





North American Barometer **Short-Term Outlook** Will Market Growth Continue? **September 16, 2020**

HAIG STODDARD

Senior Industry Analyst, Markets · Wards Intelligence





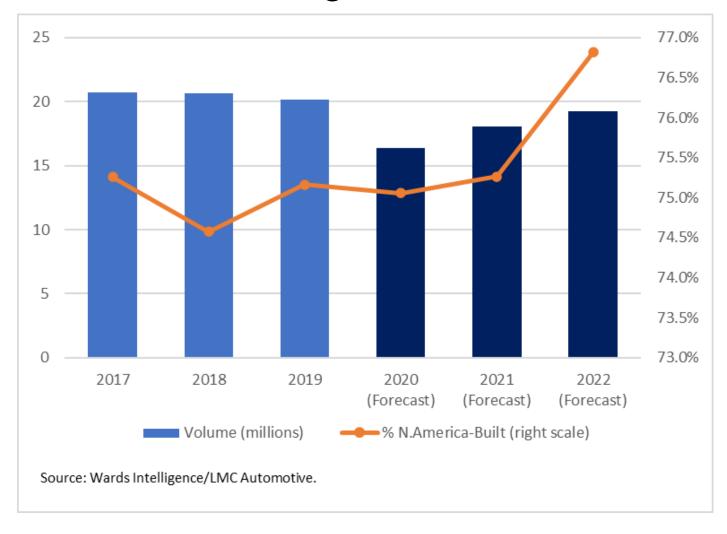


Summary Outlook

- Demand is expected to level off over the final four months of 2020, and in Q1-2021, ending the sequential growth since April
- Production will appear strong relative to demand over the next two quarters due to lean inventory
- Uncertainty caused by the pandemic has made forecasting even the short-term more problematic than usual
 - In a resurgence of the virus, how many new cases will it take to cause enough selfisolation, and offset resistance to stricter lockdown measures, to the point of pulling down the economy again
 - How much will the high level of job and income losses negate the consumers ability and willingness to buy new vehicles – even if no resurgence



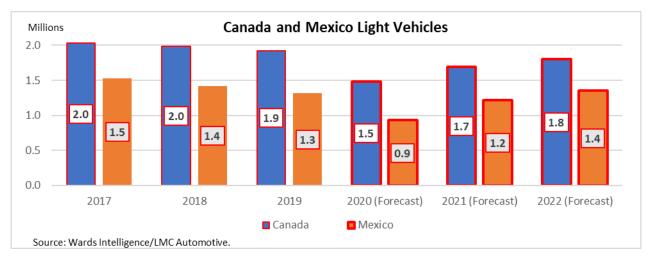
North America Light-Vehicle Sales

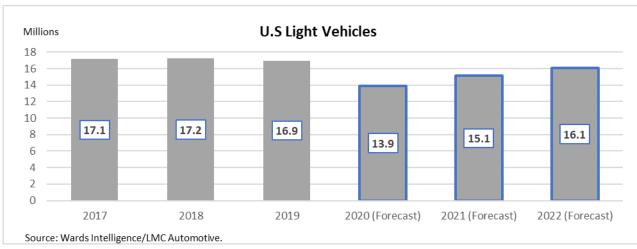


- Sales forecast to decline 19% in 2020 to 16.3 million
- Sales grow in 2021, 2022 but not back to pre-virus levels
- Penetration of domestically produced vehicles resumes growth after Covid-related sourcing disruptions caused 2020 downturn



