

**VOLUNTARY EXPORT RESTRAINTS (VERs)  
AND THE QUESTION OF QUALITY UPGRADING**

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# **VOLUNTARY EXPORT RESTRAINTS (VERs) AND THE QUESTION OF QUALITY UPGRADING**

## **ABSTRACT**

One of the most appealing policies for trade restrictions is Voluntary Export Restraints (VERs). When a domestic industry faces rapid growth of imports, the importing country may negotiate VERs with one or several major exporting countries. A VER is inherently discriminative policy. It limits the exports of a set of suppliers while the quantities of other suppliers are excluded from these restrictions.

There have been many theoretical studies that examined the effect of VERs on the importing country's welfare. The main findings of these studies indicate that VERs lead to higher prices and profits for both the domestic and foreign firms and net welfare loss to the importing country. These findings also suggest that VERs may lead to quality improvements in the restricted good. Also, there have been some empirical studies that support this quality upgrading argument. The objective of this paper is to examine the question of quality upgrading as a result of the VERs imposed on Japanese automobiles imports to the United States in the early 1980s. Using hedonic regression analysis and incorporating the effect of changes in exchange rates and regional variations, this study found no evidence for such quality upgrading.

JEL Classification: F1

### **Key Words:**

VERs

Quality upgrading

Hedonic regression

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In the 1970s the U.S. economy suffered two recessions, one after the oil crisis of 1973 and lasted until 1976. The second followed the oil crisis of 1979 and prevailed until 1982. These two recessions besides the increasing market share of foreign imports (especially Japanese) in the U.S. domestic market caused the U.S. automobile production and employment in the industry to decline. All of this resulted in a record loss for the auto industry; in 1980 net income of General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, and American Motors was -\$4.2 billion<sup>1</sup>.

These events created a hostile environment toward Japanese trade in general and Japanese auto imports in particular. Also, as was noted by Crandall (1987), the roughly 60% appreciation of the real value of the U.S. dollar between 1979 and 1985 created an environment that was increasingly conducive to protectionist policies in the United States equipments markets<sup>2</sup>. In this environment, the 1981 Voluntary Export Restraints agreement with Japan on automobiles marked the first attempt to protect the U.S. automobile industry from imports since WWII. In early 1985 the U.S. authorities judged that the domestic automobile industry had been able to adjust to import competition and announced that they would not ask Japan to extend the restraints. But the Japanese government decided to extend the restraints for additional two years through March 1987. During the 1981-84 period, automobile prices increased rapidly and the price of imported cars increased more than the increase in the price of domestic cars. In 1983 and 1984, the U.S. automakers achieved record levels of net income. This is in part due to efforts by the industry to control cost of production and may be in part due to the restraints.

Since VERs have become a prevalent means of restricting exports, consequently, they have received most of the attention in the existing literature. Most of the theoretical research has concentrated on the effects of VERs on the importing country's price and welfare. This has been contrasted with tariff or quota under various market structures. In these studies, the asymmetry

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<sup>1</sup> See Tables A1 and A2 in the Appendix.

<sup>2</sup> In this environment, automobile and steel quotas were imposed. A textile quota bill was passed in the House of Representatives. Motorcycles were subjected to quotas and tariffs. Calls mounted for protection of the semiconductor and telecommunications

introduced by the VERs actually "facilitates" collusion between the foreign and domestic firms resulting in higher prices and profits for each and net welfare loss to the importing country. For this line of research see for example Bhagwati (1965), Takacs (1978), Krishna (1983), Murray et al (1983), Harris (1985), Buffie and Spiller (1986), Dean and Gengopadhyay (1986), Brecher and Bhagwati (1987), Cooper and Riezman (1989), and Shivakumar (1993).

Another line of research focused on the quality upgrading effect of the VERs and the findings of this research indicate that the imposition of the VERs may lead to quality improvements in the restricted good. See for example Falvey (1979), Rodriguez (1979), Das and Donnenfeld (1987, 1989), Krishna (1987). Other studies took different approaches; for example Hillman and Ursprung (1988) incorporated foreign interest in the determination of a country's international trade policy into a model of political competition between candidates contesting elective office. The candidates make trade policy pronouncements to maximize political support from producer interests. Their analysis shows that tariffs are divisive but VERs are consistent with conciliatory policy positions yielding mutual gains to foreign and domestic interests.

Anderson (1992) showed that the prospect of a VER might lead to a domino effect of dumping and antidumping activities.

At the empirical front, there has been increasing number of studies that sought to examine the effect of the automobile VERs agreement between the U.S. and Japan in the early 1980s. The main focus of these studies has been to examine the effect of the VERs on automobile prices, welfare loss, and employment in the U.S. auto industry. See for example Crandall (1984), Tarr and Morkre (1984), Hichock (1985), The USITC (1985), Crandall (1987), Collins and Dunaway (1987), Co (1997), Winston et al (1987), Dinopoulos and Krenin (1988), Fuss et al (1992), Goldberg (1994, 1995), Berry et al (1999). In general, these studies produced inconsistent findings. For example, the most recent and more sophisticated of these studies, Goldberg (1994, 1995) and Berry et al (1999) produced conflicting findings with regard to the timing of the effect. For example Goldberg (1994, 1995) concluded that the VERs had its most effect during the early years while Berry et al (1999) concluded that

this effect happened in the late years and had almost no effect in its early years. This leaves the door open to more empirical investigation.

Besides examining the effect of the automobile VERs on price and welfare in the U.S., some other studies examined the effect of the VERs on quality and concluded that there was quality upgrading because of the VERs. See for example Feenstra (1984, 1985, and 1988).

Levinsohn (1994) has noted that one of the rewards of researching the US automobile industry is that there is seldom a lack of interesting questions. In this paper, I will examine one of these questions; did the Japanese automobiles VERs lead to quality upgrading in automobiles sold in the U.S. market?

The paper is organized as follows: Section 2 presents a theoretical model of the effect of VERs on quality. Section 3 is devoted for the analysis and results of the study. A summary and some concluding remarks can be found in section 4.

## **2. Theoretical Model**

### **2.1 Hedonic Price Model**

Rosen (1974) developed a model of product differentiation based on the hedonic hypothesis that goods are valued for their utility-bearing attributes or characteristics. In this model, he had buyers and sellers choosing their optimal positions. Each good has  $n$  objectively measured characteristics  $z = (z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n)$ , where  $z_i$  measures the amount of the characteristics contained in each good. The price of the good is  $p(z) = p(z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n)$ .

Consumers and producers choose the optimal price along the vector of equilibrium price schedule  $p(z)$ .

#### **2.1.1 The Consumer's Decision:**

The consumer utility from buying a unit of the differentiated product is:

(1)  $U = U(z, x; \alpha)$  where:  $x$  is the quantity of a numeraire good and  $\alpha$  is a vector of consumer parameters reflecting taste.

The consumer maximizes utility subject to the budget constraint  $y = p(z) + x$  (assuming  $p(x)=1$ ).

The Lagrangian function for utility maximization is:

$$(2) \quad L = U(z, x; \alpha) + \lambda[y - p(z) - x]$$

FOC are:

$$(3) \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial z} = U_z[z, y - p(z); \alpha] - \lambda p_z(z) = 0$$

$$(4) \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial x} = U_x - \lambda = 0$$

$$(5) \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda} = y - p(z) - x = 0$$

From FOC we can get:

$$(6) \quad U_z[z, y - p(z); \alpha] = U_x[z, y - p(z); \alpha] p_z(z)$$

$$(7) \quad p_z(z) = U_z[z, y - p(z); \alpha] / U_x[z, y - p(z); \alpha]$$

Equation (7) represents the usual FOC for utility maximization; the marginal rate of substitution between characteristic  $z_i$  and the numeraire good equals their price ratio.

