



## **GM slashing 15% of N. American jobs, discontinuing several vehicle models**

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General Motors said it will cut almost 15,000 jobs - a combination of factory and office roles - and put five plants on the chopping block as it contends with shifting consumer preferences and slowing sales.

"The actions we are taking today continue our transformation to be highly agile, resilient and profitable while giving us the flexibility to invest in the future", said GM Chairman and CEO Mary Barra. General Motors, in July, said Trump's tariffs would cost it more than \$1 billion over a full year and the company's chief financial officer told Reuters that GM would deal with those added costs by "negotiating price reductions with suppliers, raising prices on more popular models, and cost cutting".

Among the factories GM plans to close is one in Lordstown, Ohio, that makes the Chevrolet Cruze.

US Senator Rob Portman, a Republican from OH, said he's "deeply frustrated" with GM's decision to shut down a plant in Lordstown and is pressing Barra to come up with an alternative product for the factory.

General Motors is closing plants in Canada, Ohio, Maryland and MI and cutting its workforce by 15 percent as part of a company-wide restructuring announced by the company on Monday.

In October, GM offered buyouts to 18,000 white-collar workers as part of a cost-cutting initiative. The affected facilities build cars that will not be sold in the United States after next year. He noted GM's Oshawa plant has, like other Canadian plants, elevated operating costs, even as it won industry awards for producing high-quality vehicles.

The union representing the Oshawa auto workers says it will put up what it calls "the fight of our lives" to keep the plant open and save thousands of jobs.

GM has now announced it is planning to close five North American plants by the end of 2019: assembly facilities in Detroit, Ohio and Ontario, Canada; and transmission factories in MI and Maryland.

Propulsion plants in Maryland and MI also will not be given any product. As Scott Lincicome, a trade attorney and senior fellow at the Cato Institute, pointed out on Twitter, that \$1 billion could have paid for a years' salary for 24,000 assembly line workers (who make an average salary of \$41,000).

Barra said in a conference call with reporters that she wanted to transition the company when times were good.

Industry Minister Navdeep Bains says the government is looking at all options but that GM has been very clear that its position on the closure is not negotiable.

#### When does Cyber Monday 2018 start?

Analysts think when the numbers come out, Americans will have spent \$2 billion more this Black Friday than last. The 1.7% drop in visits to physical stores is similar to consumer behavior on Black Friday a year ago.

#### Pakistan arrests 300 supporters of detained Islamic cleric

They also condemned Prime Minister Imran Khan and the Pakistani army chief for siding with the court and the Christian woman. The TLP has also vowed to return to the streets if Ms Bibi is ever allowed to leave the country and claim asylum overseas .

#### Donald Trump: We Will Close The Border Permanently If Need Be

US officials have said for months that they were working with Mexico to find solutions for what they have called a border crisis. The breakoff group from the migrant caravan were met and stopped by Mexican police; Jonathan Hunt reports from Los Angeles.

Trump campaigned on a promise of protecting American manufacturing workers from cheaper foreign labor, but so far his trade agenda has not stopped companies from making moves that are unfavorable to their US employees.

GM - whose brands include Chevrolet, Buick, Cadillac and GMC - said the cuts would save \$6bn (£4.68bn) by the end of next year. GM expects to spend \$1 billion on Cruise this year to build the next generation of cars.

"Most of the one-shift plants are sedan plants", Dziczek said.

GM did not immediately comment on Trump's remarks, but the company noted it has other facilities in OH including a transmission plant in Toledo and metal center in Parma.

The plan may signal the demise in the US of several passenger cars that have been struggling, including the Chevrolet Cruze, the Chevrolet Impala and the Cadillac XTS.

"We are on the verge of the worst economic catastrophe to hit Ontario since the Great Recession a decade ago", Fraser said.

GM and its rivals are facing rising bills for technological transformation, increased risks from USA trade policy and investors reluctant to fund their traditional product strategies.

Almost 4,000 jobs were lost when, in late 2005, GM announced the closure of Oshawa's No. 2. plant and the elimination of a shift at the No. 1 plant.

Oshawa Mayor John Henry said he had not spoken to anyone from GM.

Sales of Cruze, built at Lordstown, fell 27 percent through September 2018.