

# Rough road for U.S. car companies

By Tom Krisher  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**DETROIT**  
February may be another tough month for Detroit's automakers, with several industry analysts predicting year-over-year declines for Ford Motor Co., General Motors Corp. and DaimlerChrysler AG's Chrysler Group.

There's disagreement on how the Japan-based automakers will perform for the month, and the analysts also are at odds about whether Chrysler will take a hit because of reports that it's up for sale.

Automakers are scheduled to release sales data Thursday as the traditional domestics cut production and continue efforts to wean themselves of incentives and low-profit sales to rental car companies.

All this week, Chrysler officials tried to comfort dealers who were shaken by the Feb. 14 revelation that the company's German parent would consider all options for its U.S. operations, including a potential sale.

Steven Landry, Chrysler's vice president for sales and field operations, said in a Thursday conference call with dealers that U.S. sales were down a bit in February, but not significantly.

"I think we're actually getting some momentum back after last week," he told the dealers.

But Tom Libby, J.D. Power and Associates' senior director of industry analysis, said that based on his experience, talk that DaimlerChrysler could sell its Chrysler unit could give car buyers pause or send them elsewhere.

"Any type of adverse publicity really carries a lot of risk because there are so many other dealers they can go to," Libby said.

Jesse Toprak, chief economist for the Edmunds.com auto Web site, said that based on sales data from dealers for the first three weeks of the month, February is likely to be another bad month for the domestics when compared with February of last year.

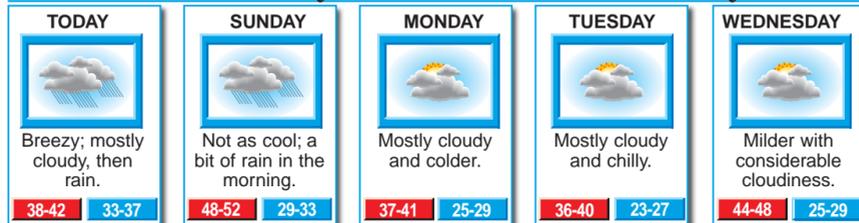
Toyota Motor Corp., Honda Motor Co. and Nissan Motor Co. should see sales increases, he said. But he predicted the whole U.S. auto market would drop to about 1.2 million vehicles sold during the month, or a 3.9 percent decrease from February 2006.

Ford, GM and Chrysler are likely to see decreased sales for a long time because of the production cuts and reduced fleet sales, Toprak said.

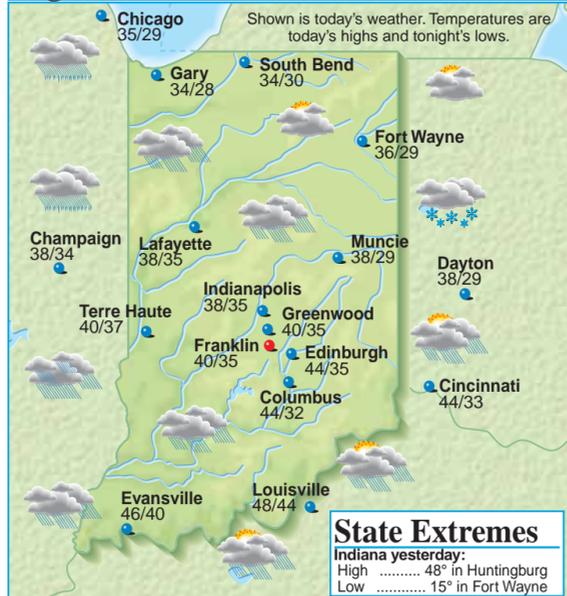
Toprak said he noticed that luxury sport utility vehicles and small cars were selling well in February, with a decline in mid-size and large cars.

# WEATHER

## AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Johnson County



### Regional weather



### State Extremes

Indiana yesterday:  
High ..... 48° in Huntington  
Low ..... 15° in Fort Wayne

### Regional summary

**Indianapolis/Greenwood:** Breezy today with rain. Windy tonight with rain at times. Milder tomorrow with a bit of rain. Monday: Rather cloudy.  
**Edinburgh/Franklin:** Breezy today; rain in the afternoon. Windy tonight with rain at times. Not as cool tomorrow with a little rain. Monday: Colder.

### Today in weather history™

Ice on the lower Susquehanna River in Maryland began to break Feb. 24, 1852. The previous 40 days, an ice bridge had been used for the crossing of loaded freight cars.

