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## Despite Weather Issues, Jeep, Chrysler 200 Set Sales Marks

Chrysler reported U.S. sales of 127,183 units in January, an 8 percent increase compared with sales last January (117,731 units), and the group's best January sales since 2008.

The Chrysler, Jeep, Ram Truck, and Fiat brands each posted year-over-year sales gains in January compared with the same month a year ago.

The Jeep brand's 38 percent in-

crease was the largest sales gain of any Chrysler Group brand during the month. Chrysler Group in January extended its streak of year-over-year sales gains to 46 consecutive months.

"The bad weather only seemed to affect our competitors' stores as we had a great January with sales up 8 percent and achieved our 46th consecutive month of year-over-year sales increases,"

said Reid Bigland, head of U.S. sales.

"In addition to a strong sales start to the year, last month we also reported 2013 full-year profits and unveiled the all-new Chrysler 200, our strongest entry yet in the mid-size sedan segment."

Four Chrysler Group vehicles set sales records in January. The Jeep Compass, Jeep Patriot, Jeep

Wrangler, and Chrysler 200 each posted their best January sales ever.

The Jeep and Fiat brands each posted their best January sales ever. Sales of the Compass compact SUV were up 31 percent in January, the largest percentage sales gain of any Jeep brand model.

With sales up 47 percent, the Dodge Grand Caravan recorded

the largest percentage increase of any Chrysler Group vehicle for the month, and the Ram pickup truck had its best January sales in 10 years.

Chrysler Group finished the month of January with a 105 days supply of inventory (536,039 units). U.S. industry sales figures for January are internally pro-

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Karmanos' Gerold Bepler, left, research assistant Agnes Malysa, right, with Dan Ammann and wife Pernilla.

## GM Foundation's \$400K Supports Cancer Research

The General Motors Foundation is donating \$400,000 to support cancer research conducted by the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute.

The grant celebrates Karmanos' 32nd Annual Dinner and brings to nearly \$7.3 million the combined contributions from the GM Foundation and GM over the last 17 years, said foundation spokesperson Maria Mainville.

"Our donation to Karmanos Cancer Institute is part of the GM Foundation's larger commitment to support the research and prevention of the major illnesses of heart disease, cancer and diabetes," said GM Foundation president Vivian Pickard.

"Due to the tireless efforts of the Karmanos team and their excellent reputation, we are again extending our support to continue the fight against cancer."

GM President Dan Ammann and his wife Pernilla, chief operating officer of Mother New York, will serve as chairs for the Annual Dinner on Saturday, April 26, at the Fox Theatre. This is the fourth consecutive year that a member of GM senior leadership has chaired the event.

"Pernilla and I are humbled by the opportunity to continue GM's commitment to Karmanos, and act as champions for such an important cause," Ammann

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## KBB Says Big 3 Score Well In 5-Year Cost-to-Own Study

by Jim Stickford

According to Kelley Blue Book, the Big Three offer some great long-term values for car buyers.

Ford, GM and Chrysler all had vehicles listed as "Best in Category" in KBB's most recent list of "5-Year Cost-to-Own" award winners.

These awards are based on Kelley Blue Book's 5-Year Cost-to-Own data for new cars for the initial five-year ownership period, said KBB spokesperson Chintan Talati.

While depreciation (or loss of value) and fuel costs may be the greatest expense incurred in owning a vehicle, there are other factors that can have a significant impact on a consumer's pocketbook. Available on Kelley Blue Book's KBB.com, "5-Year Cost-to-Own" information takes into consideration depreciation, expected fuel costs, finance and insurance fees, maintenance and repair costs, and state fees for new models, Talati said.

KBB's "5-Year Cost-to-Own Awards," like all new- and used-car information provided by KBB.com, exist to help shoppers make more informed new-car buying decisions by breaking down typical ownership cost details and naming the brands and models with the lowest projected five-year total, Talati said.

2014 model-year vehicles' projected ownership costs are based on the average Kelley Blue Book "5-Year Cost-to-Own" data for the initial five-year ownership period, Talati said.

"New-car shoppers naturally want to know how much a car

will cost up front," said Dan Ingle, vice president of vehicle valuations for Kelley Blue Book. "However, sometimes an even more expensive car can actually save you money during the first five years of ownership."

"Kelley Blue Book's '5-Year Cost-to-Own' information evaluates the other out-of-pocket expenses drivers will incur, which helps consumers choose the vehicle that fits them and their wallets best, helping save money down the road."

One notable "5-Year Cost-to-Own Award" winner is the 2014 Buick Encore, Ingle said, which is this year's "5-Year Cost-to-Own: Luxury Compact SUV/Crossover" category winner.

The Encore beat out the Acura RDX and BMW X3 in all categories except maintenance and repairs.

Encore offers depreciation costs 35.7 percent lower than RDX and an impressive 63.7 percent lower than X3.

In addition, this year's 5-Year Cost-to-Own: Plug-In Vehicle category winner, the 2014 Chevrolet Spark EV, bests the Chevrolet Volt and Honda Accord Plug-In Hybrid in nearly all ownership factors. Spark EV not only offers the lowest state fees, but also the lowest insurance, outperforming Volt by 50.5 percent and is 22.6 percent lower than Accord Plug-In Hybrid.

Kelley Blue Book's "5-Year Cost-to-Own" information is developed using Kelley Blue Book residual values to calculate depreciation costs, Talati said. Kelley Blue Book calculates total ownership costs for new vehicles



2014 Buick Encore



2014 Jeep Patriot



2014 Lincoln MKX

by applying a sophisticated valuation methodology along with critical financial data from third-party providers.

Other Detroit OEM winners:

the Jeep Patriot in the Compact SUV/Crossover category for the second year in a row; Chevy Im-

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## Bosch is Selected For Kia Charging And Installation

Bosch Automotive Service Solutions has been selected as a charging station and installation services partner for the new 2015 Kia Soul EV, which debuted at the 2014 Chicago Auto Show.

Bosch will provide a suite of 240V charging options, including its Power Xpress and Bosch Power Max charging stations, as well as full-service installation for Soul EV drivers.

A Bosch vehicle charging advisor will support customers through the entire installation process, including:

- No-cost, on-site quotation;
- Choosing the best charging station to meet each driver's individual needs;
- Local permit application, coordination, and inspection;
- Installation completed by a Bosch-certified electrician.

"As Kia launches its Soul EV in the U.S. market, we continue to expand EV infrastructure as we have over the last several years," said Kevin Mull, vice president of Business Development at Bosch Automotive Service Solutions.

"We are very proud to be one of the recommended charging solutions partners for Kia Motors America. Purchasing a Bosch Level 2 charging station and installation service will help Soul EV drivers charge their vehicles faster, alleviating range anxiety and inspiring confidence in their new EV."

Scheduled to go on sale in the third quarter of 2014, the 2015 Soul EV will be Kia's first all-electric, zero-emissions vehicle.

For more information on Bosch Electric Vehicle Solutions, visit [www.pluginnow.com](http://www.pluginnow.com).

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