### 2.1.2 The Production Decision:

The decision facing producers is what package of characteristics to be assembled. If  $M(z)$  denotes the number of units produced by a firm offering specification  $z$ , then total costs for domestic or foreign firms are  $C(M, z; \beta)$ , where  $M$  is the quantity produced of the differentiated product with characteristics  $z$ , and  $\beta$  is a vector of firm parameters. These parameters reflect firm-specific technological knowledge, as well as differences in factor prices across countries. Feenstra (1988) modified this model to include a quota. In Feenstra's model, the foreign firm faces a quota of  $M \leq \bar{M}$  where  $\bar{M}$  may differ across firms.

The Lagrangian for foreign firms is:

$$(8) \quad L = p(z)M - C(M, z; \beta) + S(\bar{M} - M)$$

where  $s \geq 0$  is the shadow price of the quota constraint. When the quota is binding, the first-order conditions for foreign firms are:

$$(9) \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial z} = p_z(z)\bar{M} - C_z(\bar{M}, z; \beta) = 0$$

$$(10) \quad \frac{\partial L}{\partial M} = p(z) - C_M(\bar{M}, z; \beta) = 0$$

Rearranging (9) and (10) yields:

$$(11) \quad p_z(z) = C_z(\bar{M}, z; \beta) / \bar{M}$$

$$(12) \quad p(z) = C_M(\bar{M}, z; \beta) + s$$

Equation (11) determines the optimal choice of  $z$  for a foreign firm and equation (12) determines quota rent per unit produced. Equations (7), (11), and (12) determine the full equilibrium conditions for the foreign firms. The equilibrium conditions for domestic firms are similar (with  $s = 0$  and  $M$  endogenous). The final equilibrium condition is that supply equals demand for each product type.

### 2.1.3 The Effect on Quality:

Suppose the quota level  $\bar{M}$  is reduced across foreign firms, this will change  $C_z$  and affect  $z$  directly in (11). Also, the reduction in  $\bar{M}$  will change the equilibrium price schedule  $p(z)$ , which can also affect the choice of  $z$  in (12). To examine the direct effect, differentiate (11) to obtain:

$$P_{zz} dz = \left[ \left( C_{zz} dz + C_{z\bar{M}} d\bar{M} \right) \bar{M} - C_z d\bar{M} \right] / \bar{M}^2$$

which can be rearranged to yield:

$$(13) \quad \frac{\partial z}{\partial \bar{M}} = \left[ p_{zz} - \left( \frac{C_{zz}}{\bar{M}} \right) \right]^{-1} \left[ \frac{C_{z\bar{M}}}{\bar{M}} \left( \frac{C_z}{\bar{M}^2} \right) \right]$$

The matrix  $\left[ p_{zz} - \left( \frac{C_{zz}}{\bar{M}} \right) \right]$  and its inverse are negative definite from the second-order conditions

for profit maximization. The column vector  $\left[ \frac{C_{z\bar{M}}}{\bar{M}} \left( \frac{C_z}{\bar{M}^2} \right) \right]$  is the change in marginal cost of

each characteristic when output varies. Convexity of the cost function in  $(M, z)$  does not determine the sign of this vector and as a result, the effect of the quota on quality is ambiguous. However, Feenstra indicated that intuition suggests that this effect should be positive. This is because a firm that experiences a decline in output would find itself with unused amounts of fixed inputs, which could be used to upgrade the units being produced. He demonstrated that this intuition applies for cost functions of the form:  $C(M, z; \beta) = c[g(Mz; \beta)] = c[Mg(z; \beta)]$ , where  $g$  is homogenous of degree one and can be thought of as a unit-cost function, and  $c$  is an increasing and convex transformation. This functional form specifies that the relevant units for measuring output are  $Mz$ , i.e., the total amount produced of each characteristic.

#### 2.1.4 The Effect on Price:

In the short run, the price schedule  $p(z)$  could change nonlinearly as firms move along their marginal cost curves and adjust to the new consumer demands. In the long-run equilibrium plants are constructed to achieve minimum average cost, which is:

$$h(z; \beta) \equiv \min_M MC(M, z; \beta) / M$$

Total costs are  $Mh(z; \beta)$  and the firm maximizes profits. The Lagrangian function for this problem is:

$$L = p(z)M - Mh(z; \beta) + s(\bar{M} - M)$$

The first-order conditions are:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial z} = p_z(z)M - Mh_z(z; \beta) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial M} = p(z) - h(z; \beta) = 0$$

It follows from the FOC that:

$$(14) \quad p_z(z)M = h_z(z; \beta)$$

$$(15) \quad p(z) = h(z; \beta) + s$$

Foreign firms will switch product types within their output quotas and the equilibrium foreign price schedule is:



$$(16) \quad p(z) = \phi(z) + s$$

where  $\phi(z) \equiv \min_b h(z; b)$  is the envelope of firm's minimum average cost. A reduction of the quota leads to a rise in the quota rents which results in a price increase in (16) .

## 2.2 Hedonic Price Regression:

To measure the quality of Japanese auto imports, hedonic regression is used. The hedonic regression is an estimate of the equilibrium price schedule  $p(z)$ . In this estimation I pool data over the 1979-90 period. In the model, the logarithm of the suggested retail price is regressed against some quality characteristics which include the logarithm of the acceleration variable,  $\ln(HP/Wt)$ , the logarithm of the space variable,  $\ln(space)$ , the logarithm of the cost of driving variable,  $\ln(MPD)$ , three binary variables (Air, Auto, PS). Besides these model attribute variables, the list of the independent variables also includes region dummies for Japan and Europe (jap, euro), trend variables (jtrend, etrend), the logarithm of the exchange rate (lexrte), the logarithm of the lagged exchange rate (llagexrte), and the interaction between the region dummies and the exchange rate (jap\*lexrte, eur\*lexrte). Also included in the analysis are annual dummy variables (D79-D90) which reflect the effect of any other variables not included in the above list of explanatory variables, mainly the effect of the VER. Therefore, the model to be estimated is:

$$\begin{aligned} \ln(p) = & \beta_1 + \beta_2 \ln(HP/Wt) + \beta_3 \ln(Space) + \beta_4 \ln(MPD) + \beta_5 (Air) + \beta_6 (Auto) \\ & + \beta_7 (PS) + \beta_8 (jap) + \beta_9 (euro) + \beta_{10}(jtrend) + \beta_{11}(etrend) + \beta_{12} (lexrte) \\ & + \beta_{13} (llagexrte) + \beta_{14} (jap*lnexrte) + \beta_{15} (eur*lexrte) + \beta_{16} (D80) + \beta_{17} (D81) \\ & + \beta_{18} (D82) + \beta_{19} (D83) + \beta_{20} (D84) + \beta_{21} (D85) + \beta_{22} (D86) + \beta_{23} (D87) \\ & + \beta_{24} (D88) + \beta_{25} (D89) + \beta_{26} (D90) \end{aligned}$$

After estimating the model, coefficients of the model characteristic variables are used to develop a predicted price for each model based on its quality features weighting the predicted price by the sales of each model. These fitted prices reflect the unit quality value for each model and can be used as proxy for quality upgrading.

## 3. Analysis and Results

### **3.1 Data**

Data for this study was obtained from two sources; Automotive News Market Data Book, and the Economic Report of the President. The data is annual and covers the period 1979-1990.

