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Chrysler Reports 12 Percent Rise In U.S. Sales

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was the sixth consecutive month in which the Ram Truck brand registered the largest percentage year-over-year sales gain of any Chrysler Group brand. Sales of the Ram pickup truck were up 31 percent, its 40th consecutive month of year-over-year sales gains and its best August sales since 2006. Sales of the light-duty Ram pickup were up 34 percent in August, driven by a sharp increase in Crew Cab pickups, while heavy-duty Ram sales increased 26 percent.

Dodge brand sales were up 12 percent in August, the brand's best August sales since 2003 and its 27th consecutive month of year-over-year sales gains. The Dodge Challenger and Dodge Dart compact sedan each recorded their best August sales, while the Dodge Journey midsize crossover, with its 12 percent increase, had its best sales month ever. The Dart recorded its third straight month of year-over-year sales gains. Dodge Charger sales were up 37 percent in August, while sales of the Dodge Durango full-size SUV increased 117 percent. Durango registered its best August sales in eight years. Jeep brand sales were up 8 percent in August, the best August sales in 11 years. All Jeep brand models in production recorded sales gains in August compared with the same month a year ago. The Jeep Wrangler, Jeep Compass, and Jeep Patriot each recorded their best sales ever for the month of August.

Chrysler brand sales were up 2 percent in August led by the Chrysler 300 full-size sedan's 27 percent year-over-year sales gain. It was the 300's best August sales since 2007 and best sales month so far this year. Sales of the Chrysler Town & Country minivan were up 11 percent, its best August sales since 2002, as well as the vehicle's best sales month so far this year.

Ford Retail Sales Up 20 Percent

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F-Series sales of 71,115 vehicles were up 22 percent, for the 25th consecutive monthly increase – and for the second time this year, sales have topped 70,000 vehicles.

The last time F-Series had sales of more than 70,000 vehicles in two separate months in a calendar year was 2006.

Lincoln MKZ sales were up 10 percent to 3,652 vehicles, for a best-ever August sales month. MKZ has now reported record sales for four of the last five months.

Ford also announced it will build 785,000 vehicles in the fourth quarter of 2013, a 7 percent increase (50,000 vehicles) from the fourth quarter of 2012. Third-quarter production of 740,000 vehicles is unchanged.

Special Mustang Stars in Movie and Area Heart Benefit

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sors and participants who support the work we do," said Sandy Hudson, chief development officer at Henry Ford Hospital. "Get Your Heart Racing' is a unique event and it promises to be better than ever this year."

"Need for Speed" marks a return to the great car culture films

of the 1960s and '70s. The story chronicles a cross-country journey for the film's heroes.

The Get Your Heart Racing Pit Party will be the second time that the vehicle has visited Detroit, as portions of the film were shot in and around the city this summer. The celebrity Mustang is planned to be auctioned by Barrett-Jackson shortly after the film's release

date of March 14, with proceeds benefiting The Edith and Benson Ford Heart & Vascular Institute at Henry Ford Hospital.

The fundraiser is co-produced by Henry Ford Health System and Ford Motor Company.

The Pit Party is followed by a day at the track on Saturday, Sept. 14, at Ford's Dearborn Development Center and Proving Grounds.

The track event features celebrity drivers offering thrill rides, driving demonstrations, and opportunities for participants to get behind the wheel themselves to experience select Ford vehicles.

Honorary chairpersons of this year's event are Paul and Lynn Alandt and Raj Nair, Ford group vice president, Global Product Development.

Crates to Plates: GM Urban Gardening in Detroit

General Motors is turning 100 steel crates used for shipping engines to Orion Assembly into raised urban gardens in vacant parking lots throughout Detroit, building on an earlier donation of 250 crates that enabled Cadillac Urban Gardens to bloom in Southwest Detroit.

Community residents will be able to pick the free produce, while being encouraged to contribute to ongoing watering and maintenance.

According to a GM press release, together with volunteers, the automaker has nearly doubled the plantings over the last year, yielding 2,400 vegetable and herb plants this summer.

The GM release went on to say that many partners make the effort a success, such as the garden's host, auto supplier Ideal Group, the nonprofit Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision, and numerous schools and youth groups.

"We enjoy connecting with people making a difference through sustainable means," said John Bradburn, GM waste-reduction manager. "These urban garden initiatives are proof that many items can have a higher purpose after their original use, whether it's transforming a once-vacant parking lot or the creative reuse of manufacturing packaging."

GM, Bradburn said, also contributes to Detroit Dirt's compost recipe with cafeteria food scraps from Hamtramck Assembly, which also supplies used pallets that hold piles of the enriched soil at the gardens.

The garden's success has led to 460 crate donations to Buckets of Rain, a nonprofit urban farming initiative supporting soup kitchens like the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries and Cass Community Social Services, Bradburn said.

The program has transformed once-desolate urban spaces into 1.25 acres of plantings housed in recycled pallets and shipping crates. The harvest will provide food for thousands of underprivileged community members.

Gardening efforts extend beyond food sources. GM repurposed and donated 85 scrap Chevrolet Volt battery covers from its Brownstown, Mich., battery lab as flower planters to the nonprofit Mary McLeod Bethune Association committed to helping at-risk youth. The association is customizing the covers, using them to beautify Detroit neighborhoods and bus stops.

Bradburn said GM is committed to finding alternative uses for its byproducts. It recycles 90 percent of its worldwide manufacturing waste and has 106 landfill-free facilities.

"Projects like this show how engaged and committed the business community is to Detroit's transformation and to improving the quality of life of its residents," said Cindy Pasky, chair of the Downtown Detroit Partnership and president and CEO of Strategic Staffing Solutions.

"This project, which brings fresh food to the tables of many underprivileged families, is also showing our young people how to take responsibility and help beautify some of our city's more challenging urban spaces."



Detroit Hamtramck Assembly

Cafeteria food scraps are collected and composted by Detroit Dirt – a compost company working to turn unused parcels of land in Detroit into urban farms that not only feed, but revitalize the surrounding community.

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Orion Assembly

800 steel crates used for shipping engines turned into raised garden beds throughout once-vacant Detroit parking lots.

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Cadillac Urban Gardens

Community residents pick free produce from 2,400 vegetable and herb plants housed in GM crates, while contributing to ongoing maintenance.

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Buckets of Rain

Volunteers from Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries take care of gardens so they can serve produce from GM's raised urban garden beds in soup kitchens.

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Green Garage

Small-business incubator Green Garage has rehabbed an historic building for its offices and added a rooftop garden using GM's corrugated containers, providing food to Motor City Brewing Works, which was founded in 1994 and is located in the heart of Detroit's Cultural Center near Wayne State, the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Detroit Science Center.

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