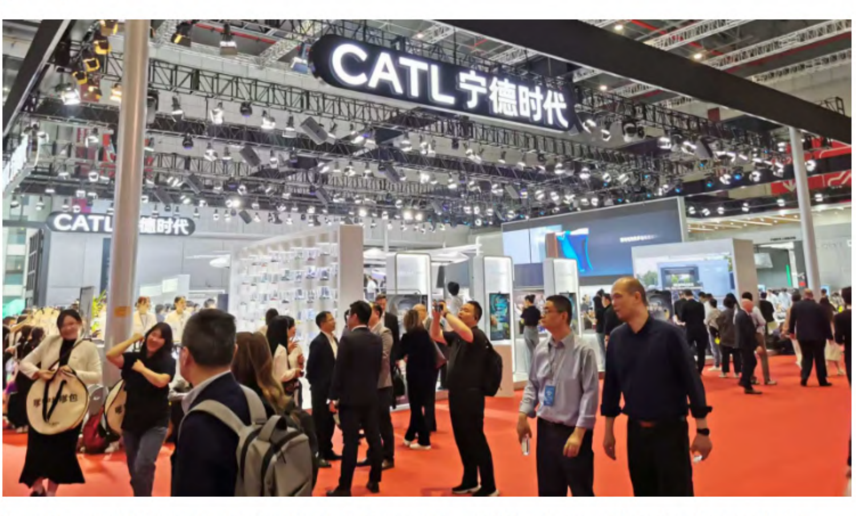
Automotive News
The Intersection
Sunday, Aug. 2, 2026

Chinese auto suppliers crack top 100 rankings as CATL jumps to No. 3



Suppliers quickly are becoming the latest area where China is asserting dominance in the auto industry.

A growing number of Chinese automotive suppliers are cracking the highest ranks of the Automotive News top 100 global suppliers list, based on 2025 fiscal-year financial results.

Japan still leads the list, but Chinese suppliers now are tied with the U.S. with 16 suppliers in the top 100. Two more Chinese companies finished just outside the ranking.

CATL, for example, jumped to third from fifth on the list, as revenue from its electric vehicle battery modules, cells and management systems, and battery raw materials rose 25 percent. The Chinese company is a huge supplier behind the EV boom in China, Europe and other regions.

To compete with China, Western auto suppliers prioritize speed and diversification, executives at some of the biggest suppliers said during a July 29 Automotive News Congress Conversations livestream panel discussion.

The Chinese industry's growth has "influenced all our cost structures in some manner," said Aruna Anand, CEO of Aumovio North America. "Our focus as suppliers, I think, is not just reacting to a single country, but we have to learn from how they innovate."

This comes against a backdrop of U.S. tariffs reshaping the global auto industry supply chain.

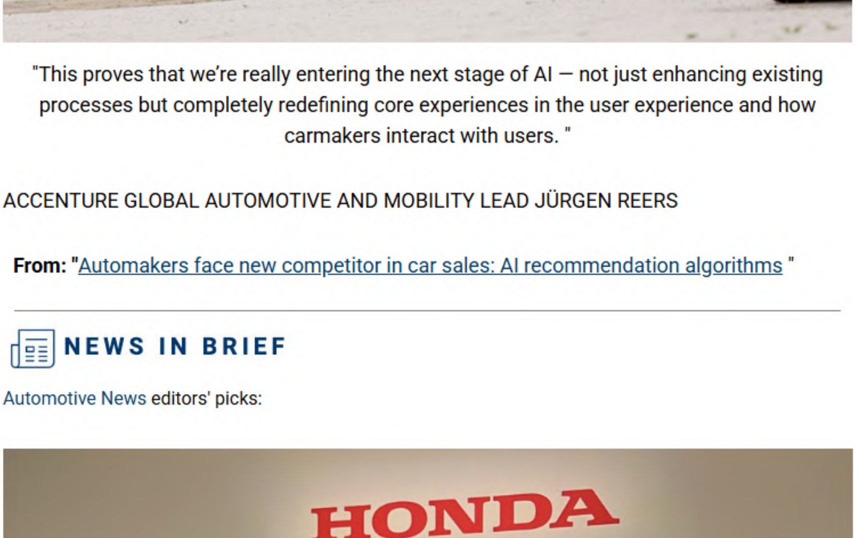
Global tariffs and disputes about who pays the cost have disrupted traditional automaker-supplier relationships, squeezed profit margins, and ushered in an era of transparency and quicker damage control throughout the supply chain.