### Regional cities

City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Anderson	33/19/s	45/25/r	Indianapolis	37/22/pc	46/31/r
Bloomington	44/23/s	50/29/r	Kokomo	33/21/s	43/25/r
Chicago	35/23/sn	38/27/c	Lafayette	34/19/sn	44/28/r
Cincinnati	40/25/s	50/30/r	Louisville	48/26/s	58/35/t
Evansville	48/25/pc	58/32/t	Muncie	31/18/s	47/28/r
Fort Wayne	30/15/pc	40/28/c	South Bend	33/19/s	38/26/c
Gary	35/26/sf	38/27/c	Terre Haute	42/21/s	42/29/r

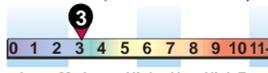
### Sun and moon

Sunrise today ..... 7:25 a.m.  
Sunset tonight ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Moonrise today ..... 11:19 a.m.  
Moonset tonight ..... 2:12 a.m.



### AccuWeather UV Index™

Highest Today in Johnson County  
Values indicate the exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays.



### Weather Trivia™

The pole of cold, Antarctica, is well named. Why?  
Average annual temperature is -72°F.  
It is the coldest place on Earth.

### Wind Chill Today

How cold it feels based on temperature and wind speed.

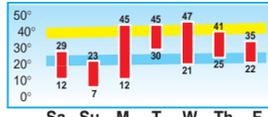
Time	Temp	Wind	Wind Chill
8 a.m.	19°	28°	34°
Noon	19°	28°	34°
4 p.m.	19°	28°	34°

### Heating Degree Days

Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was below 65 degrees for the day with negative values counting as zero.

Yesterday	36
Month to date	1094
Normal month to date	805

### Weekly temperatures



### River stages

Fid: flood stage. Stage: in feet at 7 a.m.  
Friday, Chg: change in previous 24 hours.

Station	Fld	Stage	Chg
White River			
Mooresville	9	8.73	+0.11
White River (East Fork)			
Edinburgh	12	5.30	+0.37

## AccuWeather.com Almanac

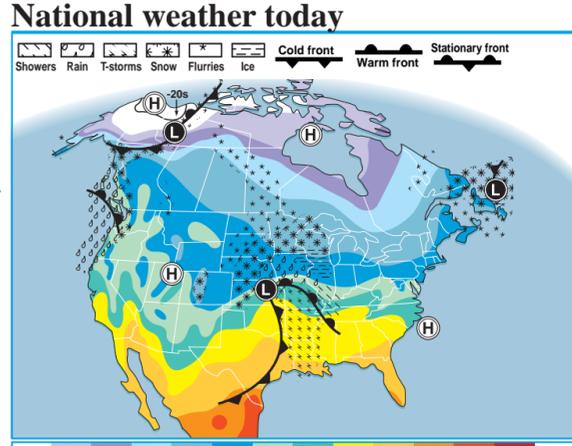
Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2007  
Statistics for Indianapolis through 5 p.m. yesterday.

Temperature	Wind
High ..... 35°	Average dir/speed ..... E at 10.4 mph
Low ..... 22°	Highest speed ..... 15
Normal high ..... 43°	<b>Humidity</b>
Normal low ..... 25°	Yesterday's average ..... 56%
Record high ..... 71° in 2000	Today's average ..... 58%
Record low ..... -1° in 1889	

### Air quality

**Indianapolis** Source: IAPC  
Yesterday ..... 33  
0-50, Good; 51-100, Moderate; 101-151, Unhealthy (sens. grps.); 151-200, Unhealthy

### National weather today



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

### National cities

City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Albany, NY	33/19/sf	33/17/s	Houston	70/59/c	67/45/s
Atlanta	65/41/pc	61/43/t	Jacksonville	69/41/pc	76/57/t
Atlantic City	41/31/pc	39/29/r	Kansas City	61/36/sh	38/21/c
Baltimore	39/30/pc	36/30/i	Las Vegas	59/43/sh	64/44/pc
Boston	35/27/sn	38/28/s	Los Angeles	63/47/s	64/50/r
Buffalo	22/15/sn	36/23/sn	Louisville	48/26/s	58/35/t
Burlington, VT	26/15/pc	26/9/s	Memphis	68/44/pc	55/38/pc
Champaign	36/24/pc	41/25/r	Miami	80/59/s	82/69/pc
Charleston, SC	68/37/s	71/52/t	Milwaukee	30/24/sn	32/26/sn
Cheyenne	58/20/pc	40/20/pc	Minneapolis	33/27/c	29/17/sn
Chicago	35/23/sn	38/27/c	Nashville	55/31/pc	58/33/pc
Cleveland	27/21/sn	40/29/r	New Orleans	74/50/pc	73/49/pc
Columbia, SC	65/36/pc	63/44/t	New York	40/32/pc	36/30/sn
Columbus, GA	72/46/s	68/43/t	Philadelphia	39/31/pc	35/30/sn
Dallas	71/55/t	60/42/s	Phoenix	64/53/c	71/48/s
Denver	57/23/pc	43/22/pc	St. Louis	51/31/pc	45/28/c
Des Moines	39/29/sn	32/19/sn	Salt Lake City	51/28/sf	42/27/c
Detroit	30/16/s	32/27/sn	San Francisco	53/42/pc	59/47/r
El Paso	73/43/pc	64/41/s	Seattle	44/35/pc	46/38/sh
Fairbanks	-22/-43/s	-6/-19/pc	Tampa	80/49/s	78/66/pc
Honolulu	78/68/c	81/68/pc	Washington, DC	42/31/pc	38/33/i