The data obtained from the Automotive News Market Data Book include:

1. Annual sales for all models of all passenger cars sold in the United States during the study period (Q). Only sales of exotic models (e.g. Ferrari and Rolls-Royce) are not included in the analysis.
2. Suggested retail price for the base model for each nameplate (P).
3. Horsepower for each model (HP).
4. Vehicles weight in lbs (Wt).
5. Vehicle's length in inches (Lng).
6. Vehicle's width in inches (wdth).
7. EPA miles per gallon rating (mpg).
8. Three binary variables for air-conditioning (air), automatic transmission (auto), and power steering (PS). These variables take the value of one if the service is a standard feature and zero otherwise.

Besides the above variables, annual macroeconomic variables were obtained from the Economic Report of the President. These variables are:

1. Exchange rates for foreign currencies in U.S. dollar.
2. Consumer price indices (cpi) for the U.S. and for the main exporting countries to the U.S. automobile's market.
3. Gasoline price.

Another macroeconomic variable is the number of households in the U.S. (HH), which was obtained from the Current Population Report, Household and Family Characteristics, published by the Bureau of the Census.

### **3.2 Descriptive Statistics of the Data**

Tables A3-A10 in the Appendix present the means for the main variables used in the analysis. Besides price, sales, and the three binary variables (air, auto, and ps), three other variables are derived:

1. HP/Wt which is model horsepower divided by its weight. This is a measure of acceleration.
2. Space which equals model length times width.
3. MPD which equals gas price in constant 1983 dollars divided by mpg times ten.

Therefore it is the cost of driving (per 10 miles) in constant 1983 dollars.

All the variables in these Tables are weighted averages and prices are deflated for inflation using the consumer price index (1982-1984 as the base).

Table A3 presents the means of these variables by size class for the whole span of the study. The first observation from the table is that foreign car manufactures had more models of subcompacts, luxury, and sports cars compared to domestic manufacture. Also, during the study period, the large size cars was produced only by domestic producers and there were only seven medium size foreign models (one in 1988, two in 1989, and four in 1990). Foreign models tend to be smaller, more expensive, have more acceleration power, and less costly to drive.

Table A4 presents the means of these variables by size class over time. It can be seen that, except for average model sales, the cost of driving, and space, all the variables had increasing trends over the span of the study period. For the number of models, we notice that the number of foreign models experienced a significant increase in 1981 but it declined the following three years (the beginning of the VERs period). This decrease did not last long as the number of foreign models experienced another sharp increase in 1985. It is worth noticing that the number of domestic models was always greater than the number of foreign models.

It can also be seen that the retail price for foreign models was higher than that for domestic models for each year. Also, model sales had no clear trend during the study period, but domestic sales suffered a decline in the early 1980s and then started to increase in 1983.

The measure of acceleration,  $HP/W_t$ , increased slightly over the study period, and again, its value for foreign models was greater than that of domestic models. This is the opposite for the space variables where foreign models were smaller compared to domestic models. The overall trend was that automobiles were getting smaller over time. This trend continued until 1987 when the size of automobiles started to get bigger.

The cost of driving is the only variable with a decreasing trend over the entire study period, most probably due to the improvement in design and fuel efficiency. It is worth noting that the cost of driving is less for foreign models in all years included in the study.

With regards to the three binary variables, they had increasing trend during the span of the analysis. This finding indicates that cars became better equipped over time.

Tables A5-A10 represent the descriptive statistics for each size class over the span of the study. The main conclusion when looking at these tables is that these size classes have different attributes and these attributes change differently and affect price differently from one size class to another. For example, while most size classes became better equipped over time, this was not the case for subcompact cars.

### **3.3 Results of the Hedonic Price Regression:**

Table 3.1 presents the results of the hedonic regression for each region separately, and Table 3.2 presents these results for all models together and for each size class separately. Some of the explanatory variables were omitted from the regression for some of the size classes to avoid the colinearity among the regressors. For example, the power steering dummy was omitted as explanatory variables from the regression of the medium and standard size models because this feature was standard for all models in these two classes. Also, the region, trend, and exchange variables were omitted from the medium and standard size models since all the

standard size models were domestic and there were only seven medium size foreign models in the whole sample. The regression's estimates presented in Tables 3.1, 3.2 are corrected for heteroskedasticity and autocorrelation. The procedure proposed by White (1978) was used to correct for heteroskedasticity, and the procedure proposed by Beach and Mackinnon (1978) was used to correct for autocorrelation. Both procedures are outlined in Green(1991).

From Table 3.1 it can be seen that all the coefficients of model attributes have the expected sign, except for the size of domestic models, noting the effect is statistically significant with few exceptions. Also, the coefficients for the year dummies are positive and statistically significant after the imposition of the VERs for domestic models only. Nevertheless, the effect is mixed and not statistically significant for Japanese and European models except for the 1989 Japanese models. These results also hold when estimating the model for each size class separately with little exception, which indicates that the VERs did not lead to price increases for imported automobiles.

Findings presented in Table 3.2 show that the HP/Wt attribute negatively affects the price of compact cars. Also the sign of the vehicle's size is negative for the medium size, which is not expected, and for sports cars, which is expected since the most expensive sport cars are generally the smallest ones. All of this negative effect is statistically insignificant. Also there are some coefficients with the expected positive sign but have a statistically insignificant effect on price. These are the coefficient of the cost of driving subcompact cars (which is not surprising), the coefficient of the auto transmission dummy for subcompact, compact, and standard cars, and the coefficient of the size variable for the standard size.

The coefficients for the region dummies indicate that European cars are sold at a premium for all size classes except the sports cars. Japanese models are sold at a premium for the subcompact and compact models only.

The coefficients of the trend variable suggest that prices of Japanese and European models had trended downward compared to American models during the span of the study. This

downward trend was statistically significant except for the sport models and the Japanese luxury models.

The results in Table 3.2 also indicate that there is little pass through effect of the exchange rate on prices. Both the current and lagged exchange rates had mixed and statistically insignificant effect on prices except for the lagged exchange rate where it had positive and statistically significant effect on all models when combined together and for luxury cars. Also, the coefficients for the interaction of the region dummies with the exchange rate had mixed and statistically insignificant effects across size class.

The coefficients of the years dummies measure the change in automobiles prices, compared to 1979 since it is the omitted year, due to other factors not included in the regressors; mainly the effect of the VER. The results show that prices of all models, except compact cars, dropped in 1980 but this drop was not statistically significant except for the standard size models. Prices of standard and luxury cars dropped also in 1981 although it was statistically insignificant. Beginning in 1982, after the imposition of the VER, prices of all models started to increase with few exceptions. The increase was statistically insignificant for the sport models where the price decrease continued until 1985.

Table 3.1: Hedonic Regression Results for Automobiles  
By Region [Dependent variable is ln (P)]

Variable	Domestic	Japanese	European
	$\bar{R}^2 = 0.84$ # of obs=835	$\bar{R}^2 = 0.85$ # of obs=297	$\bar{R}^2 = 0.81$ # of obs=357
Constant	12.794* (0.836)	-0.714 (1.537)	-2.369 (1.849)
ln (HP/Wt)	0.261* (0.044)	0.586* (0.065)	0.818* (0.085)
ln (Space)	-0.304* (0.091)	1.262* (0.163)	1.567* (0.199)
ln (MPD)	0.533* (0.055)	0.335* (0.083)	0.353* (0.125)
Air	0.476* (0.018)	0.257* (0.030)	0.255* (0.051)
Auto	0.126* (0.019)	-0.006 (0.038)	0.336* (0.046)
PS	0.168* (0.019)	0.102* (0.025)	0.085 (0.055)
lexrte		1.019 (0.549)	-0.017 (0.021)
llagexrte		-1.04 (0.558)	0.022 (0.023)
D80	-0.092* (0.035)	-0.069 (0.050)	-0.046 (0.105)
D81	-0.027 (0.035)		-0.054 (0.096)
D82	0.035* (0.034)	0.087 (0.069)	0.002 (0.106)
D83	0.133* (0.034)	-0.09 (0.078)	-0.025 (0.109)
D84	0.130* (0.036)	-0.075 (0.062)	-0.075 (0.116)
D85	0.093* (0.035)	-0.063 (0.062)	-0.113 (0.112)
D86	0.317* (0.044)	-0.346 (0.230)	-0.032 (0.127)
D87	0.301* (0.044)	-0.021 (0.118)	-0.003 (0.125)
D88	0.334* (0.046)	-0.018 (0.107)	0.019 (0.125)
D89	0.303* (0.046)	0.165* (0.068)	0.022 (0.124)
D90	0.279* (0.047)	0.088 (0.067)	-0.058 (0.135)

Standard error between parentheses.