As Ryan Grimm, group vice president of purchasing supplier development at Toyota Motor North America, tells Automotive News, "The tariffs hit with such speed and scale that our supply chains did not have time to react and make meaningful changes. We've been playing a lot of defense."

But that's forcing suppliers and automakers to develop more transparent relationships to maintain an efficient and reliable supply chain.

— Jerry Hirsch, managing editor — content

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



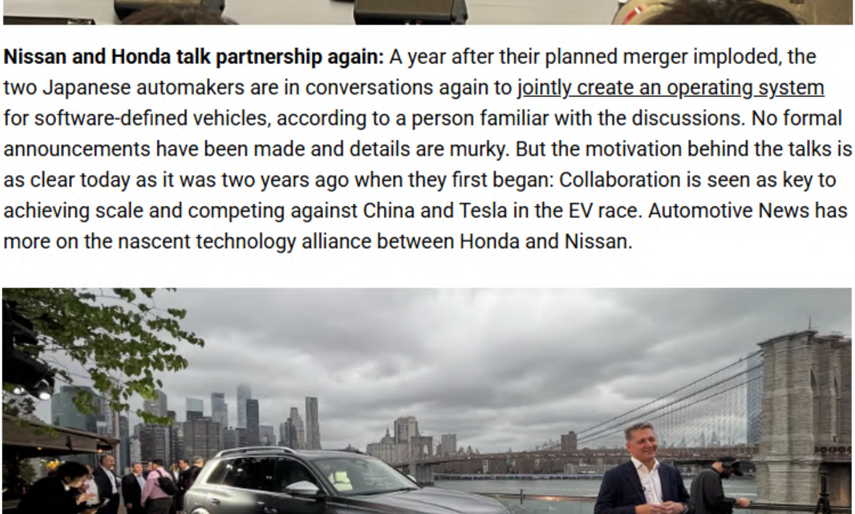
"This proves that we're really entering the next stage of AI — not just enhancing existing processes but completely redefining core experiences in the user experience and how carmakers interact with users. "

ACCENTURE GLOBAL AUTOMOTIVE AND MOBILITY LEAD JÜRGEN REERS

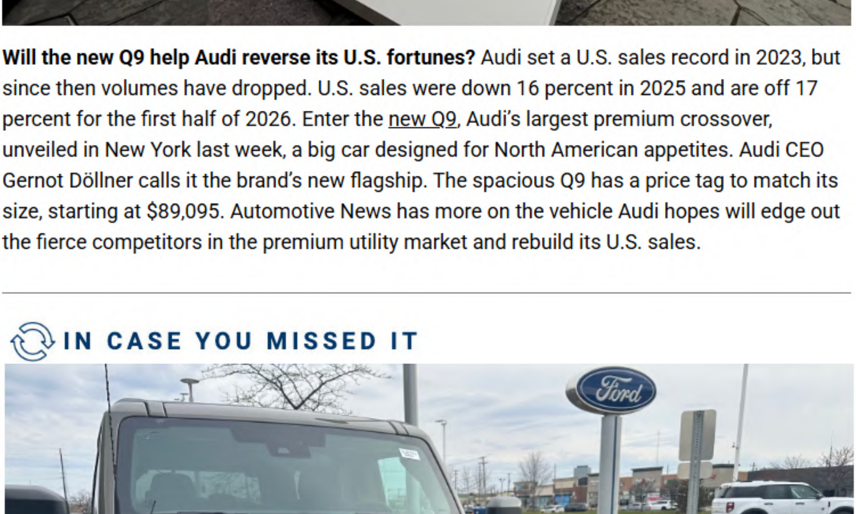
From: "Automakers face new competitor in car sales: AI recommendation algorithms "

NEWS IN BRIEF

Automotive News editors' picks:



