| Subcompact SUV |  |  | Compact SUV |  |  | Mid Size SUV |  |  | Large SUV |  |  |
| Model | Regs. | Share | Model | Regs. | Share | Model | Regs. | Share | Model | Regs. | Share |
| Subaru Crosstrek | 5391 | 18.1 | Toyota RAV4 | 17266 | 25.9 | Toyota Highlander | 7741 | 13.0 | Chevrolet Tahoe | 2089 | 28.1 |
| Honda HR-V | 3217 | 10.8 | Honda CR-V | 10339 | 15.5 | Ford Explorer | 6474 | 10.9 | Ford Expedition | 1804 | 24.3 |
| Nissan Kicks | 3116 | 10.5 | Mazda CX5 | 5940 | 8.9 | Toyota 4Runner | 4653 | 7.8 | GMC Yukon | 1061 | 14.3 |
| Mazda CX-30 | 2151 | 7.2 | Jeep Wrangler | 5190 | 7.8 | Subaru Outback | 4298 | 7.2 | Chevrolet Suburban | 962 | 12.9 |
| Toyota C-HR | 1995 | 6.7 | Subaru Forester | 4352 | 6.5 | Jeep Grand Cherokee | 3847 | 6.5 | Nissan Armada | 554 | 7.5 |
| Luxury Subcompact SUV |  |  | Luxury Compact SUV |  |  | Luxury Mid Size SUV |  |  | Luxury Large SUV |  |  |
| Model | Regs. | Share | Model | Regs. | Share | Model | Regs. | Share | Model | Regs. | Share |
| Mercedes GLA-Class | 1643 | 21.5 | Tesla Model Y | 13786 | 39.3 | Lexus RX | 4947 | 20.1 | Cadillac Escalade | 1232 | 19.2 |
| Audi Q3 | 1532 | 20.0 | Audi Q5 | 3402 | 9.7 | Mercedes GLE-Class | 3328 | 13.5 | Mercedes GLS-Class | 1110 | 17.3 |
| Mercedes GLB-Class | 1498 | 19.6 | Lexus NX | 3333 | 9.5 | BMW X 5 | 2528 | 10.3 | Land Rover Range Rover | 959 | 14.9 |
| Lexus UX | 1074 | 14.0 | Mercedes GLC-Class | 3313 | 9.5 | Land Rover Range Rover | 1596 | 6.5 | Mercedes G-Class | 763 | 11.9 |
| BMW X1 | 906 | 11.9 | BMW X3 | 2815 | 8.0 | Audi Q7 | 1430 | 5.8 | BMW X7 | 719 | 11.2 |

[^1]
## Registrations Increased for Eight Brands During First Quarter of This Year

Percent Change in Brand Registrations - YTD '21 thru Mar. vs. YTD '20 (Top 30 selling brands in state)



Registrations increased for Porsche, Mercedes, Tesla, Ram, Toyota, Land Rover, Mazda, and Kia

California and U.S. Market Share - YTD '21 thru Mar. (Top 15 selling brands in state)


Toyota, Honda, Ford, Chevrolet, and Nissan were market share leaders in California

