

fertilizers, plastics); and a new business initiatives unit, which provides software, logistics, telecommunications, and other services.

[Information Source](#)

Research

Ford Motor Company

Ford Motor began a manufacturing revolution with its mass production assembly lines in the early 1900s. Now the company is firmly entrenched in the status quo as one of the world's largest makers of cars and trucks. It makes vehicles with such brands as Aston Martin, Ford, Jaguar, Lincoln, Mercury, and Volvo. Among its biggest successes are the Ford Taurus and F-Series pickup. Ford owns a controlling (33%) stake in Mazda and has purchased BMW's Land Rover SUV operations. The finance subsidiary, Ford Motor Credit, is the US's #1 auto finance company. It also owns Hertz, the world's #1 car-rental firm. The Ford family owns about 40% of the company's voting stock.

[Information Source](#)

General Motors

General Motors (GM) has steered around competitors to remain the world's #1 maker of cars and trucks, with brands such as Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, GMC, Pontiac, Saab, and Saturn. GM also produces cars through its Holden, Opel, and Vauxhall units. Other operations include Allison Transmission (heavy-duty automatic transmissions), and GM Locomotive (locomotives, diesel engines). GM also has stakes in Isuzu Motors, Fuji Heavy Industries (Subaru), Suzuki Motor, Fiat (Alfa Romeo, Lancia), and GM Daewoo Auto & Technology. Subsidiary GMAC provides financing. GM discontinued the Oldsmobile brand in 2004.

[Information Source](#)

Mitsubishi

Japanese "mitsubishi" means "three diamonds," but Mitsubishi Corporation claims six jewels. The "sogo shosha", or trading company, operates through six main business groups: living essentials (agricultural products, food and beverages, textiles, and construction materials); metals (ferrous and nonferrous); machinery (power generation equipment, electrical systems, automobile parts); energy (liquefied natural gas, crude oil); chemicals (petrochemicals,