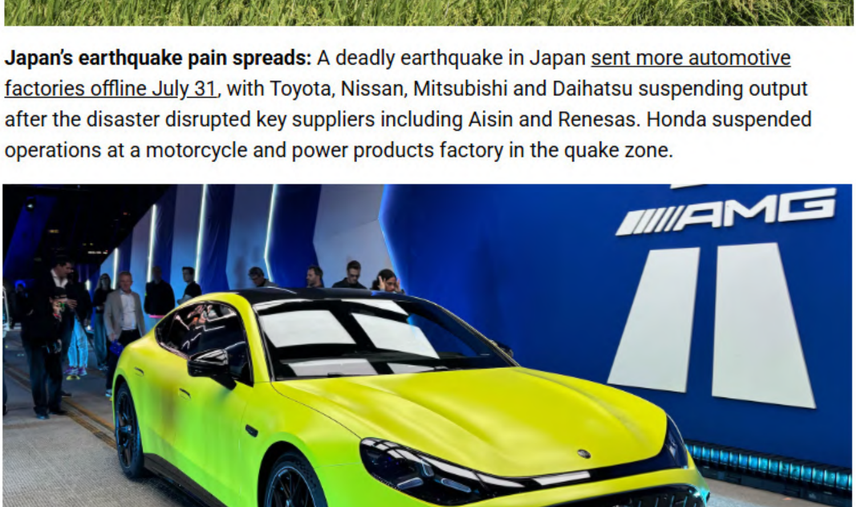
Nissan and Honda talk partnership again: A year after their planned merger imploded, the two Japanese automakers are in conversations again to jointly create an operating system for software-defined vehicles, according to a person familiar with the discussions. No formal announcements have been made and details are murky. But the motivation behind the talks is as clear today as it was two years ago when they first began: Collaboration is seen as key to achieving scale and competing against China and Tesla in the EV race. Automotive News has more on the nascent technology alliance between Honda and Nissan.



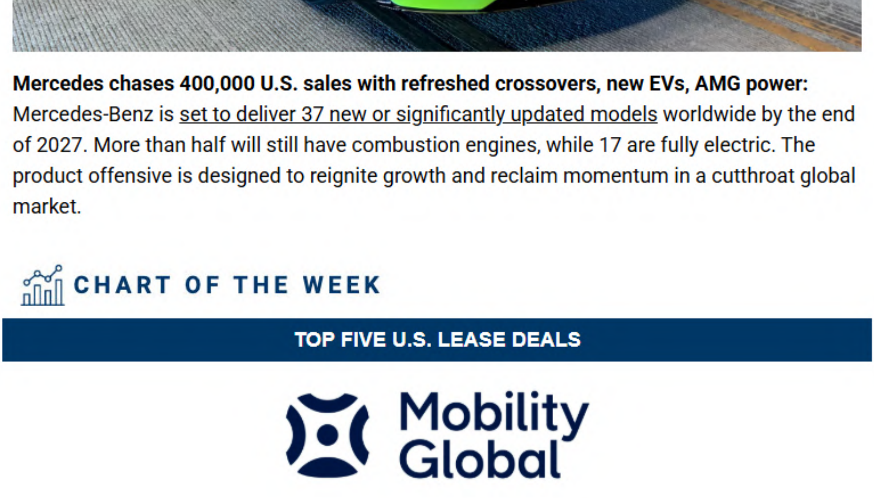
Will the new Q9 help Audi reverse its U.S. fortunes? Audi set a U.S. sales record in 2023, but since then volumes have dropped. U.S. sales were down 16 percent in 2025 and are off 17 percent for the first half of 2026. Enter the new Q9, Audi's largest premium crossover, unveiled in New York last week, a big car designed for North American appetites. Audi CEO Gernot Döllner calls it the brand's new flagship. The spacious Q9 has a price tag to match its size, starting at $89,095. Automotive News has more on the vehicle Audi hopes will edge out the fierce competitors in the premium utility market and rebuild its U.S. sales.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Ford swings to $1.3 billion Q2 net loss on EV charges but raises guidance again: Ford Motor Co. reported a second-quarter net loss of $1.3 billion tied to the cost of changing its electric vehicle plans, but the automaker raised its full-year financial outlook because of strong pricing and a resilient U.S. market. The automaker boosted the top end of its 2026 guidance for the second time this year, and now expects adjusted earnings before interest and taxes of $10 billion to $11 billion.



Japan's earthquake pain spreads: A deadly earthquake in Japan sent more automotive factories offline July 31, with Toyota, Nissan, Mitsubishi and Daihatsu suspending output after the disaster disrupted key suppliers including Aisin and Renesas. Honda suspended operations at a motorcycle and power products factory in the quake zone.



