



SVSYSTEMS

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A Honda Civic Hybrid, from Alliston to Saratoga Springs

A hybrid powertrain from Japan, chips from China, and steel, seats and parts from Ontario and Ohio meet at Honda's plant north of Toronto. The finished car crosses into the US, pays a tariff on its non-US content, and reaches a dealer in Saratoga Springs at \$30,590.

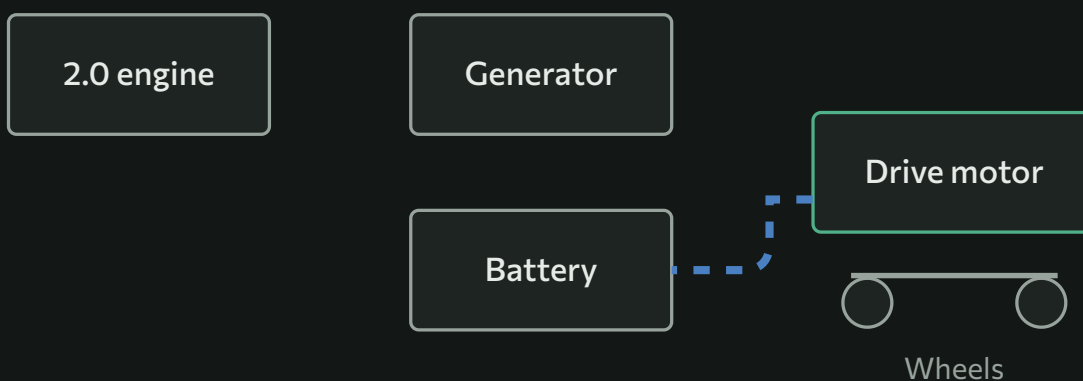
Scroll to follow it. Figures are from public records, dated October 2026. An asterisk (*) marks a claim that still needs a source; a dagger (†) marks a calculated figure.

The hybrid powertrain

Japan

The heart of the car comes from Japan. US label filings list 3 Civic sedan versions, and only 1 has a Japanese engine and transmission: the hybrid, with its 2.0 engine and 2-motor unit.

HOW THE 2-MOTOR HYBRID DRIVES THE WHEELS



EV drive: the battery powers the motor

Animated. Still frame when motion is reduced. Simplified. Source: Honda.

SYSTEM	2.0 engine, generator motor and drive motor
ORIGIN	Engine and transmission from Japan, per the label filing*
MILEAGE	50 city, 47 highway, 49 combined mpg

WHY HERE, WHAT IT COSTS, HOW IT MOVES ON

WHY HERE	Honda builds its hybrid engines and 2-motor units in Japan as well as in Ohio; the label filing points to Japan for this car.
COST	Not published
NEXT LEG	By sea and rail to Ontario*

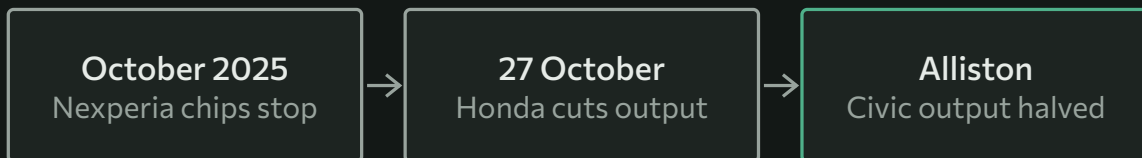
Sources: [NHTSA](#), [Honda](#), [Honda](#)

The chips

Nexperia, China

When Nexperia's chips stopped flowing in October 2025, Honda was the first big carmaker to cut production. Output of the Civic at Alliston was halved.

ALLISTON AND THE NEXPERIA CRISIS



Honda was the first big carmaker to cut production over the crisis

Sources: GoodCarBadCar; Automotive News.

CRISIS	October 2025
EFFECT	Alliston Civic output halved from 27 October
WHICH CHIPS	The Civic's chip suppliers are not published*

WHY HERE, WHAT IT COSTS, HOW IT MOVES ON

WHY HERE	Nexperia makes basic chips by the billion, and carmakers had few other suppliers to turn to.
COST	Chips cost little each; the cost of a shortage is lost production
NEXT LEG	Into the parts that go to Alliston*

Sources: [GoodCarBadCar](#), [Automotive News](#)

The steel

Hamilton, Ontario

Alliston blanks and stamps its own steel panels. Hamilton, about 100 km south, is home to Canada's biggest flat steel mills, but Honda does not publish who supplies it.