## brand recistrations

Detailed Results for All Brands in California Market

| California New Car and Light Truck Registrations |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | First Quarter |  |  |  |  |  | Annual Totals |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Registrations |  |  | Market Share (\%) |  |  | Registrations |  |  | Market Share (\%) |  |  |
|  | 1Q '20 | 1Q '21 | \% change | 1Q '20 | 1Q '21 | Change | 2019 | 2020 | \% change | 2019 | 2020 | Change |
| TOTAL | 507,646 | 493,160 | -2.9 |  |  |  | 2,093,173 | 1,639,166 | -21.7 |  |  |  |
| Acura | 5,033 | 3,765 | -25.2 | 1.0 | 0.8 | -0.2 | 21,580 | 16,321 | -24.4 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 |
| Alfa Romeo | 1,092 | 1,011 | -7.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 3,937 | 3,504 | -11.0 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Audi | 10,998 | 10,949 | -0.4 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 0.0 | 41,818 | 33,790 | -19.2 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 0.1 |
| BMW | 17,844 | 15,999 | -10.3 | 3.5 | 3.2 | -0.3 | 76,592 | 56,144 | -26.7 | 3.7 | 3.4 | -0.3 |
| Buick | 2,057 | 1,505 | -26.8 | 0.4 | 0.3 | -0.1 | 8,058 | 5,319 | -34.0 | 0.4 | 0.3 | -0.1 |
| Cadillac | 3,375 | 3,367 | -0.2 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 14,010 | 9,853 | -29.7 | 0.7 | 0.6 | -0.1 |
| Chevrolet | 39,101 | 38,696 | -1.0 | 7.7 | 7.8 | 0.1 | 153,535 | 127,231 | -17.1 | 7.3 | 7.8 | 0.5 |
| Chrysler | 5,283 | 5,281 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 0.1 | 10,697 | 11,113 | 3.9 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.2 |
| Dodge | 9,129 | 6,749 | -26.1 | 1.8 | 1.4 | -0.4 | 45,601 | 26,073 | -42.8 | 2.2 | 1.6 | -0.6 |
| FIAT | 164 | 43 | -73.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1,537 | 387 | -74.8 | 0.1 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| Ford | 43,976 | 42,479 | -3.4 | 8.7 | 8.6 | -0.1 | 192,219 | 146,425 | -23.8 | 9.2 | 8.9 | -0.3 |
| Genesis | 800 | 900 | 12.5 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 2,867 | 2,289 | -20.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| GMC | 9,810 | 9,752 | -0.6 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 0.1 | 35,108 | 33,172 | -5.5 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 0.3 |
| Honda | 56,421 | 48,031 | -14.9 | 11.1 | 9.7 | -1.4 | 246,695 | 188,277 | -23.7 | 11.8 | 11.5 | -0.3 |
| Hyundai | 17,350 | 16,336 | -5.8 | 3.4 | 3.3 | -0.1 | 74,596 | 55,534 | -25.6 | 3.6 | 3.4 | -0.2 |
| Infiniti | 4,073 | 2,512 | -38.3 | 0.8 | 0.5 | -0.3 | 17,049 | 10,154 | -40.4 | 0.8 | 0.6 | -0.2 |
| Jaguar | 1,538 | 645 | -58.1 | 0.3 | 0.1 | -0.2 | 5,477 | 3,826 | -30.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | -0.1 |
| Jeep | 15,663 | 14,724 | -6.0 | 3.1 | 3.0 | -0.1 | 65,498 | 52,647 | -19.6 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 0.1 |
| Kia | 18,439 | 18,813 | 2.0 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 0.2 | 71,532 | 60,996 | -14.7 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 0.3 |
| Land Rover | 4,977 | 5,147 | 3.4 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 18,380 | 15,506 | -15.6 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.0 |
| Lexus | 15,702 | 14,806 | -5.7 | 3.1 | 3.0 | -0.1 | 63,559 | 51,793 | -18.5 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 0.2 |
| Lincoln | 2,072 | 1,624 | -21.6 | 0.4 | 0.3 | -0.1 | 6,881 | 6,044 | -12.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| Maserati | 401 | 281 | -29.9 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 2,064 | 1,109 | -46.3 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Mazda | 12,251 | 12,636 | 3.1 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 0.2 | 44,817 | 39,145 | -12.7 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 0.3 |
| Mercedes | 16,909 | 19,878 | 17.6 | 3.3 | 4.0 | 0.7 | 84,917 | 64,543 | -24.0 | 4.1 | 3.9 | -0.2 |
| MINI | 1,497 | 1,306 | -12.8 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 7,517 | 5,397 | -28.2 | 0.4 | 0.3 | -0.1 |
| Mitsubishi | 3,240 | 1,652 | -49.0 | 0.6 | 0.3 | -0.3 | 10,240 | 5,759 | -43.8 | 0.5 | 0.4 | -0.1 |
| Nissan | 28,106 | 27,717 | -1.4 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 0.1 | 139,857 | 78,507 | -43.9 | 6.7 | 4.8 | -1.9 |
| Other | 1,002 | 932 | -7.0 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 3,820 | 3,010 | -21.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Porsche | 3,364 | 4,805 | 42.8 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 15,094 | 13,121 | -13.1 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.1 |
| Ram | 13,067 | 14,046 | 7.5 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 0.2 | 50,445 | 43,196 | -14.4 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 0.2 |
| Subaru | 19,282 | 18,043 | -6.4 | 3.8 | 3.7 | -0.1 | 77,725 | 68,333 | -12.1 | 3.7 | 4.2 | 0.5 |
| Tesla | 23,250 | 26,154 | 12.5 | 4.6 | 5.3 | 0.7 | 74,821 | 71,390 | -4.6 | 3.6 | 4.4 | 0.8 |
| Toyota | 86,057 | 89,279 | 3.7 | 17.0 | 18.1 | 1.1 | 341,068 | 281,391 | -17.5 | 16.3 | 17.2 | 0.9 |
| Volkswagen | 11,075 | 10,110 | -8.7 | 2.2 | 2.1 | -0.1 | 50,700 | 35,576 | -29.8 | 2.4 | 2.2 | -0.2 |
| Volvo | 3,248 | 3,187 | -1.9 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 12,862 | 12,291 | -4.4 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.1 |
| Source: AutoCount data from Experian. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

The table above shows new light vehicle (car and light truck) registrations in California. Figures are shown for the First Quarters of 2020 and 2021 , and annual totals for 2019 and 2020. Vehicle registrations are recorded based on when the vehicle title information is processed by the state, which typically occurs after the vehicle is sold. The top ten ranked brands in each category are shaded yellow

## California Auto Outlook

## Published by: Auto Outlook, Inc., PO Box 390 Exton, PA 19341 Phone 610-640-1233 Email: jfoltz@autooutlook.com

Any material quoted must be attributed to California Auto Outlook, published by Auto Outlook, Inc. on behalf of the California New Car Dealers Association. Data source must also be shown as "Data Source: AutoCount data from Experian" Please contact CNCDA with any questions or comments regarding the publication. Copyright: Auto Outlook, Inc. Mar., 2021.
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.