North America Light-Vehicle Sales





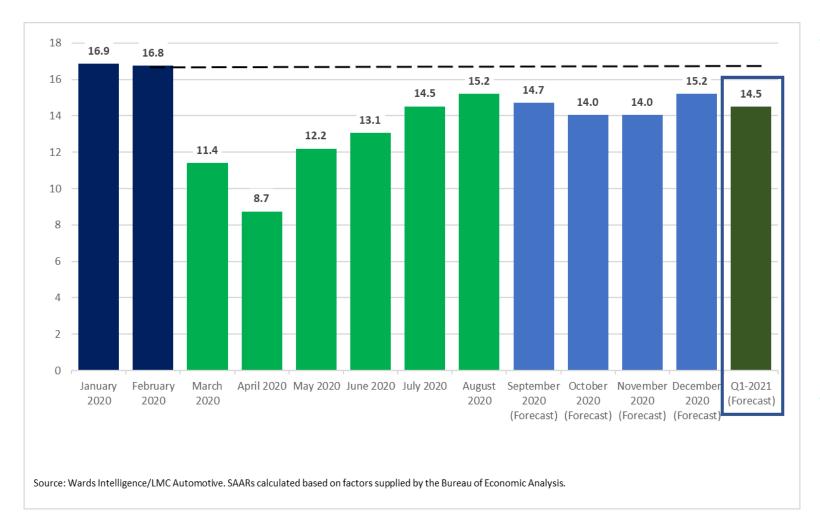
- Only Mexico gets back to previrus (2019) levels by 2022 – but its 2019 results were weak
- The outlook for Canada has improved, though its year/year decline in 2020 (23%) still big
- US forecast to decline 18% in 2020; up 9% in 2021



U.S. Light-Vehicle Market



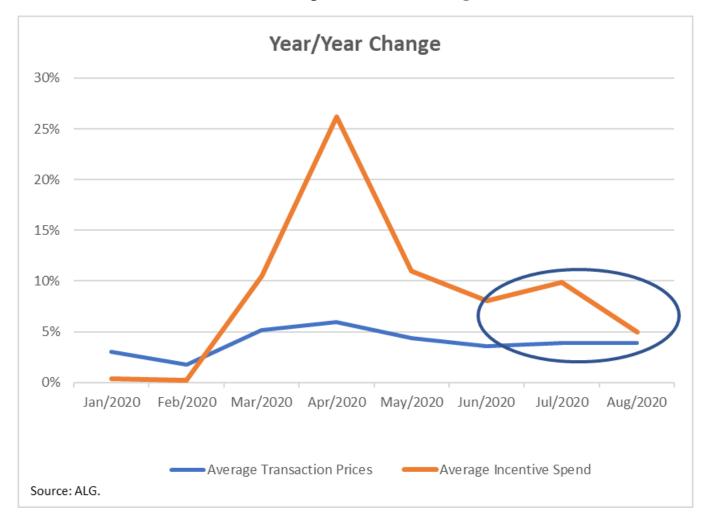
U.S. Sales - Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rates (millions)



- Expect the year to end with sequential weakening
 - More '21 models, and their higher prices, hit dealer lots
 - Less government stimulus and high unemployment levels negatively impact ability and willingness to buy new vehicles
 - Lean inventory
- Demand remains flat in Q1-2021 with Q4-2020



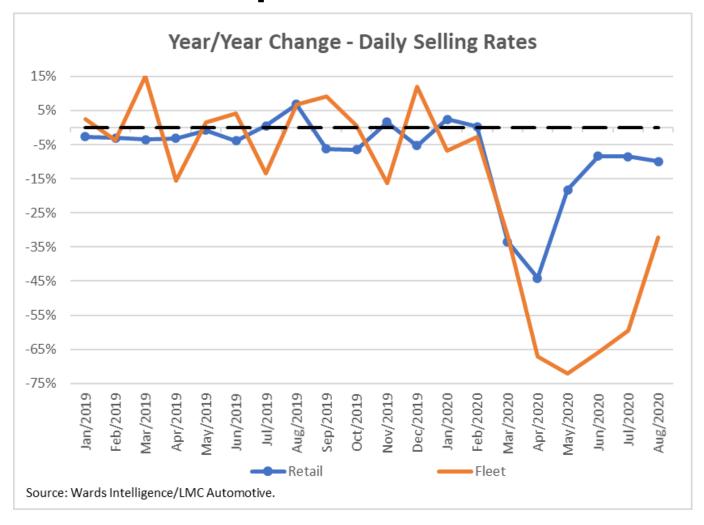
Incentive Activity Coming Back to Earth



- Increases in retail incentives slowed as inventory became more strained
- Incentive activity expected to remain subdued for the rest of the year, with inventory remaining lean and new model-year vehicles coming to market



