

## Sharp Declines For U.S. Auto Sales In January

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As the state looks to expand away from the auto industry, local economists are reacting to plummeting auto sales.

A new report showed January car and truck sales in the U.S. fell 37%. Chrysler sales tumbled 55%, GM's went down 49% and Ford sales dropped 40%.

U.S. automakers weren't the only ones suffering. Toyota saw a 32% decline last month and Honda fell 28%.

The C.E.O. of Anderson Economic Group, Patrick Anderson, said consumer confidence could be to blame.

"The fundamental issue we're facing is that consumers have lost confidence in the economy," said Anderson. "They're not buying cars and they're worried about the survival of Detroit-based automakers. That's an added burden on an already troubled industry."

While most automakers report struggling sales for January, Subaru saw an eight percent increase for the second month in a row.