Weather (w): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

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**Free Heating Service Call!**

With repair, an \$89 value. Not valid with timed service options. Coupon must be presented at time of service. Cannot be combined with other offers. Offer expires 2/28/07. SL0107

**HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING, PLUMBING & DRAIN CLEANING EXPERTS!**

Heating: 375-2175  
Plumbing: 881-5961

**Free Plumbing Service Call!**

With repair, an \$79 value. Not valid with timed service options. Coupon must be presented at time of service. Cannot be combined with other offers. Plumbing License #CP88900054. Offer expires 2/28/07. SL0107

## ● Lawsuit

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

The lawsuit was filed against the city of Franklin; the three members of the board of works, Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews, Stephen Houglan and Joseph Ault; and city attorney Robert H. Schafstall.

Franklin's board of public works and safety is responsible for enforcing the smoking ban,

though the ban was put into place by the city council. Tickets are issued by the city's code enforcement department.

The smoking ban violates the state constitution in the way it has been enforced, the lawsuit says.

D&D Club has received four fines of \$100 for violating the ordinance, but the business has not paid them, Barnaby said. The business has operated as private club since the ban went into place, so it should be exempt from the ban, the lawsuit says.

In October, the board of works denied the club's request to reverse a fine because the members did not think D&D Club was operating as a club.

City officials first said D&D Club was a private club and was following the ban, but when the business started receiving fines, owners did not understand what changed, Barnaby said.

In January, the board of works asked city attorney Rob Schafstall to file a lawsuit against the club to collect the fines issued to the business. Schafstall did not return

calls Friday, so it is uncertain if a lawsuit was ever filed.

When Schafstall called a meeting with Barnaby and her previous attorney, she decided she needed to take action, Barnaby said.

"We've done everything to comply," she said. Barnaby wants to know if there is something else the club needs to do and why its received citations, she said.

Jones-Matthews said she could not comment on the lawsuit and directed questions to Schafstall. Franklin is one of 223 cities

and counties nationwide that have banned smoking from restaurants, according to American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation. Greenwood voted to ban smoking in restaurants and workplaces in 2004, according to the Web site www.no-smoke.org.

Smoking bans have been challenged in Ohio, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and other states and cities. D&D Club is not challenging the smoking ban itself but the way it has been enforced and the citations against the business.

## ● Primary

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Parties have until July 3 to place candidates on the general election ballot for slots not filled in the primary.

Independent candidates have until July 2 to file petitions to be placed on the ballot.

The general election is Nov. 6. Henderson, who is seeking a fourth term, touted his success at keeping taxes down and improving city streets.

Campbell, who ran unsuccessfully for Greenwood City Council in 2003, said he would improve relations with the council and morale in the police department if elected.

He said Henderson has been in office too long and was ineffec-



HENDERSON



JONES-MATTHEWS

tive at keeping down taxes, guiding development and revitalizing the Old Towne section of Greenwood.

Jones-Matthews said she will campaign despite the lack of primary opposition to encourage people to vote for contested primary races for city council seats and to keep in contact with Franklin residents.

She also hopes to share her vision for Franklin in her first full term. Her goals include revitalizing downtown, bringing more

jobs and cleaning up the city.

"The downtown's on the cusp of regeneration," she said. "It's our heritage, and we want a vibrant place with businesses."

### Greenwood

Three Greenwood City Council members are not running for re-election, but several people are seeking the Republican nominations. And a Democrat is seeking a seat.

Longtime at-large council members Jessie Reed and William Bless decided not to run after two decades each on the council. Keith Hardin said he's not running again in District 5 because his state job presents a conflict of interest.

Businesswoman Monica Magna-Rees, who co-owns D&M Concrete, and retiree Philip Watson have filed for Hardin's seat.

A rematch is set for the

District 3 council seat. Incumbent Bruce Armstrong will face Jeffrey Colvin in the primary. Armstrong defeated Colvin in 2003.

In District 1, IndyGo employee Mike Beeles will oppose incumbent John Gibson.