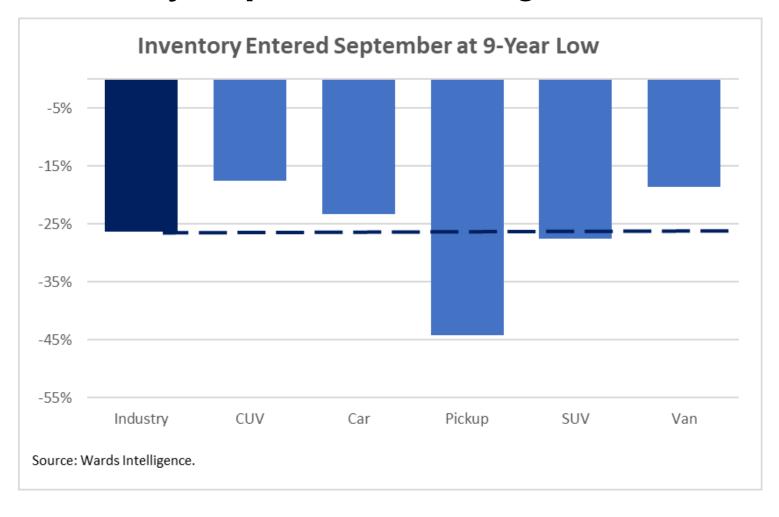
Retail-Fleet Splits



- Retail might be flattening out and starting to weaken
- Fleet deliveries are starting to rebound, mainly from commercial activity
- There is more upside to fleet if rental volume can bounce back



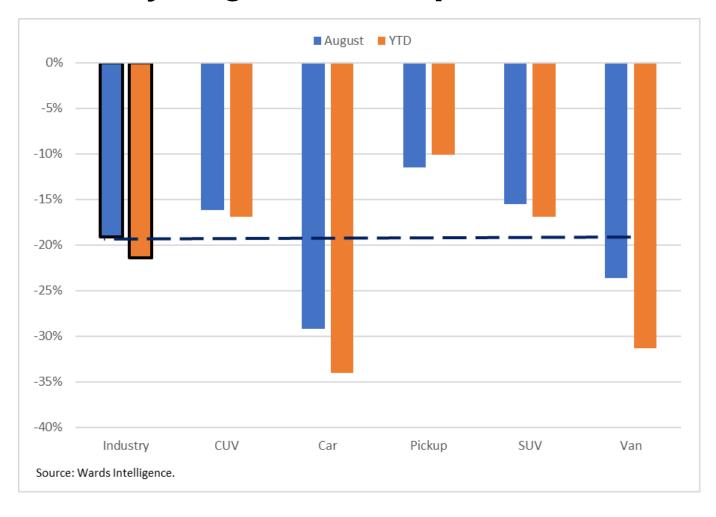
Inventory Depleted in All Segments



- Total inventory down 26% year-over-year
- Current inventory is in line with annualized sales volume of roughly 14 million
- Inventory of pickups down 44% and Q4 typically the strongest quarter for the segment group
- CUVs, the best-selling group, down "just" 17%



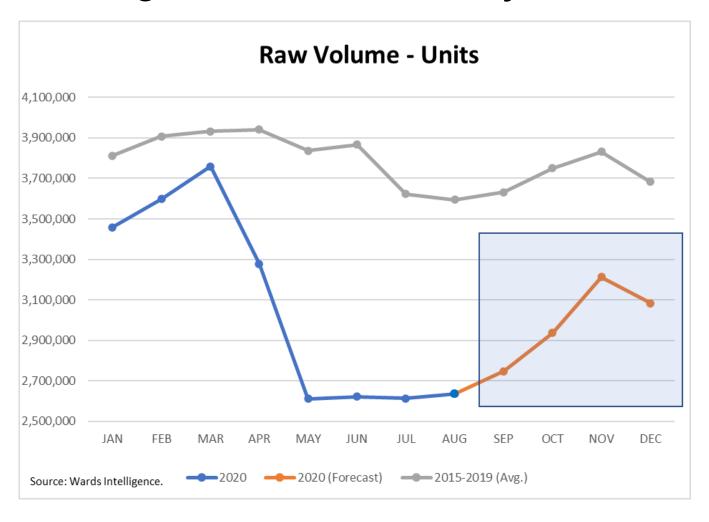
Sales by Segment Group - Year/Year % Change