\* Significant at 0.05 level.

Table 3.2: Hedonic Regression Results for Automobiles by Size Class

Variable	[Dependent Variable is Ln (Price)]						
	All $\bar{R}^2 = 0.84$ # of obs.=1496	Sub- Compact $\bar{R}^2 = 0.66$ # of obs.=279	Compact $\bar{R}^2 = 0.81$ # of obs.=317	Medium $\bar{R}^2 = 0.78$ # of obs.=267	Standard $\bar{R}^2 = 0.84$ # of obs.=84	Luxury $\bar{R}^2 = 0.70$ # of obs.=295	Sports $\bar{R}^2 = 0.89$ # of obs.=254
Constant	6.252* (0.762)	-2.125 (1.578)	-0.806 (1.395)	12.102* (1.516)	7.943* (1.871)	3.377 (1.747)	12.891* (2.485)
ln(HP/Wt)	0.657* (0.037)	0.402* (0.080)	-0.074 (0.061)	0.199* (0.046)	0.152 (0.078)	0.280* (0.089)	0.715* (0.088)
ln(Space)	0.520* (0.083)	1.315* (0.161)	0.994* (0.146)	-0.268 (0.158)	0.188 (0.202)	0.728* (0.187)	-0.141 (0.270)
ln(MPD)	0.368* (0.049)	0.071 (0.083)	0.216* (0.067)	0.206* (0.077)	0.537* (0.175)	0.456* (0.125)	0.545* (0.131)
Air	0.349* (0.018)	0.194* (0.073)	0.257* (0.025)	0.213* (0.023)	0.206* (0.024)	0.173* (0.071)	0.272* (0.041)
Auto	0.128* (0.018)	0.035 (0.121)	0.006 (0.033)	0.094* (0.016)	0.022 (0.096)	0.196* (0.035)	0.411* (0.058)
PS	0.122* (0.018)	0.192* (0.049)	0.140* (0.020)	0.177* (0.017)			0.060 (0.039)
jap	0.903 (0.525)	2.106* (0.540)	2.226* (0.629)			1.596 (4.316)	1.280 (0.908)
euro	2.632* (0.470)	2.549* (0.691)	4.004* (0.556)			2.772* (0.803)	1.709 (0.928)
jtrend	-0.009 (0.006)	-0.024* (0.006)	-0.025* (0.007)			-0.007 (0.032)	-0.017 (0.010)
etrend	-0.025* (0.006)	-0.027* (0.008)	-0.043* (0.007)			-0.022* (0.010)	-0.014 (0.011)
lexrte	-0.030 (0.021)	0.00002 (0.027)	-0.006 (0.041)			-0.117 (0.402)	-0.028 (0.041)
llagexrte	0.050* (0.016)	0.015 (0.022)	-0.011 (0.030)			0.292* (0.049)	-0.036 (0.045)
jap*lexrte	-0.017 (0.033)	0.0001 (0.027)					0.010 (0.076)
eur*lexrte	0.006 (0.013)	-0.013 (0.018)	0.056 (0.034)			0.065 (0.400)	0.081 (0.062)
D80	-0.054 (0.045)	-0.050 (0.041)	0.005 (0.051)	-0.018 (0.034)	-0.118* (0.047)	-0.058 (0.094)	-0.093 (0.094)
D81	0.028 (0.044)	0.029 (0.039)	0.091 (0.053)	0.027 (0.033)	-0.080 (0.042)	-0.033 (0.088)	-0.009 (0.087)
D82	0.108* (0.047)	0.067 (0.042)	0.193* (0.055)	0.073* (0.030)	0.002 (0.042)	0.130 (0.090)	-0.047 (0.091)
D83	0.140* (0.046)	0.042 (0.047)	0.197* (0.057)	0.082* (0.031)	0.147* (0.048)	0.136 (0.092)	0.031 (0.094)
D84	0.105* (0.047)	0.054 (0.052)	0.214* (0.061)	0.075* (0.034)	0.149* (0.050)	0.113 (0.099)	-0.013 (0.093)
D85	0.098* (0.046)	0.101 (0.053)	0.163* (0.058)	0.052 (0.034)	0.145* (0.047)	0.114 (0.099)	-0.018 (0.093)
D86	0.234* (0.053)	0.139 (0.071)	0.271* (0.070)	0.160* (0.044)	0.361* (0.091)	0.356* (0.118)	0.160 (0.117)
D87	0.266* (0.053)	0.153* (0.072)	0.311* (0.069)	0.194* (0.044)	0.311* (0.090)	0.378* (0.121)	0.261* (0.116)
D88	0.281* (0.055)	0.174* (0.075)	0.343* (0.073)	0.216* (0.048)	0.367* (0.103)	0.364* (0.126)	0.322* (0.118)
D89	0.284* (0.056)	0.154 (0.080)	0.326* (0.075)	0.172* (0.046)	0.367* (0.010)	0.378* (0.128)	0.381* (0.120)
D90	0.229* (0.059)	0.063 (0.082)	0.297* (0.080)	0.176* (0.047)	0.397* (0.096)	0.358* (0.133)	0.334* (0.129)

Standard error between parentheses.

\* Significant at 0.05 level.



Rodriguez (1979) developed a model to estimate demand for import services and Feenstra (1984, 1985, and 1988) and Dinopoulos and Kreinen (1988) used this model to estimate automobiles' quality improvements. In this type of analysis, demand for services (S) is estimated as the sum of the predicted price from the hedonic regression (excluding the year's dummies) times quantity:

$$S = \sum(\hat{P} \times Q)$$

and the quality of automobiles is then derived by dividing total services by total quantity:

$$Quality = \frac{\sum(\hat{P} \times Q)}{\sum Q} = \frac{S}{\sum Q}$$

In other words, the measure of quality is the weighted average of the predicted prices, using sales as the weights.

The hedonic regression results presented in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 are used to estimate automobile quality improvements for each region and then for each size class in each region. These results are presented in Tables 3.3-3.6. The results show that there is no clear trend in quality improvement over time. These findings are not in line with those of Feenstra (1984, 1985, and 1988) probably due to the fact that he did not take account of the effects of many of the explanatory variables used in this study.