BREAKDOWN OF RETAIL AND FLEET MARKETS
State Retail Registrations Increased by 2.4 Percent in Early 2021

California New Car and Light Truck Retail and Fleet Registrations - YTD ‘19, '20, \& ‘21 thru Mar.



PERCENT CHANGE: YTD ‘21 thru Mar. vs. YTD ‘20

Retail cars: DOWN 16.7\% Retail light trucks: UP 15.6\%

Fleet cars: DOWN 13.8\%
Fleet light trucks: DOWN 21.3\%

Data Source: AutoCount data from Experian.

REGIONAL MARKETS IN CALIFORNIA

## San Diego County Market Moves Higher

| New Retail Light Vehicle Registrations (excluding fleets) YTD thru March |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| North and South California | YTD '20 | YTD '21 | \% chg. |
| Statewide Total | 382,078 | 391,435 | $2.4 \%$ |
| $\quad$ Cars | 155,914 | 129,944 | $-16.7 \%$ |
| $\quad$ Light Trucks | 226,164 | 261,491 | $15.6 \%$ |
| Northern California | 130,032 | 133,523 | $2.7 \%$ |
| $\quad$ Cars | 51,358 | 40,610 | $-20.9 \%$ |
| $\quad$ Light Trucks | 78,674 | 92,913 | $18.1 \%$ |
| Southern California | 252,046 | 257,912 | $2.3 \%$ |
| $\quad$ Cars | 104,556 | 89,334 | $-14.6 \%$ |
| $\quad$ Light Trucks | 147,490 | 168,578 | $14.3 \%$ |
| Selected Regional Markets |  |  |  |
| San Francisco Bay | 74,456 | 69,304 | $-6.9 \%$ |
| $\quad$ Cars | 31,862 | 22,290 | $-30.0 \%$ |
| $\quad$ Light Trucks | 42,594 | 47,014 | $10.4 \%$ |
| LA and Orange Counties | 151,154 | 146,903 | $-2.8 \%$ |
| $\quad$ Cars | 65,213 | 53,238 | $-18.4 \%$ |
| $\quad$ Light Trucks | 85,941 | 93,665 | $9.0 \%$ |
| San Diego County | 33,370 | 34,510 | $3.4 \%$ |
| $\quad$ Cars | 12,418 | 10,033 | $-19.2 \%$ |
| $\quad$ Light Trucks | 20,952 | 24,477 | $16.8 \%$ |

Percent Change in New Retail Registrations - YTD ‘21 vs. YTD ‘20


## SMALL SUV CLOSE UP

## Toyota is Top Selling Non-Luxury Small SUV Brand

The graph below shows new retail light vehicle registrations for Small Non-Luxury SUV brands. Brands are positioned from left to right based on the combined total for Subcompact and Compact models. Each circle corresponds to brand registrations for Subcompact SUVs (orange circle) and Compact SUVs (blue circle).

New Retail Light Vehicle Registrations in Non-Luxury Small SUV Segments - YTD 2021 thru March


Data Source: AutoCount data from Experian.


> Top 15 Selling Small SUVs in California
> YTD 2021 thru March
> (Includes Subcompact and Compact Models)

## CALIFORNIA USED VEHICLE MARKET

## Used Vehicle Registrations Declined in Early 2021

Percent Change in New and Used Vehicle Registrations - YTD 2021 thru Mar. vs. YTD '20
 -25.0\%
-50.0\%

3 year old or newer used vehicles

4 to 6 year old 7 to 10 year old used vehicles used vehicles MARKET

01.

Used vehicle registrations in California declined 6.7 percent during the first three months of this year versus a year earlier.

As mentioned on page 1 , the lag in reporting has led to the decline in vehicle registrations.
The used vehicle market will post a big increase in the Second Quarter.

Sparse new vehicle inventories will provide a boost to the used market, with vehicle values remaining elevated throughout 2021. Used registrations are likely to increase by 5 to 10 percent for the year.
USED VEHICLE BRAND MARKET SHARE

## Toyota is Top Seller in California Used Vehicle Market

The graph below shows used light vehicle registrations by brand for two age categories: vehicles newer than three years old, and vehicles four to six years old. Brands are positioned from left to right based on market share for three year old or newer vehicles.

Brand Market Share for Top 15 Selling Brands, by Vehicle Age (YTD ' 21 thru March)


Data Source: AutoCount data from Experian.


[^0]:    Data source: AutoCount data from Experian.

[^1]:    Data Source: AutoCount data from Experian. Figures for Prius include Prius Prime.