- Utilities and pickups faring the best in this recessionary period
- Pickup sales have averaged nearly 50% of inventory the past three months, vs. a typical range of 25% to 30%
- Even in a recession, few want new cars



U.S. Light-Vehicle Inventory



- Inventory should be in balance with forecast 2021 demand (15.2 million units) by the end of the year
- In theory, if dealers could continue to sell half the inventory existing at the beginning of each month, as they did in August, sales could run at a 16 million-unit seasonally annualized rate through the end of the year

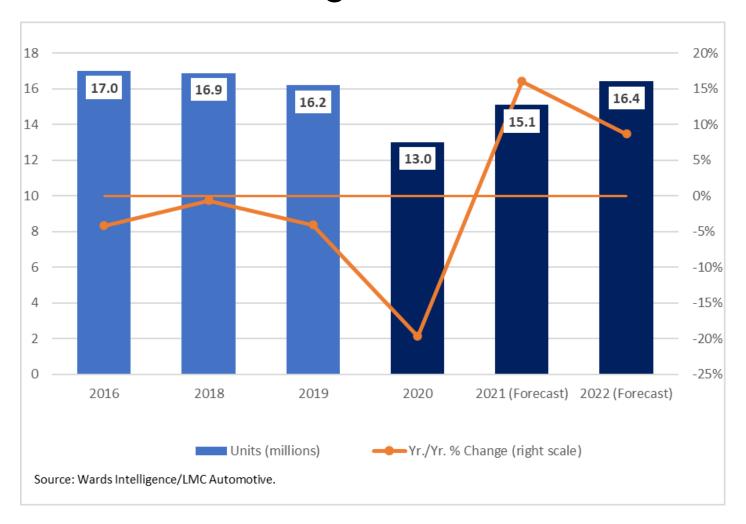


North America Light-Vehicle Production Outlook

(Summary and Top Manufacturers)



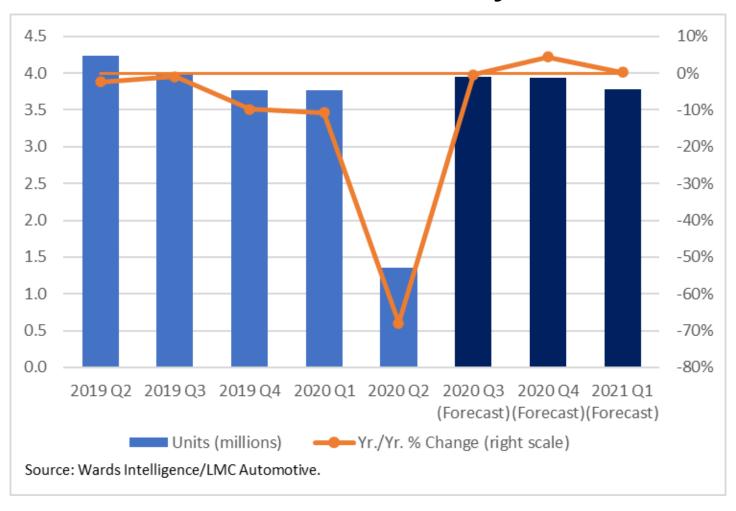
North America Light-Vehicle Production Forecast



- Production falls 20% in 2020
- Rebounds 16% in 2021 to 15.1 million
- Unlike sales, returns to 2019 levels in 2022



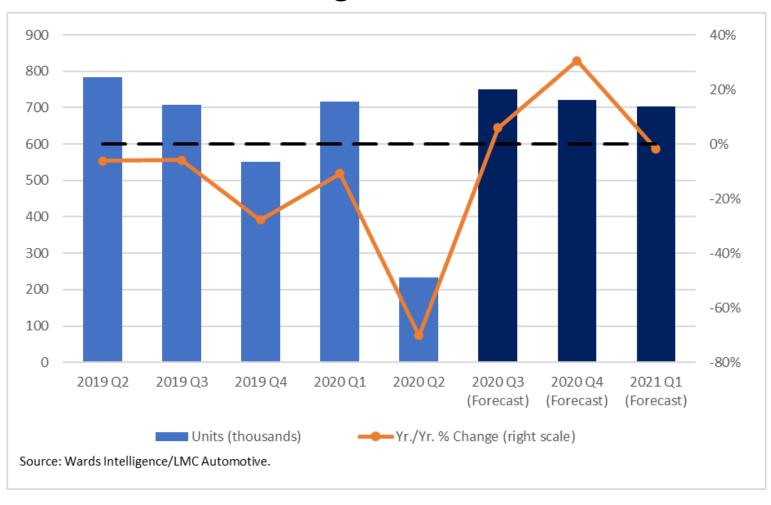
2020 Production Outlook by Quarter



- Production in Q3 and Q4 meet and exceed yearago levels
- Q1-2021 matches yearago period - virus-related production slowdowns started in March 2020