Table 3.3: Estimated Quality Improvement for Automobiles by Region

Year	Domestic		Japanese		European	
	Quality \$	%	Quality \$	%	Quality \$	%
1979	7325	-	6112	-	11702	-
1980	8155	11	6387	4	12815	10
1981	8243	1	6873	8	15225	19
1982	7824	-5	6888	0.22	16186	6
1983	7410	-5	6624	-4	15900	-2
1984	7428	0.24	7089	7	16282	2
1985	7649	3	7145	1	18564	14
1986	6524	-15	7231	1	15559	-16
1987	7107	9	7263	0.44	15123	-3
1988	6924	-3	7567	4	15346	1
1989	7441	7	7696	2	18877	23
1990	7512	1	8232	7	17673	-6
Average	7474	0.49	7181	2.80	16141	4.40

Table 3.4: Estimated Quality Improvement for Domestic Automobiles by Size Class

Year	Subcompact		Compact		Medium		Standard		Luxury		Sports	
	Quality \$	%	Quality \$	%	Quality \$	%	Quality \$	%	Quality \$	%	Quality \$	%
1979	6081	-	7224	-	6900	-	8848	-	18288	-	8217	-
1980	6147	1	6634	-8	7212	5	10248	16	18945	4	9006	10
1981	5502	-10	5691	-14	7620	6	9946	-3	18669	-1	8434	-6
1982	5488	-0.25	5396	-5	7595	-0.33	9674	-3	16488	-12	7776	-8
1983	5549	1	5928	10	7620	0.33	9143	-5	16409	-0.48	7076	-9
1984	5744	4	5285	-11	8002	5	8297	-9	15865	-3	7510	6
1985	5322	-7	5680	7	7894	-1	8544	3	15037	-5	7239	-4
1986	5017	-6	5313	-6	7477	-5	7748	-9	13192	-12	6390	-12
1987	5150	3	5617	6	7719	3	8472	9	13345	1	9073	42
1988	5457	6	5593	-0.43	7742	0.29	8067	-5	13248	-1	6778	-25
1989	5173	-5	5420	-3	8061	4	8652	7	13769	4	6805	0.39
1990	5426	5	5317	-2	8283	3	8696	1	13950	1	6663	-2
Average	5504	-1	5758	-2	7677	2	8861	0.18	15601	-2	7581	-1

Table 3.5: Estimated Quality Improvement for Japanese Automobiles by Size Class

Year	Subcompact		Compact		Luxury		Sports	
	Quality \$	%	Quality \$	%	Quality \$	%	Quality \$	%
1979	5318	-	7170	-	-	-	7709	-
1980	5462	3	7597	6	-	-	7586	-2
1981	5736	5	7220	-5	-	-	8561	13
1982	5702	-1	6978	-3	-	-	8528	-0.39
1983	5489	-4	6265	-10	-	-	8314	-3
1984	5588	2	5773	-8	13186	-	8394	1
1985	5865	5	5564	-4	11003	-17	7976	-5
1986	6566	12	5295	-5	9912	-10	7545	-5
1987	5706	-13	5438	3	9866	-0.46	7153	-5
1988	6265	10	5668	4	10764	9	7229	1
1989	5908	-6	5635	-1	11077	3	7884	9
1990	6132	4	5972	6	11752	6	6882	-13
Average	5811	2	6128	-2	6464	-2	7813	-1

Table 3.6: Estimated Quality Improvement for European Automobiles by Size Class

Year	Subcompact		Compact		Luxury		Sports	
	Quality \$	%	Quality \$	%	Quality \$	%	Quality \$	%
1979	5457	-	6580	-	10729	-	8275	-
1980	6380	17	6458	-2	10716	-0.12	9143	10
1981	5827	-9	7592	18	13052	22	9342	2
1982	5776	-1	7191	-5	12092	-7	9072	-3
1983	5623	-3	6986	-3	11537	-5	8600	-5
1984	6345	13	7046	1	10385	-10	9561	11
1985	8225	30	6547	-7	11324	9	10907	14
1986	5176	-37	6183	-6	10011	-12	9824	-10
1987	5034	-3	6484	5	10269	3	9706	-1
1988	5180	3	6060	-7	10311	0.41	11986	23
1989	5520	7	5837	-4	11104	8	16599	38
1990	5848	6	5986	3	10641	-4	14094	-15
Average	5866	2	6579	-1	11014	0.34	10592	6

#### **4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

Many researchers have examined the effect of VERs on the importing country's prices and welfare and quality improvement in the restricted good. With regard to quality upgrading of the restricted good, there have been some theoretical research that suggested that may VERs lead to upgrading of those qualities. Also, there has been some empirical research that examined the effect of VERs on the Japanese automobiles exports to the U.S. in the early 1980s. The findings of this research suggest that the restraints led to quality upgrading in those automobiles. In this paper, I have sought to examine this quality-upgrading question in the context of the VERs automobile agreement between the U.S. and Japan in the early 1980s using more extensive data set and including more explanatory variables in the analysis. Using hedonic regression models and incorporating the effect of exchange rate changes and regional variations, and using data for U.S., Japanese, and European new models sold in the U.S. during the 1979-1990 period, the findings of this study show no evidence of such quality upgrading when conducting the analysis for automobile models by make (U.S., Japanese, and European) or by size class (subcompact, compact, medium, standard, luxury, and sports).

This means that the only beneficiaries of these export restraints are domestic and foreign producers of the restricted good. No gains to the consumers in terms of better quality goods.

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## APPENDIX

Table A1: Ratio of Auto Import to U.S. Auto Sales (measured in Units)

Year	Total Import to Sales Ratio	Ratio to Sales of Import from		
		Japan	Canada	Europe
1979	28.2%	15.1%	6.4%	6.7%
1980	35.0	22.4	6.7	5.9
1981	33.3	22.3	6.6	4.4
1982	38.5	23.7	9.3	5.5
1983	33.6	20.1	9.0	4.5
1984	33.7	18.3	10.2	5.0

Source: U.S. International Trade Commission (1985).

Table A2: Profit (or loss) in millions of dollars of the U.S. Automobile Industry

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Net sales	88,413	72,100	80,734	79,495	108,003	131,000
Cost of goods sold	88,813	76,767	83,030	80,048	102,673	119,600
Net profit (or loss)	(400)	(4,667)	(2,296)	(553)	(5,330)	(10,400)

Source: U.S. International Trade Commission (1985).



Table A3: Summary Statistics for Automobiles Characteristic by Size Class

Class	No. of Models	Price (1000s) \$	Quantity (1000s)	HP/Wt	Space	MPD	Air	Auto	PS
Subcompact:	279	6.252	72.917	0.035	10520	0.400	0.005	0.019	0.054
Dom	99	5.845	74.582	0.034	10591	0.423	0.000	0.000	0.038
For	180	6.483	72.007	0.036	10481	0.385	0.008	0.030	0.064
Compact:	317	7.733	87.400	0.038	11908	0.410	0.070	0.085	0.445
Dom	171	7.103	113.750	0.037	11944	0.421	0.029	0.104	0.361
For	146	9.217	56.538	0.041	11825	0.382	0.167	0.042	0.642
Medium:	267	8.619	106.300	0.036	13556	0.524	0.066	0.597	0.735
Dom	260	8.596	107.480	0.036	13571	0.526	0.062	0.604	0.732
For	7	10.538	55.246	0.045	12322	0.361	0.357	0.000	1.000
Large:	84	10.466	114.680	0.038	16007	0.612	0.381	0.972	0.972
Dom	84	10.466	114.680	0.038	16007	0.612	0.381	0.972	0.972
For	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Luxury:	295	19.428	32.824	0.041	14630	0.591	0.984	0.833	1.000
Dom	123	17.822	58.114	0.039	15234	0.628	0.993	0.996	1.000
For	172	23.955	14.739	0.045	12929	0.486	0.958	0.372	1.000
Sport:	254	9.412	42.574	0.041	12329	0.510	0.097	0.020	0.646
Dom	98	8.297	69.748	0.039	12854	0.534	0.027	0.027	0.689
For	156	11.328	25.502	0.045	11427	0.463	0.195	0.009	0.571

Price is in 1,000's of constant 1982-1984 dollar.

Quantity is average model sales in thousands.

HP/WT is horsepower divided by weight in lbs.

Space is vehicle width in inches times vehicle length in inches.

Air, Auto, PS is one if air condition, automatic transmission or power steering is standard equipment and zero otherwise.

