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Buick's Worldwide Sales in 2013 Most in History

Buick delivered 1,032,056 vehicles in China, the United States, Canada and Mexico in 2013, the most Buicks sold in a single year in the brand's 110-year history.

The previous record was 1,003,345 sold in 1984.

Strong growth in both China and North America accounted for the record-breaking year, with global sales up 15.4 percent over 2012.

China posted a 15.7 percent sales gain over 2012, with 894,605 units sold, while the U.S. delivered a 13.9 percent sales increase.

Canada also saw strong sales growth, with a 9.5 percent increase over 2012.

In the U.S., 42 percent of Buick buyers were new to the brand and to General Motors.

Buick experienced strong global growth in both crossovers and sedans from a product lineup that is among the freshest in the industry and the strongest the brand has ever featured, said Buick spokesman Nick Richards.

The new Encore small crossover ended 2013 with 97,311 sales globally.

The eight-passenger Enclave saw sales grow 6.5 percent in North America.

In 2013, Enclave recorded its best year of U.S. sales ever - 60,534.

Exclusive to China, the GL8 posted an annual sales gain of 9.7 percent.

In the sedan segment, the China-exclusive compact Excelle again dominated in the compact sedan segment, delivering 6.9 percent sales growth.

The Excelle GT and Verano compact sedans combined worldwide to deliver a 16.3 percent gain, while sales of the Excelle XT hatchback - sold only in China - were up 17.5 percent.

Sales by country from 2012 to 2013 were:

- China 2012 - 700,007; 2013 - 809,918;
- U.S. 2012 - 180,408; 2013 - 205,509;
- Canada 2012 - 13,068; 2013 - 14,310;
- Mexico 2012 - 1,122; 2013 - 2,319.

Dart Adds Blacktop, 'A Signature of Sorts' - Dodge's Kuniskis

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darkened headlamp bezels, as well as some unique Blacktop interior touches.

"The Blacktops have become a signature of sorts for the Dodge Brand," said Tim Kuniskis, president and CEO of Chrysler's Dodge Brand. "With the addition of the Blacktop package for the Dodge Dart, we're adding to our lineup of vehicles that offer the more aggressive look that has become so popular with our customers."

The 2014 Dodge Dart Blacktop package will start arriving at dealers in the first quarter of 2014, Graham said.

The new package complements the 2014 Dart lineup, which features the 2.4-liter Multi-Air2 Tigershark engine that pro-

duces 184 horsepower and 174 lb.-ft. of torque now standard in the 2014 Dart SXT and Limited models, and featuring a unique calibration on GT models, Graham said.

The 2014 Dodge Dart Blacktop package is based on the 2014 Dart SXT model with the Rallye Appearance Group, Graham said.

On the exterior, the Blacktop package adds as standard equipment Gloss Black mirrors and unique 18-inch Gloss Black aluminum wheels, adding to the features already included on the SXT and Rallye Appearance Group, which features Gloss Black mask and split crosshair grille, dark-tinted projector headlamps, projector fog lamps, integrated dual exhaust, LED racetrack tail lamps, leather-wrapped steering wheel, Blue-

tooth and much more, said Graham.

The Dodge Dart Blacktop will be available in Redline Red, Header Orange, Blue Streak, Granite Crystal Metallic, Billet Silver, Pitch Black and Bright White, Graham said.

The Dart Blacktop also features unique interior details, said Graham, including Black/Ruby Red premium cloth interior with Ruby Red accent stitching on the instrument panel brow, center console and seat bolsters, dual Ruby Red accent stripes on the front seats, and Ruby Red accents in the door trim panels. A Black/Light Tungsten cloth interior is also available on Dart Blacktop models.

As with all Dodge Dart SXT models, the Blacktop can also be equipped with the Sun and

Sound Group, which features a power express open/close sunroof, nine Alpine speakers with subwoofer, 506-watt amplifier, Uconnect 8.4 CD/MP3 radio with 8.4-inch touchscreen radio, iPod control, SiriusXM Satellite Radio with 12-month subscription, ParkView rear backup camera, floating island bezel illuminated instrument panel surround and glove box lamp, Navigation and the Cold Weather Group - which includes heated exterior mirrors - heated front premium cloth seats, tire-pressure monitoring display and remote start (with automatic transmission).

The 2014 Dodge Dart SXT Blacktop package is available at a U.S. MSRP of \$295 on the Dart SXT with Rallye Appearance Group, Graham said.

Silverado, Sierra 1500 Models First NHTSA 5-Star Pickups

The regular and double cab versions of 2014 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 and the GMC Sierra 1500 have received the highest possible 5-star Overall Vehicle Score for safety as part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's New Car Assessment Program.

Joining the previously tested 2014 crew cab models, which also received a 5-star overall score, all cab configurations of the Silverado and Sierra 1500 series now have the highest possible Overall Vehicle Score, said GM spokesperson Jennifer Ecclestone.

These models are the first pickup trucks to receive the 5-star NHTSA Overall Vehicle Score for safety since the implementation of more rigorous requirements for the 2011 model year.

"Our incredibly capable trucks have been engineered to be some of the safest," said Gay Kent, GM general director of Vehicle Safety and Crashworthiness.

"We've designed the vehicle structure, strategically placed high-strength steel and developed the occupant restraint system to achieve high levels of safety performance."

"This level of vehicle performance is complemented by a full array of other advanced safety features to help protect our customers, no matter which new Silverado or Sierra they choose."

Offering fully boxed frames and extensive use of high-strength steel, the Silverado and Sierra also offer available segment-exclusive safety features such as Forward Collision Alert, Lane Departure Warning and Safety Alert Seat, Ecclestone said.

Safety features include:

- Forward collision alert technology helps prevent frontal crashes by alerting the driver when the truck is closing in on a vehicle ahead too quickly, giving him or her additional time to react and avoid a crash.

- Lane Departure Warning technology can alert the driver when the truck drifts over a lane line when traveling at a



"Our incredibly capable trucks have been engineered to be some of the safest." - GM's Gay Kent

speed of 35 miles an hour.

- Safety Alert Seat can warn the driver of traffic approaching from the left or right using directional seat vibration pulses. This patented warning approach is tied to all of the onboard crash avoidance systems.

- High-strength and ultra-high-strength steels are used extensively throughout each truck's fully boxed frame to help improve performance in crashes.

- Rear Vision Camera with Dynamic Guidelines allows the driv-

er, when in reverse, to see the area directly behind the vehicle via the eight-inch monitor on the center stack, allowing for easier parking and backing maneuvers.

- New, standard lap belt pretensioners in the front-seat outboard safety belts.

- Six standard air bags and 360-degree sensor system, including dual-stage frontal air bags, head-curtain side-impact air bags with rollover protection, and seat-mounted side-impact air bags.

- Available trailer-sway control works with StabiliTrak to provide the driver with additional assistance when towing a trailer. When it senses trailer sway, it intervenes with braking and/or reduced engine power to help bring the trailer under control.

- Four-wheel, four-channel, antilock disc brakes that help provide straight, more controlled stops by preventing wheel lock-up in most road conditions.

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