

China set to become world's largest car maker

22nd May 2023



China is set to become the world's largest automobile exporter for the first time. In the first quarter of this year, China surpassed traditional car-making giants Japan and Germany for the first time. Chinese manufacturers

exported more than 1.06 million vehicles in the first quarter of 2023. In doing so, they overtook Japan's number of 1.05 million. China's car industry has made great strides in the past few years.

Throughout the 2010s, it managed to produce around a million cars a year. That doubled to two million in 2021 and then tripled to three million a year later. China is forecast to more than quadruple production numbers from just four years ago to become the world's largest auto exporter.

China is becoming the world's largest manufacturer of electric vehicles (EVs). Elon Musk's Tesla has a giant "gigafactory" in China. It has a capacity of 1.25 million vehicles a year, but is yet to reach maximum output. The plant exports a large volume of Tesla cars to Canada, Europe and Japan. However, Tesla is about to lose its crown as the world's largest EV maker to a Chinese company called BYD. Last month, BYD launched a compact EV called Seagull, with a starting price of \$11,000. The top three countries that China exports cars to are Russia, the United States and Mexico. Exports to Russia have been boosted by Western countries imposing trade sanctions on Moscow.

Sources: carnewschina.com / bbc.com / businessinsider.com

Writing

Electric cars are good for the environment. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

China / automobile / exports / car-making giants / manufacturers / tripled / numbers / the world's largest / gigafactory / capacity / crown / electric vehicle / trade sanctions

True / False

- 1) China is set to be the world's leading car exporter again. T / F
- 2) China exported more than one million more cars than Japan in 2023. T / F
- 3) China quadrupled its car exports in 2023 from a year earlier. T / F
- 4) China's car exports will be four times bigger in 2023 than in 2019. T / F
- 5) Tesla said it would build its first "gigafactory" in China. T / F
- 6) Tesla will soon be overtaken as the world's leading EV manufacturer. T / F
- 7) A Chinese company has priced its electric car at \$11,000. T / F
- 8) China's car exports to Russia went up because of trade sanctions. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. surpassed | a. predicted |
| 2. manufacturers | b. car |
| 3. forecast | c. title |
| 4. quadruple | d. makers |
| 5. auto | e. enormous |
| 6. giant | f. applying |
| 7. output | g. overtook |
| 8. crown | h. small |
| 9. compact | i. increase fourfold |
| 10. imposing | j. production |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of China being the world's biggest car maker?
- b) What do you think of German cars?
- c) What are your favourite cars?
- d) What goods made in China do you buy?
- e) What car makers do you have in your country?
- f) Why is China becoming the world's leading auto maker?
- g) How many more cars can the world cope with?
- h) Should we be looking at reducing the number of cars on the roads?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. China is set | a. to two million in 2021 |
| 2. In the first | b. quadruple production |
| 3. China's car industry has made | c. boosted |
| 4. That doubled | d. trade sanctions on Moscow |
| 5. China is forecast to more than | e. quarter of this year |
| 6. It has a capacity | f. the world's largest EV maker |
| 7. yet to reach | g. to become the world's largest |
| 8. Tesla is about to lose its crown as | h. maximum output |
| 9. Exports to Russia have been | i. great strides |
| 10. Western countries imposing | j. of 1.25 million vehicles |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of Japanese cars?
- What do you think of American cars?
- What do you think of electric cars?
- What do you think of Tesla?
- Should we all be buying compact cars?
- What will cars of the future be like?
- What questions would you like to ask auto makers?

Spelling

- the world's largest alooembtui exporter
- suarepdss traditional car-making giants
- 1.06 million hleicesv
- made great stride in the past few years
- rtelpdi to three million
- more than qaplerduu production
- the world's largest aafртеumnurc
- Tesla has a giant iaargctyfог in China
- It has a payacict of 1.25 million
- The plant exports a large uolemν
- BYD launched a ccaoptm EV
- imposing trade saoticnsn on Moscow

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. a	4. i	5. b
6. e	7. j	8. c	9. h	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Electric Cars

You think electric cars are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): trains, e-scooters or bicycles.

Role B – Trains

You think trains are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): electric cars, e-scooters or bicycles.

Role C – E-scooters

You think e-scooters are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): trains, electric cars or bicycles.

Role D – Bicycles

You think bicycles are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): trains, e-scooters or electric cars.

Speaking – Transport

Rank these with your partner. Put the best transport at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| • Electric cars | • E-scooters |
| • Buses | • Bicycles |
| • Trains | • Subways |
| • Ferries | • Rickshaws |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	F	4	T	5	F	6	T	7	T	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.