Table A4: Some Descriptive Statistics for Automobiles sales in the U.S. 1979-90

Year	No. of Models	Price (1,000's) \$	Quantity (1,000's)	HP/Wt	Space	MPD	Air	Auto	PS
1979:	102	7.588	82.742	0.035	13425	0.636	0.047	0.186	0.257
Dom	61	7.494	111.140	0.035	14137	0.665	0.056	0.226	0.306
For	41	8.024	40.499	0.034	10522	0.517	0.011	0.023	0.058
1980:	103	7.718	71.567	0.035	12956	0.738	0.078	0.216	0.243
Dom	62	7.577	91.924	0.035	13638	0.762	0.089	0.275	0.296
For	41	7.584	40.784	0.034	10633	0.558	0.040	0.015	0.062
1981:	116	8.349	62.030	0.035	12863	0.677	0.094	0.256	0.386
Dom	60	8.263	88.862	0.034	13528	0.724	0.101	0.329	0.482
For	56	8.593	33.282	0.036	10960	0.544	0.075	0.049	0.109
1982:	110	8.831	61.893	0.035	12771	0.577	0.134	0.330	0.415
Dom	66	8.722	73.663	0.034	13418	0.614	0.135	0.441	0.441
For	44	9.105	44.238	0.037	11155	0.486	0.132	0.052	0.149
1983:	115	8.821	67.878	0.035	12764	0.508	0.126	0.394	0.483
Dom	71	8.735	80.725	0.034	13347	0.539	0.122	0.511	0.580
For	44	9.059	47.147	0.038	11152	0.422	0.138	0.070	0.216
1984:	113	8.870	85.933	0.036	12933	0.495	0.129	0.415	0.622
Dom	67	8.816	113.500	0.035	13399	0.519	0.115	0.523	0.668
For	46	9.067	45.784	0.039	11249	0.406	0.181	0.023	0.455
1985:	136	8.939	78.143	0.037	12645	0.515	0.140	0.391	0.600
Dom	77	8.648	105.010	0.037	13085	0.538	0.108	0.481	0.678
For	59	9.863	43.075	0.039	11248	0.439	0.243	0.105	0.350
1986:	130	9.382	83.756	0.038	12486	0.367	0.176	0.388	0.653
Dom	74	9.223	107.880	0.037	12944	0.380	0.155	0.494	0.693
For	56	9.819	51.882	0.041	11229	0.333	0.234	0.099	0.545
1987:	143	9.965	67.667	0.039	12462	0.372	0.229	0.370	0.688
Dom	77	9.821	88.242	0.039	12944	0.389	0.239	0.515	0.757
For	66	10.306	43.664	0.040	11326	0.333	0.205	0.028	0.524
1988:	150	10.069	67.078	0.040	12510	0.355	0.237	0.418	0.706
Dom	80	9.968	90.187	0.039	12927	0.363	0.248	0.556	0.761
For	70	10.328	40.667	0.041	11453	0.335	0.208	0.068	0.567
1989:	147	10.321	62.914	0.041	12588	0.371	0.289	0.380	0.740
Dom	73	10.147	87.426	0.039	13044	0.389	0.320	0.507	0.809
For	74	10.707	38.732	0.043	11573	0.331	0.218	0.097	0.588
1990:	131	10.324	66.377	0.042	12704	0.365	0.308	0.372	0.779
Dom	67	10.276	88.472	0.041	13121	0.377	0.358	0.520	0.825
For	64	10.426	43.247	0.044	11811	0.339	0.200	0.056	0.679

Price is in 1,000's of constant 1982-1984 dollar.

Quantity is average model sales in thousands.

HP/WT is horsepower divided by weight in lbs.

Space is vehicle width in inches times vehicle length in inches.

Air, Auto, PS is one if air condition, automatic transmission or power steering is standard equipment and zero otherwise.

Table A5: Some Descriptive Statistics for Subcompact Car sales in the U.S. 1979-90

Year	No. of Models	Price (1,000's) \$	Quantity (1,000's)	HP/Wt	Space	MPD	Air	Auto	PS
1979	35	6.284	76.962	0.034	10626	0.482	0.000	0.000	0.000
Dom	16	5.791	88.612	0.035	11018	0.488	0.000	0.000	0.000
For	19	6.832	67.152	0.033	10191	0.475	0.000	0.000	0.000
1980:	34	6.210	74.479	0.034	10664	0.576	0.010	0.000	0.010
Dom	16	5.746	76.390	0.035	10994	0.620	0.000	0.000	0.000
For	18	6.642	72.780	0.033	10356	0.535	0.020	0.000	0.020
1981:	29	6.342	66.307	0.035	10481	0.504	0.004	0.000	0.000
Dom	7	6.039	78.088	0.034	10259	0.512	0.000	0.000	0.000
For	22	6.463	62.559	0.035	10569	0.501	0.005	0.000	0.000
1982:	24	6.299	68.524	0.034	10542	0.447	0.000	0.000	0.000
Dom	6	5.813	60.598	0.033	10398	0.465	0.000	0.000	0.000
For	18	6.437	71.166	0.035	10583	0.441	0.000	0.000	0.000
1983:	24	5.823	80.691	0.034	10477	0.369	0.000	0.000	0.016
Dom	10	5.684	77.367	0.033	10614	0.393	0.000	0.000	0.000
For	14	5.916	83.064	0.035	10386	0.354	0.000	0.000	0.027
1984:	19	5.780	94.744	0.035	10549	0.375	0.006	0.000	0.062
Dom	8	5.513	116.460	0.034	10556	0.401	0.000	0.000	0.108
For	11	6.066	78.953	0.035	10542	0.349	0.012	0.000	0.012
1985:	19	6.579	76.431	0.035	10587	0.379	0.012	0.123	0.028
Dom	7	5.700	58.373	0.032	10262	0.385	0.000	0.000	0.058
For	12	6.924	86.964	0.036	10714	0.376	0.017	0.172	0.017
1986:	19	6.688	80.909	0.035	10408	0.276	0.008	0.138	0.275
Dom	7	5.959	61.624	0.031	10164	0.237	0.000	0.000	0.081
For	12	6.972	92.160	0.037	10504	0.292	0.011	0.192	0.351
1987:	21	6.472	53.993	0.035	10168	0.270	0.010	0.000	0.089
Dom	7	6.500	41.835	0.032	10186	0.249	0.000	0.000	0.100
For	14	6.462	60.073	0.036	10162	0.277	0.014	0.000	0.085
1988:	20	6.440	71.707	0.037	10467	0.285	0.006	0.000	0.109
Dom	6	6.249	72.744	0.035	10300	0.245	0.000	0.000	0.209
For	14	6.523	71.263	0.039	10540	0.303	0.080	0.000	0.066
1989:	17	6.223	68.018	0.038	10380	0.264	0.005	0.000	0.072
Dom	4	6.033	67.525	0.037	10011	0.233	0.000	0.000	0.000
For	13	6.339	65.771	0.038	10575	0.277	0.006	0.000	0.128
1990:	18	6.053	63.239	0.039	10576	0.274	0.004	0.000	0.088
Dom	5	6.281	57.731	0.039	10195	0.262	0.000	0.000	0.000
For	13	5.975	65.358	0.040	10705	0.279	0.005	0.000	0.118

Price is in 1,000's of constant 1982-1984 dollar.

Quantity is average model sales in thousands.

HP/WT is horsepower divided by weight in lbs.

Space is vehicle width in inches times vehicle length in inches.

Air, Auto, PS is one if air condition, automatic transmission or power steering is standard equipment and zero otherwise.

