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Ford production woes spark new truck war



Ford launched a third shift and crew at the Dearborn Truck Plant in Michigan to maximize F-150 assembly there. RYAN GARZA/DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE

Rivals ramp up efforts to grab market share

Jamie L. LaReau, Liam Rappleye and Jackie Charniga
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

DETROIT – In April, Ford Motor Co. boasted that the F-Series pickup – despite having lower U.S. sales compared with the year-ago period – was still the nation’s top-selling truck in the first quarter, nearing the 50th year in a row of holding that title.

But to defend the title, Ford has work to do in the upcoming months after a fire

at a key aluminum supplier last fall disrupted production on many of its vehicles, including its profitable bestseller, the F-Series. Ford uses the lightweight aluminum in the bodies of its trucks to achieve fuel efficiency.

As Ford factories run at a feverish pace to catch up on that lost production, its crosstown rivals see a chance to make a grab for market share.

General Motors has announced it will increase its heavy-duty Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra pickup production at the Flint Assembly plant in Michigan starting in June, citing increased demand as the reason.

Stellantis, which makes Ram, has developed a new line of so-called muscle

trucks with Ford customers in mind. The muscle trucks are smaller, sportier versions of Ram’s 1500 light-duty pickup.

Ram’s brand boss told the Detroit Free Press on May 19 that he was “absolutely” thinking of going after Ford’s customers as Ram developed the line of new trucks. Ford offers the F-150 Lobo, a racy “street truck” version of its F-150, and the Maverick Lobo.

Industry experts say Ford’s inventory shortfall leaves a small window of opportunity for GM and Stellantis to win sales from Ford and it won’t be easy; in fact, expect a bloody battle.

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AG wins lawsuit against Trump

Jalen Williams
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel, along with officials from other Democratic-led states and Washington, DC, this week celebrated a win in a lawsuit that challenged the Trump administration’s \$100,000 fee for H-1B visas.

On Sept. 19, 2025, President Donald Trump issued an order requiring a \$100,000 payment for H-1B visa petitions, which allow for U.S. employers to hire certain foreign workers.

The lawsuit was one of many Michigan’s attorney general has joined. Nessel joined the case in December 2025, arguing the fee by the federal government “created a costly barrier for employers, weakened the economy, and

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1 dead, 3 injured after truck hits downed tree

Tess Ware
Hillsdale Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK

One man died and three others were seriously injured in a single vehicle crash in Wheatland Township.

Officers from the Michigan State Police Jackson Post responded to the inter-

section of Meridian Road and Hoxie Road for a single vehicle crash with injuries at around 12:45 a.m. June 12.

According to an MSP press release, a tree fell on the road due to hazardous storm conditions. A 2010 Dodge Ram driven by a 21-year-old man from Hillsdale was traveling south on Meridian Road and struck the downed tree.

The driver suffered fatal injuries, while three passengers suffered non-life threatening injuries and were transported to Henry Ford Hospital.

The investigation is ongoing. Alcohol and drugs do not appear to be factors in the crash, according to the release.

Contact reporter Tess Ware at tware@usatodayco.com.

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