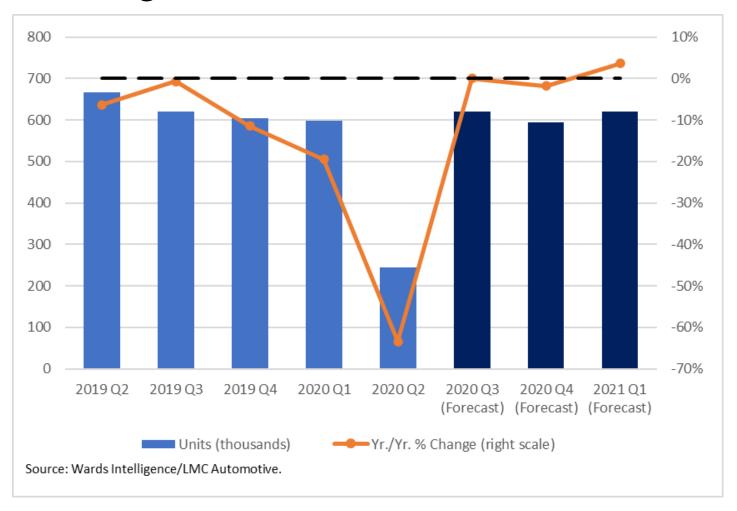
General Motors Light-Vehicle Production



- Production up vs. yearago strike-related totals in Q3 and Q4
- Currently scheduled production starts of '21 models for several vehicles – especially fullsize pickups - slated for later in the year than usual



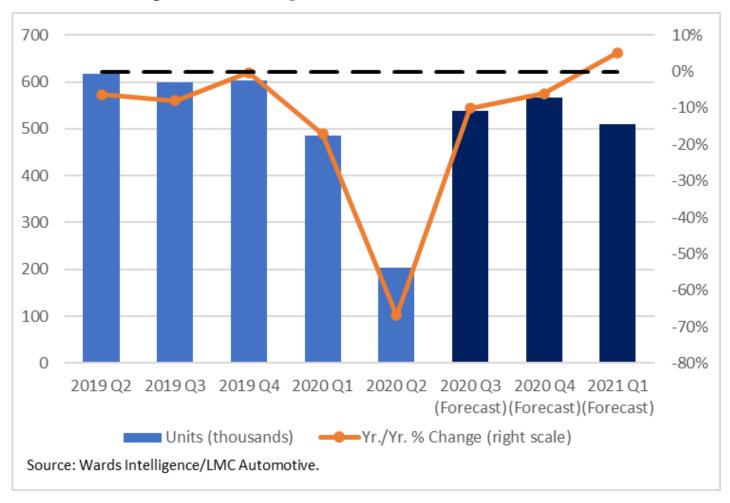
Ford Light-Vehicle Production



- Retooling for redesigned F150 also capping production in Sept./Oct. – will help in Q1-2021
- Further cuts in car portfolio capping output
- Production helped in Q1 with full output of redesigned CUVs and Explorer/Aviator vs. slowdowns in the yearago period