Table A6: Some Descriptive Statistics for compact Car sales in the U.S. 1979-90

Year	No. of Models	Price (1,000's) \$	Quantity (1,000's)	HP/Wt	Space	MPD	Air	Auto	PS
1979:	19	6.838	94.460	0.036	14176	0.692	0.012	0.012	0.066
Dom	8	6.018	105.630	0.035	14449	0.694	0.000	0.000	0.000
For	11	12.324	11.489	0.040	12355	0.677	0.094	0.094	0.505
1980:	17	7.497	34.268	0.035	13139	0.687	0.030	0.020	0.065
Dom	7	6.875	68.971	0.034	13265	0.701	0.000	0.000	0.000
For	10	10.506	9.977	0.035	12533	0.618	0.176	0.117	0.380
1981:	18	7.317	60.694	0.035	11781	0.616	0.056	0.027	0.154
Dom	8	6.541	115.330	0.034	11674	0.601	0.000	0.000	0.047
For	10	11.529	16.985	0.040	12364	0.696	0.362	0.174	0.737
1982:	21	7.590	63.251	0.035	11635	0.504	0.096	0.028	0.192
Dom	12	6.736	87.870	0.035	11469	0.491	0.000	0.000	0.102
For	9	10.879	30.427	0.038	12273	0.555	0.468	0.137	0.538
1983:	25	8.055	61.286	0.036	12115	0.480	0.111	0.171	0.438
Dom	14	7.253	77.763	0.035	12157	0.479	0.018	0.205	0.391
For	11	10.024	40.316	0.039	12015	0.482	0.340	0.090	0.552
1984:	22	7.426	95.820	0.037	11672	0.418	0.051	0.000	0.287
Dom	11	6.666	132.260	0.037	11631	0.421	0.012	0.000	0.080
For	11	9.120	59.378	0.039	11764	0.409	0.137	0.000	0.747
1985:	33	7.168	97.956	0.039	11634	0.499	0.066	0.089	0.324
Dom	20	6.802	124.060	0.039	11707	0.511	0.010	0.111	0.314
For	13	8.376	57.788	0.039	11394	0.458	0.251	0.017	0.357
1986:	36	7.699	102.100	0.037	11782	0.335	0.0063	0.126	0.387
Dom	20	7.381	133.820	0.037	11885	0.336	0.009	0.167	0.365
For	16	8.553	62.439	0.040	11503	0.333	0.210	0.014	0.444
1987:	38	8.115	98.750	0.038	11795	0.343	0.114	0.065	0.548
Dom	21	7.572	114.870	0.038	11863	0.348	0.106	0.101	0.535
For	17	9.091	78.834	0.039	11671	0.335	0.127	0.000	0.572
1988:	36	8.203	107.270	0.039	11881	0.332	0.097	0.180	0.630
Dom	21	7.752	128.630	0.039	11916	0.335	0.083	0.230	0.578
For	15	9.253	77.355	0.040	11799	0.328	0.130	0.064	0.752
1989:	29	7.934	102.780	0.041	11759	0.350	0.056	0.059	0.589
Dom	16	7.052	108.950	0.039	11677	0.368	0.000	0.037	0.503
For	13	9.176	95.192	0.044	11875	0.324	0.134	0.090	0.709
1990:	23	7.697	112.520	0.041	11944	0.331	0.014	0.058	0.696
Dom	13	6.860	122.170	0.040	11755	0.323	0.000	0.095	0.529
For	10	9.028	99.975	0.044	12244	0.344	0.037	0.000	0.960

Price is in 1,000's of constant 1982-1984 dollar.

Quantity is average model sales in thousands.

HP/WT is horsepower divided by weight in lbs.

Space is vehicle width in inches times vehicle length in inches.

Air, Auto, PS is one if air condition, automatic transmission or power steering is standard equipment and zero otherwise.

Table A7: Some Descriptive Statistics for Medium Size Car sales in the U.S. 1979-90

Year	No. of Models	Price (1,000's) \$	Quantity (1,000's)	HP/Wt	Space	MPD	Air	Auto	PS
1979: Dom	17	7.030	140.100	0.034	14891	0.694	0.000	0.191	0.251
For	-								
1980: Dom	18	7.117	136.510	0.035	14027	0.781	0.000	0.226	0.226
For	-								
1981: Dom	21	7.747	114.730	0.035	13741	0.751	0.000	0.281	0.530
For	-								
1982: Dom	26	8.230	74.393	0.034	13455	0.609	0.032	0.533	0.573
For	-								
1983: Dom	26	8.318	84.715	0.035	13336	0.529	0.000	0.705	0.670
For	-								
1984: Dom	23	8.633	115.360	0.035	13628	0.511	0.000	0.779	0.960
For	-								
1985: Dom	22	8.409	119.600	0.035	13294	0.511	0.000	0.702	0.886
For	-								
1986: Dom	22	8.885	113.340	0.035	13153	0.382	0.000	0.694	0.905
For	-								
1987: Dom	22	9.624	98.945	0.037	13194	0.384	0.051	0.841	0.901
For	-								
1988:	24	10.005	91.940	0.037	13386	0.361	0.107	0.862	0.904
Dom	23	10.040	93.052	0.037	13432	0.362	0.110	0.889	0.901
For	1	10.499	66.354	0.042	11923	0.333	0.000	0.000	1.000
1989:	24	9.707	102.530	0.037	13198	0.380	0.253	0.699	0.974
Dom	22	9.745	107.880	0.037	13234	0.381	0.263	0.724	0.973
For	2	10.572	43.685	0.042	12311	0.359	0.000	0.000	1.000
1990:	22	9.871	104.720	0.039	13305	0.382	0.360	0.651	1.000
Dom	18	9.718	116.190	0.039	13381	0.383	0.340	0.717	1.000
For	4	11.381	53.106	0.046	12557	0.374	0.557	0.000	1.000

Price is in 1,000's of constant 1982-1984 dollar.

Quantity is average model sales in thousands.

HP/WT is horsepower divided by weight in lbs.

Space is vehicle width in inches times vehicle length in inches.

Air, Auto, PS is one if air condition, automatic transmission or power steering is standard equipment and zero otherwise.

Table A8: Some Descriptive Statistics for Standard Size Car sales in the U.S. 1979-90

Year	No. of Models	Price (1,000's) \$	Quantity (1,000's)	HP/Wt	Space	MPD	Air	Auto	PS
1979: Dom	8	8.923	126.230	0.034	16385	0.737	0.091	0.737	0.737
For	-								
1980: Dom	9	9.148	75.520	0.035	16549	0.859	0.200	1.000	1.000
For	-								
1981: Dom	11	9.415	64.443	0.033	16628	0.821	0.200	1.000	1.000
For	-								
1982: Dom	6	9.703	113.220	0.033	16753	0.771	0.219	1.000	1.000
For	-								
1983: Dom	5	10.557	135.320	0.032	16868	0.678	0.295	1.000	1.000
For	-								
1984: Dom	6	9.576	176.070	0.033	16380	0.635	0.000	1.000	1.000
For	-								
1985: Dom	6	9.802	152.630	0.035	16349	0.658	0.000	1.000	1.000
For	-								
1986: Dom	6	10.976	156.500	0.040	15338	0.460	0.419	1.000	1.000
For	-								
1987: Dom	6	11.665	122.620	0.043	15392	0.469	0.759	1.000	1.000
For	-								
1988: Dom	6	11.772	116.870	0.044	15060	0.429	0.753	1.000	1.000
For	-								
1989: Dom	7	12.247	111.300	0.046	15169	0.447	0.949	1.000	1.000
For	-								
1990: Dom	8	12.520	93.905	0.046	15216	0.447	0.976	1.000	1.000
For	-								

Price is in 1,000's of constant 1982-1984 dollar.

Quantity is average model sales in thousands.

HP/WT is horsepower divided by weight in lbs.

