

GM's U.S. 3Q Sales Up 4.2 Percent

Chevrolet sold a record 1.25 million vehicles around the world in the third quarter of 2013, up 0.6 percent over the same period in 2012, and the brand achieved its 12th straight quarter of year-over-year increased sales.

Overall, General Motors posted sales of more than 2.4 million vehicles in the third quarter of 2013, an increase of 5.5 percent over the same period in 2012.

"Chevrolet is focused on delivering technologies and features in every vehicle that add value and enhance the vehicle ownership experience," said Alan Batey, senior vice president of Global Chevrolet. "In the third quarter, we were able to attract more consumers to the brand thanks in large part to the launches of several new vehicles, including the Corvette, Silverado and Spark EV."

The top five Chevrolet sales markets in the third quarter of

2013 compared with the third quarter of 2012 were:

- U. S. – 478,000, 4.2 percent increase;
- Brazil – 171,000, 6.6 percent decrease;
- China – 151,000, 1.1 percent decrease;
- Russia – 48,000, 18.7 percent decrease;
- Mexico – 47,000, 7.8 percent increase.

GM spokesman James Cain said that while sales were down in some of the international markets, retail sales in North America more than made up for that decline.

"We've had great success in North America, especially in the U.S., with our new product launches," Cain said.

"In the U.S. alone, Chevrolet has sold 1.5 million vehicles in the year to date. On the retail side, Chevy has seen double-digit sales increases in the third quarter alone. I'm talking about a re-

tail sales increase of 13 percent. That's where the rubber hits the road."

Cain credited the improved U.S. sales to Chevy's launching of new products, starting with the Cruze three years ago.

"If you bookend the launch of the Cruze with the launch of the recent launch of the Impala, you'll notice that just about every Chevrolet vehicle has been redesigned or is brand new."

And, Cain said, Chevrolet's international portfolio is the strongest it has ever been.

The Onix in Brazil is a success, Cain said. And in Asia, Chevrolet has done very well with the Spin. Both vehicles are based on a common platform – the GM Gamma II.

This is the company's global subcompact front-wheel-drive platform, Cain said.

The Gamma II is used with the Spark, Cobalt, Vauxhall Mokka, Spin, Onix, and Trax.

GM Plans Bi-Fuel Impala

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sumption and save consumers money at the pump.

"We know that U.S. energy security won't come from a one-off moonshot," Akerson said. "It will flow from our systematic investment in technology and innovation . . . our drive to get more from existing energy sources and renewables . . . our commitment to conservation . . . and it will be assured by fully and safely exploiting our shale gas reserves."

Natural gas is a cleaner-burning transportation fuel compared with petroleum products, and costs significantly less than gasoline at current prices, said GM spokesman James Cain. CNG vehicles typically have 20 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions than gasoline-powered cars, according to the California Air Resources Board.

The Chevrolet Impala bi-fuel sedan addresses the range anxiety issue associated with vehicles that run only on natural gas, Akerson said. It features a factory-engineered and fully warranted powertrain that switches seamlessly from CNG to gasoline. Total range is expected to be up to 500 miles.

Akerson said that in addition to advanced technologies and alternative fuels, achieving energy security will require productive partnerships between energy companies, utilities, environmental groups, labor unions, universities and manufacturers.

GM, he said, is working closely with 14 of the country's largest unions and environmental

groups through the Blue-Green Alliance, and has relationships with regulators that are "more constructive than ever."

Akerson also reiterated a call he made earlier this year for the Administration and Congress to create a new, consumer-driven national energy policy from a position of strength and abundance.

Cain said that while the vehicle will be sold on a retail basis and to fleets, he expects most, if not all, the sales to go to fleets or to the government.

"That's because they have better access to CNG fuel stations," Cain said. "There are about 1,200 of them across the country, and while there are more being built, it's a drop in the bucket when compared to the 161,000 gas stations that are out there."

For its part, said Akerson, GM is committed to saving 12 billion gallons of gasoline in its 2011 to 2017 model year vehicles – offsetting nearly a year of crude imports from the Persian Gulf – with technologies that include lighter materials to reduce vehicle mass, alternative fuels, clean diesel and electrification.

In addition to the Chevrolet Volt, Chevrolet Spark EV and the upcoming Cadillac ELR, Cain said GM is introducing start-stop technology standard on the 2014 Chevrolet Malibu, helping the midsize sedan achieve 25 mpg city/36 mpg highway, and using electrification to boost fuel economy in the Buick Regal and LaCrosse sedans, which both get EPA-estimated 36 mpg highway.

Three GM Retirees Are Principals in 'Cinderella' Play

Three retired GM employees have pivotal roles in The Heart of the Hills Players fall show, "A Fractured Tale," a musical comedy about Cinderella, where everything is a little off-kilter.

Joe Tocco, 87, plays Oscar. He worked as an engineer at the GM Tech Center in Warren for 24 years and retired in 1993.

Bill Dupree, 73, plays the narrator. He was a Fisher Body engineer at the GM Tech Center for 17 years. He retired in 1977.

Bill Baird, 65, is the show's musical director. He worked as an IT specialist for 39 years at various GM locations, including Detroit, Auburn Hills, Madison Heights and the GM Tech Center in Warren. He retired in 2008.

Troupe spokesperson Joanie Rizzio said the story is about a king who wants to retire, but the prince is reluctant to forgo his golf game and his dalliances with the ladies. The king decides to stage a show and holds auditions that bring forth a menagerie of characters.



From left, Joe Tocco, Bill Dupree and Bill Baird

Will one of the sisters become the princess? Will the prince continue to play golf? Will a lady change the ways of the prince? Will the King retire? Will the King's auditions run smoothly? All these questions and more will be answered by the play, Rizzio said.

Performances will be held at the Troy Community Center, 3179 Livernois, Oct. 23 and 24 at 2 p.m., and Oct. 25 at 7 p.m.; and at the Warren Community Center, 5460 Arden, Warren, Nov. 6 and 7 at 2 p.m., and Nov. 8 and 9 at 7 p.m.

Those interested in attending can purchase tickets through the

Troy Community Center, 248-524-3484, or the Warren Community Center 586-268-8400.

Tickets are \$14 in advance, \$16 at the door or \$10 each for groups of 20 or more purchased in advance.

For further information, visit www.hohplayers.org.

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