Greenwood city employee Tracy Alan Rumble, a fire prevention manager, is running against incumbent Ron Bates in District 4.

District 2 incumbent Ron Deer is unopposed.

The open at-large seats have attracted many contenders.

Republican candidates are Greenwood Chamber of Commerce employee Brent Corey, former Democratic mayoral candidate Doug Daniel, Community Church of Greenwood pastor Thom Hord, retired manager Charles Johnson, Greenwood police officer Tim McLaughlin, former council

candidate Trenton Pohlar and former four-term council member Mike Tapp.

Amber Malcolm, an Indiana State graduate student who is an intern at the Indiana General Assembly, filed for an at-large seat as a Democrat.

The county Democratic Party had hoped to have more candidates, chairwoman Kathy Stolz said. The long odds of winning discouraged many potential candidates, she said.

"Two-thirds of the county votes a straight ticket," she said. "It's hard to work up enthusiasm."

### Franklin

With one member not running for re-election and another moving to a new district, seats could be shuffled significantly on the Franklin City Council.

Jeff Eggers decided not to run for re-election to his at-large

seat. Current council member Stephen Houglan will seek an at-large seat along with Craig Wells, president of Discover Downtown Franklin, and Democrat Richard Martin.

Houglan moved out of Ward 4. Phil Barrow, who currently occupies an at-large seat, is running for the Ward 4 spot.

He will face former council member Ken Austin, who had to resign from the council when he moved from his district.

IUPUI student Jonathon Cole, who serves on Franklin's downtown revitalization commission, is challenging Ann Gordon for the Republican nod in Ward 2.

Democrat Carl Brewster has filed to run against Republican incumbent William "Ted" Murphy in Ward 3.

Incumbents Joe Abban (Ward 5) and Joseph Ault (Ward 1) are unopposed.

## ● Track

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Helper, which contributes money to community projects. Charles Miller and Dwayne Doles met with a lobbyist and a staff member from U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer's office.

Word of their efforts spread quickly.

A day after McCarty's essay was posted, more than 40 people left comments on the Web site supporting her request. A Center Grove school board member heard about Miller's efforts and asked him to help organize a meeting.

"There's an awful lot of support for this. I think all it needs is some organization to kick off a grass-roots campaign," said James Copp, a Center Grove school board member who is working to organize the community meeting.

His efforts are right-on, according to a lobbyist who has

been through the process before.

Miller and Doles met with Brenda Jackson, who works for a downtown Indianapolis law firm. Jackson got cross arms and flashing lights installed at three Alexandria railroad crossings a year-and-a-half after a fatal vehicle-train accident.

Jackson said consolidation of community efforts is important when contacting legislators and officials.

"She said consolidation makes sense. You don't want to have five different groups coming in to talk about this," Miller said.

Now, he'll take her suggestions to the full group, he said.

Copp and others organizing the meeting want to move quickly.

"Now's the time, when it's still fresh in people's minds," Copp said.

Their plan is to get organized and have a meeting early next month to recruit volunteers to contact businesses, churches, clubs and individuals.

"No one person is going to be able to get this done," said Brady Clements, a Center Grove area

resident who is working with Copp on the community meeting.

Both men were approached by friends and community members who wondered what they could do to help.

Copp wondered what the school corporation could do but found out it wasn't much. The school district couldn't donate money because the budget doesn't allow for it.

Clements focused on quick ways to raise money. He flipped through his address book of friends, looking for people who could donate more than \$10 or \$20.

"I have friends and a lot of people who have friends that can donate \$2,000 to \$5,000, something more than \$10," he said.

But a whole community could make a big difference too, he said.

"If everybody can give \$20, \$30 or \$50, we can get this done," he said.

The goal is to raise as much awareness and money as they can. First, they are trying to figure out how a community can donate to a public project.

State, federal and railroad offi-

cial have said the county can upgrade railroad crossings if it provides the funds. But officials have said the money will be difficult to find.

Clements is determined. Even if a private group can't legally raise the money, they'll do something to make the improvements happen, he said.

"I'd like to think this is not a pipe dream. I hope we can really get this done," he said.

And Miller said he believes the goal can be achieved.

"It's been done, and it can be done; and just because we are 1,009 on the list doesn't mean we have to wait for years to come," he said, referring to the placement of the Stones Crossing Road railroad crossing, where the fatal accident occurred, on the list of state priorities.

Miller said he left his meeting with Jackson and Jim Huston, a staff member in Buyer's office, encouraged.

Huston plans to contact the Federal Railroad Administration and a liaison for the U.S. Department of Transportation

about the projects.

And Miller has some other tips for the group from Jackson. The group must keep legislators and the news media involved, and raising private funds is always helpful.

His goal is to have at