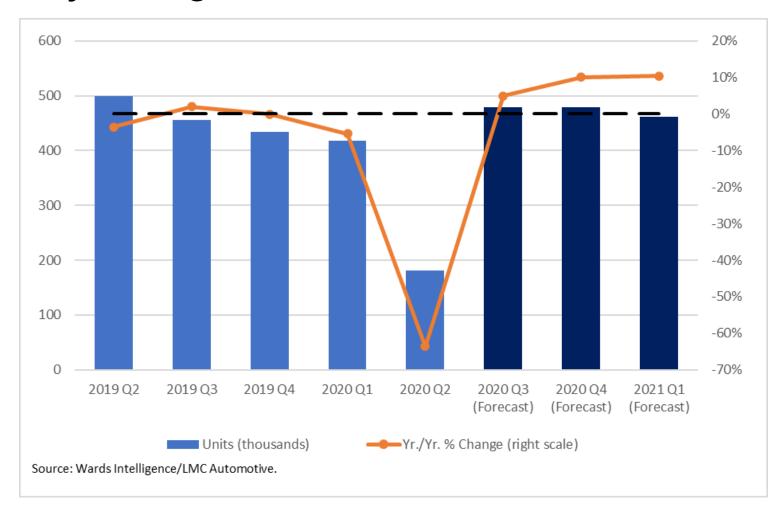
Fiat Chrysler Light-Vehicle Production



- Production improves as it begins output at a new plant (Mack Assembly) with two new Jeep products
- Q1-2021 also goes a against a weak year-ago period marked by slowdowns for inventory control



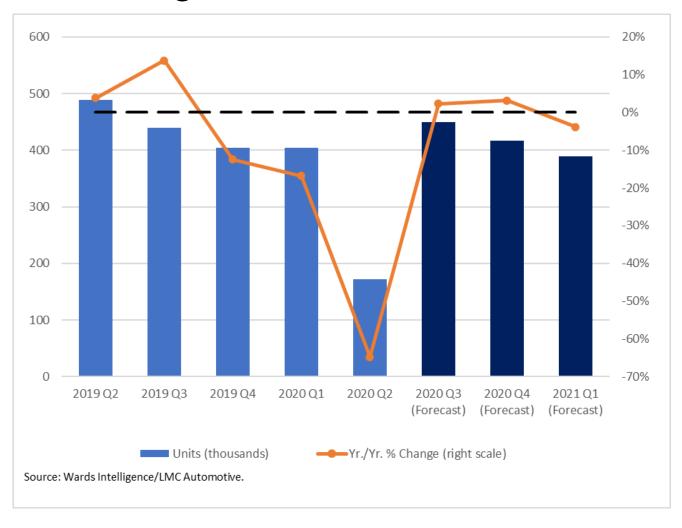
Toyota Light-Vehicle Production



- Production starts posting year-over-year growth from added Tacoma and RAV4 capacity, and new Highlander and Sienna
- Sales mix of domestically built vehicles rises



Honda Light-Vehicle Production



 Production ticks up temporarily with more output of Accord and Civic – vs. weak yearago totals – and cross/utility vehicles



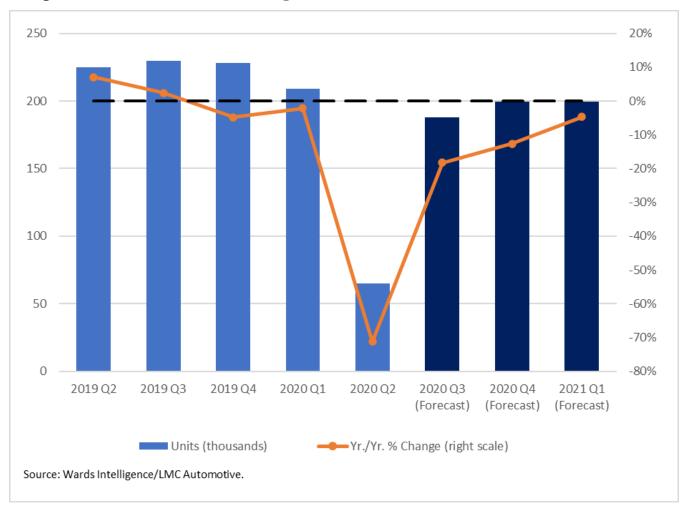
Nissan Light-Vehicle Production



- Production following continued decline in market share
- Import sales mix slightly increasing



Hyundai/Kia Light-Vehicle Production



- Inventory not hit as bad as the rest of the industry
- Higher mix of import sales also limiting production, though that will turn around later in 2021







Thank you

HAIG STODDARD

Senior Industry Analyst, Markets • Wards Intelligence haig.stoddard@informa.com

www.linkedin.com/in/haigstoddard Website: wardsintelligence.com



