

# Production & Sales Statistics

## Annual Production Numbers:

- 1950: 6.7 million vehicles produced (all manufacturers)
- 1955: 9.2 million vehicles (peak production year)
- 1959: 5.6 million vehicles (recession impact)

## Market Share Leaders (1955):

- General Motors: 50.4% market share
- Ford: 27.9% market share
- Chrysler: 16.9% market share
- American Motors: 1.9% market share
- Studebaker-Packard: 1.7% market share

## Iconic Model Production Figures:

- 1953 Corvette: Only 300 built (all Polo White)
- 1955 Thunderbird: 16,155 produced
- 1957 Bel Air (all body styles): 1,555,312 total
- 1955 Chrysler 300: Just 1,725 built
- 1959 Cadillac Eldorado Convertible: 2,199 produced

# Performance Progression

## Horsepower Evolution:

- 1950 average: 100-120 hp
- 1955 average: 140-180 hp
- 1959 average: 200-250 hp
- Top performer: 1957 Chrysler 300C with 375 hp

## 0-60 mph Times:

- 1950 Chevrolet: 19.2 seconds
- 1955 Chevrolet V8: 11.8 seconds
- 1957 Chrysler 300: 8.9 seconds
- 1959 Cadillac Eldorado: 10.5 seconds

# Economic Data

## Pricing Examples (Original MSRP):

- 1950 Chevrolet Deluxe: \$1,503
- 1955 Ford Thunderbird: \$2,944
- 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air: \$2,238
- 1959 Cadillac Eldorado: \$7,401
- Average worker's annual salary (1955): \$4,137

**Chrome Usage:**

- 1950 average car: 15-20 pounds of chrome
- 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air: 32 pounds of chrome
- 1959 Cadillac: 44 pounds of chrome
- Total industry chrome usage (1957): 180,000 tons

## Cultural Impact Numbers

**Drive-in Growth:**

- 1946: 300 drive-in theaters
- 1950: 820 drive-in theaters
- 1955: 3,000 drive-in theaters
- 1958: 4,063 drive-in theaters (peak)

**Car Ownership Statistics:**

- 1950: 59% of families owned a car
- 1955: 71% of families owned a car
- 1959: 77% of families owned a car
- Two-car families increased 300% during the decade

**Fuel Consumption:**

- 1950: 51.5 billion gallons consumed nationally
- 1959: 69.5 billion gallons consumed
- Average mpg (1950s): 13.5 miles per gallon
- Premium gas price (1955): 23 cents per gallon

# Racing & Performance

## **NASCAR Statistics:**

- 1950: 19 races in inaugural season
- 1959: 44 races held
- Hudson Hornet wins: 27 victories (1951-1954)
- Oldsmobile 88 wins: 20 victories (1949-1951)

## **Speed Records:**

- Bonneville Salt Flats land speed record (1955): 394.2 mph (jet car)
- Stock car record (1957): 145.3 mph (Pontiac Bonneville)
- Indianapolis 500 winning speed (1950): 124.002 mph
- Indianapolis 500 winning speed (1959): 135.857 mph