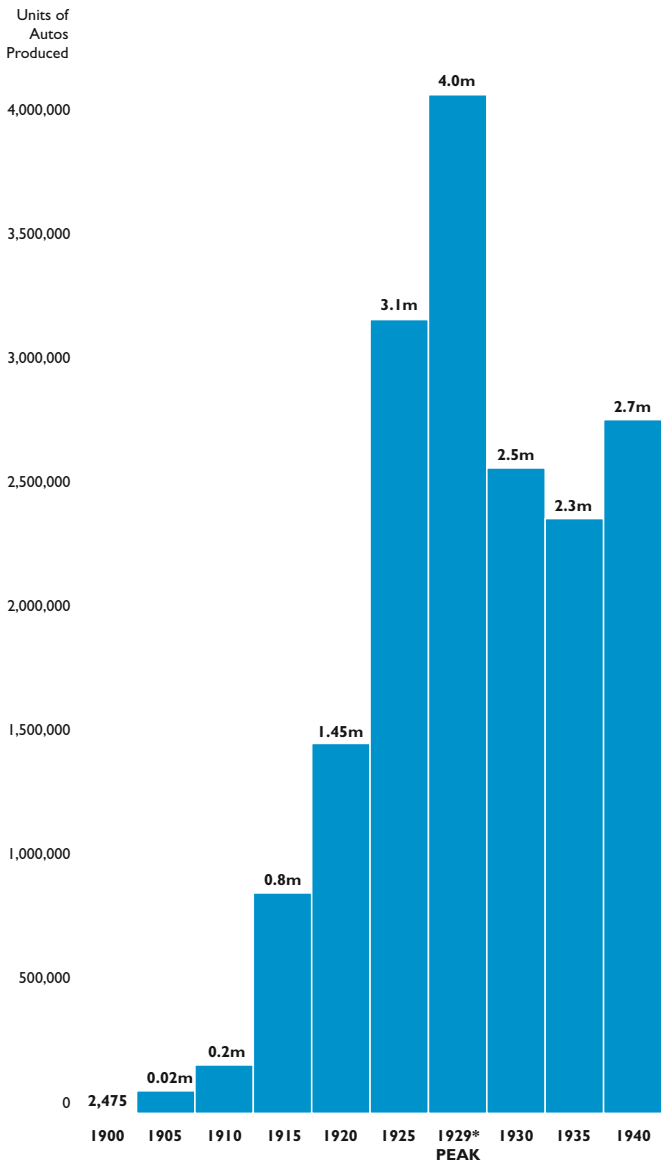


US Auto Production: 1900-1940

Chart: H.4



Until the late 1920 the auto business was a handcraft industry with over 1,800 companies. After the recession the industry underwent a dramatic rationalisation so that by 1940 there were just seven major auto companies in the US producing 99% of output: General Motors with its brands, Chevrolet, Buick, Pontiac and Oldsmobile, had 53% of the market compared to Chrysler (Plymouth, Dodge) with 27% and Ford with 20%. Between 1942 and 1945 all auto production in the US ceased and GM, Ford and Chrysler turned exclusively to production of tanks, trucks, sundry military vehicles and warplanes.