Space is vehicle width in inches times vehicle length in inches.

Air, Auto, PS is one if air condition, automatic transmission or power steering is standard equipment and zero otherwise.

Table A9: Some Descriptive Statistics for Luxury Car sales in the U.S. 1979-90

Year	No. of Models	Price (1,000's) \$	Quantity (1,000's)	HP/Wt	Space	MPD	Air	Auto	PS
1979	12	18.872	30.826	0.039	15860	0.884	0.792	0.981	1.000
Dom	7	18.001	48.198	0.040	16076	0.908	0.848	1.000	1.000
For	5	27.911	6.506	0.032	13614	0.634	0.211	0.789	1.000
1980	14	19.188	26.813	0.035	15418	0.994	0.953	0.926	1.000
Dom	7	18.437	47.794	0.035	15646	1.035	1.000	1.000	1.000
For	7	25.346	5.831	0.033	13543	0.658	0.565	0.319	1.000
1981	23	19.528	19.308	0.035	15519	0.921	0.986	0.964	1.000
Dom	8	17.219	45.775	0.035	15916	0.972	1.000	1.000	1.000
For	15	30.385	5.193	0.034	13650	0.679	0.921	0.795	1.000
1982	19	19.920	27.933	0.341	15400	0.750	0.948	0.892	1.000
Dom	10	17.445	42.300	0.033	15808	0.788	1.000	0.967	1.000
For	9	29.641	11.969	0.039	13799	0.600	0.743	0.595	1.000
1983	19	19.454	32.795	0.034	15362	0.695	0.955	0.939	1.000
Dom	9	17.475	53.233	0.034	15968	0.733	1.000	1.000	1.000
For	10	26.039	14.400	0.035	13348	0.567	0.804	0.737	1.000
1984	21	17.036	47.769	0.037	15153	0.656	1.000	0.870	1.000
Dom	11	16.350	75.159	0.036	15688	0.686	1.000	1.000	1.000
For	10	20.251	17.640	0.044	12646	0.516	1.000	0.262	1.000
1985	30	17.742	38.379	0.038	14263	0.634	1.000	0.801	1.000
Dom	11	16.083	77.426	0.037	14780	0.657	1.000	1.000	1.000
For	19	22.458	15.772	0.042	12793	0.568	1.000	0.237	1.000
1986	24	18.429	47.878	0.041	14095	0.467	1.000	0.769	1.000
Dom	11	17.058	74.775	0.040	14665	0.479	1.000	1.000	1.000
For	13	21.880	25.118	0.045	12659	0.437	1.000	0.189	1.000
1987	29	19.971	33.6-6	0.042	14120	0.465	1.000	0.759	1.000
Dom	11	18.112	59.850	0.040	14758	0.482	1.000	1.000	1.000
For	18	23.841	17.568	0.046	12792	0.429	1.000	0.258	1.000
1988	34	20.073	31.945	0.045	14141	0.450	1.000	0.800	1.000
Dom	14	18.239	54.483	0.044	14709	0.458	1.000	1.000	1.000
For	20	24.400	16.168	0.047	12802	0.430	1.000	0.359	1.000
1989	37	21.432	26.349	0.046	14332	0.464	1.000	0.801	1.000
Dom	12	19.695	53.342	0.044	15105	0.473	1.000	0.993	1.000
For	25	24.752	13.392	0.050	12855	0.447	1.000	0.435	1.000
1990	33	21.706	30.326	0.046	14452	0.460	1.000	0.795	1.000
Dom	12	20.770	53.795	0.046	15244	0.470	1.000	1.000	1.000
For	21	23.406	16.915	0.052	13011	0.441	1.000	0.422	1.000

Price is in 1,000's of constant 1982-1984 dollar.

Quantity is average model sales in thousands.

HP/WT is horsepower divided by weight in lbs.

Space is vehicle width in inches times vehicle length in inches.

Air, Auto, PS is one if air condition, automatic transmission or power steering is standard equipment and zero otherwise.

Table A10: Some Descriptive Statistics for Sports Car sales in the U.S. 1979-90

Year	No. of Models	Price (1,000's) \$	Quantity (1,000's)	HP/Wt	Space	MPD	Air	Auto	PS
1979	11	7.723	92.105	0.037	12865	0.697	0.000	0.000	0.387
Dom	5	7.218	157.500	0.037	13423	0.712	0.000	0.000	0.499
For	6	9.487	37.611	0.037	10918	0.643	0.000	0.000	0.000
1980	11	7.918	67.667	0.039	12556	0.726	0.049	0.000	0.159
Dom	5	7.644	104.560	0.040	13265	0.758	0.070	0.000	0.226
For	6	8.565	36.922	0.036	10882	0.651	0.000	0.000	0.000
1981	14	9.508	44.122	0.039	12538	0.699	0.047	0.000	0.285
Dom	5	8.141	75.594	0.036	13300	0.736	0.077	0.000	0.465
For	9	11.663	26.638	0.044	11338	0.640	0.000	0.000	0.000
1982	14	9.554	49.363	0.039	12408	0.613	0.102	0.033	0.364
Dom	6	8.102	67.862	0.035	12937	0.640	0.055	0.055	0.534
For	8	11.637	35.489	0.044	11650	0.574	0.168	0.000	0.120
1983	16	9.166	52.179	0.040	12482	0.547	0.025	0.000	0.355
Dom	7	7.705	72.968	0.035	12950	0.565	0.000	0.000	0.527
For	9	11.468	36.010	0.047	11744	0.519	0.064	0.000	0.083
1984	22	9.146	49.518	0.041	12227	0.515	0.125	0.030	0.657
Dom	8	8.315	85.172	0.038	12765	0.538	0.045	0.045	0.634
For	14	10.535	29.144	0.046	11328	0.477	0.258	0.006	0.697
1985	26	8.629	47.861	0.040	12083	0.506	0.089	0.002	0.711
Dom	11	7.423	72.495	0.037	12570	0.529	0.000	0.000	0.726
For	15	10.782	29.796	0.044	11212	0.466	0.249	0.006	0.683
1986	23	9.083	47.556	0.043	12120	0.386	0.119	0.000	0.848
Dom	8	7.756	77.482	0.039	12705	0.409	0.000	0.000	0.809
For	15	10.820	31.595	0.049	11355	0.356	0.275	0.000	0.900
1987	27	10.683	33.444	0.051	12175	0.415	0.148	0.031	0.902
Dom	10	9.844	51.860	0.055	12702	0.453	0.082	0.054	0.885
For	17	11.815	22.611	0.045	11464	0.365	0.238	0.000	0.926
1988	30	10.712	25.733	0.042	12337	0.381	0.192	0.044	0.952
Dom	10	9.708	47.301	0.041	12809	0.390	0.077	0.065	0.949
For	20	12.299	14.950	0.044	11591	0.365	0.373	0.010	0.956
1989	33	11.472	27.173	0.043	12380	0.388	0.179	0.067	0.958
Dom	12	9.655	48.025	0.041	12659	0.388	0.073	0.066	0.964
For	21	14.740	15.257	0.048	11877	0.388	0.371	0.070	0.947
1990	27	9.956	33.825	0.043	12016	0.361	0.079	0.041	0.890
Dom	11	9.011	51.140	0.041	12285	0.370	0.058	0.058	1.000
For	16	11.472	21.922	0.047	11585	0.346	0.112	0.013	0.715

Price is in 1,000's of constant 1982-1984 dollar.

Quantity is average model sales in thousands.

HP/WT is horsepower divided by weight in lbs.

Space is vehicle width in inches times vehicle length in inches.

Air, Auto, PS is one if air condition, automatic transmission or power steering is standard equipment and zero otherwise.