Mercedes chases 400,000 U.S. sales with refreshed crossovers, new EVs, AMG power: Mercedes-Benz is set to deliver 37 new or significantly updated models worldwide by the end of 2027. More than half will still have combustion engines, while 17 are fully electric. The product offensive is designed to reignite growth and reclaim momentum in a cutthroat global market.

CHART OF THE WEEK

TOP FIVE U.S. LEASE DEALS

Mobility Global

What are the best deals nationally this week across the U.S.? Market Scan's Payment Value Index analyzes the relationship between MSRP* and the monthly payment to determine which lease deal delivers the best value. For more information, visit marketscan.com.

Electric Vehicles & Hybrids

PVI	Year	Make	Model	Average MSRP*	Average Best Payment
92.32	2025	HYUNDAI	IONIQ 6	$48,009.29	$431.60
92.31	2026	HYUNDAI	IONIQ 9	$70,061.67	$635.97
91.7	2026	KIA	EV9	$65,145.00	$618.32
91.1	2025	FORD	MUSTANG MACH-E	$47,391.04	$476.22
90.61	2026	KIA	NIRO EV	$43,695.00	$454.06

Hatchback

PVI	Year	Make	Model	Average MSRP*	Average Best Payment
89.22	2026	HONDA	CIVIC TYPE R	$48,090.00	$555.22
87.47	2026	HONDA	CIVIC HATCHBACK	$31,890.00	$415.63
87.45	2026	TOYOTA	GR COROLLA	$45,837.50	$602.10
87.41	2026	SUBARU	IMPREZA WAGON	$29,215.00	$383.25
87.14	2026	MAZDA	MAZDA3 HATCHBACK	$31,540.83	$420.76

Pickup Truck

PVI	Year	Make	Model	Average MSRP*	Average Best Payment
90.31	2026	JEEP	GLADIATOR	$52,217.08	$554.23
89.79	2026	CHEVROLET	COLORADO	$41,980.71	$467.72
88.57	2025	CHEVROLET	COLORADO	$41,009.29	$498.73
88.52	2026	TOYOTA	TACOMA	$45,805.56	$557.93
88.46	2026	GMC	CANYON	$49,535.00	$602.23

* Average MSRP is the average of the MSRP of all the individual trim levels for each model, and includes all taxes, registration and average dealership fees. Based on 36-month lease, 12,000 miles per year, 720 credit score, customer cash = 5% of MSRP, Selling Price = MSRP

Source: Payment Value Index (PVI)â„¢, a trademark of Market Scan Information Systems Inc.

Available through captive lender
Available through non-captive lender

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Events

- **Aug. 3:** July U.S. light-vehicle sales reported

Earnings

- **Aug. 4:** Lucid
- **Aug. 6:** CarGurus

PODCASTS OF THE WEEK

Aug. 2 Shift podcast: How sound systems are becoming a new selling point

John Pelliccio, the global product marketing director for QNX, joins Hannah Lutz, Automotive News assistant managing editor, content, on the "Shift" podcast to discuss how vehicle sound systems are becoming more customizable. He explains how QNX is streamlining audio systems to cut costs and allow consumers to personalize how they listen to music.

LISTEN TO THE PODCAST>

Aug. 1 Weekend Drive: Ford & Stellantis Q2 earnings; Japan earthquake impact

Automotive News reporters Michael Martinez and Larry P. Vellequette break down Ford and Stellantis' second-quarter earnings and what they reveal about where Detroit automakers stand heading into the second half of 2026. Plus, fallout from the Japan earthquake keeps spreading production disruption far beyond the original quake zone.

LISTEN TO THE PODCAST>

July 31 Daily Drive: Toyota disruptions spread after earthquake; F&I fraud has tripled since 2018

Japan's earthquake fallout keeps spreading far beyond the quake zone. Audi reveals its largest vehicle ever, the Q9, targeting American families and dealers hungry for a product boost. Plus, TransUnion's Satyan Merchant breaks down a new report showing auto finance fraud has nearly tripled since 2018.

LISTEN TO THE PODCAST>

INTERSECTION IN TIME

Aug. 4, 2020: Ford Motor Co. announced Jim Farley would become the company's next president and CEO. Farley joined Ford in 2007 and held a number of key executive positions, including COO. Farley succeeded Jim Hackett, who retired in October 2020.