AT ALLISTON	Steel blanking and stamping in-house
NEAREST MILLS	ArcelorMittal Dofasco and Stelco, Hamilton*
DISTANCE	About 100 km [†]

WHY HERE, WHAT IT COSTS, HOW IT MOVES ON

WHY HERE	Hamilton's mills are the nearest big source of flat steel.
COST	Not published
NEXT LEG	By truck or rail to Alliston*

Sources: [Honda of Canada Mfg.](#), [ArcelorMittal](#)

The seats

Newmarket, Ontario

TS Tech, a Honda-affiliated seat maker, builds seats at Newmarket, about 35 km from the plant, and has designed seats and door trim for the Civic.

WHO	TS Tech Canada
DISTANCE	About 35 km [†]
LINK	Which seats go into the Civic sedan is not published*

WHY HERE, WHAT IT COSTS, HOW IT MOVES ON

WHY HERE	Seats are bulky, so they are made close to the plant.
COST	Not published
NEXT LEG	By truck to Alliston, about 35 km [†]

Sources: [TS Tech](#), [TS Tech](#)

The North American parts

Ohio and Ontario

55% of the car's value is US and Canadian. Honda's US base is in Ohio, where it builds cars, engines and the 2-motor hybrid system for its US models.

WHERE THE VALUE OF A CIVIC SEDAN COMES FROM

US and Canada, 55%

Other countries, 45%

The label does not split US from Canadian content, and Honda does not publish who supplies each part

Remaining share calculated. Source: NHTSA.

CONTENT 55% US and Canadian

OHIO Honda's transmission plant builds 2-motor hybrid systems

SPLIT How much is US and how much Canadian is not published*

WHY HERE, WHAT IT COSTS, HOW IT MOVES ON

WHY HERE Ontario and Ohio parts keep the car inside North America's trade rules.

COST Not published

NEXT LEG By truck to Alliston*

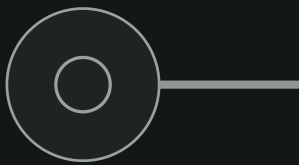
Sources: [NHTSA](#), [Honda](#)

Stamping

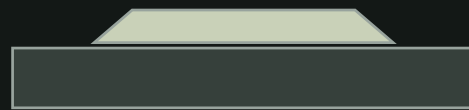
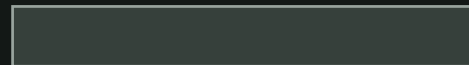
Alliston

Every branch meets at Honda of Canada Mfg. in Alliston, north of Toronto. Steel from the coil is cut into blanks and pressed into doors, roofs and side panels.

STAMPING A DOOR PANEL



Steel coil



Pressed into shape

In-house at Alliston

Animated. Still frame when motion is reduced. Simplified. Source: Honda of Canada Mfg.

PLANT	Honda of Canada Mfg., Plant 1
IN-HOUSE	Blanking, stamping, welding, painting, assembly
CIVIC	Built at Alliston since the 1980s

WHY HERE, WHAT IT COSTS, HOW IT MOVES ON

WHY HERE	Stamping in-house saves shipping bulky panels.
COST	Not published
NEXT LEG	To the body shop.

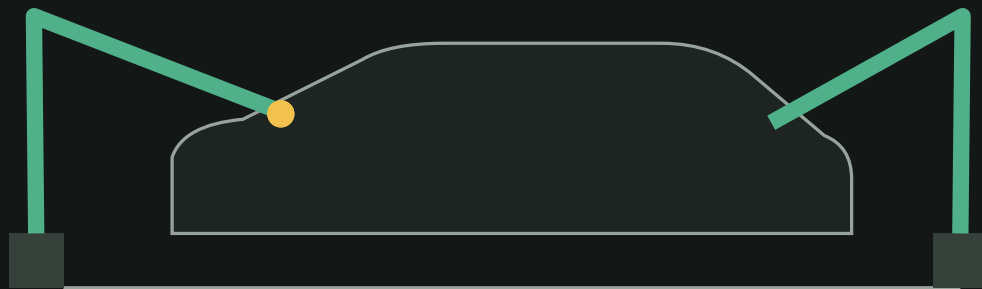
Sources: [Honda of Canada Mfg.](#), [HCM](#)

Welding and paint

Alliston

Robots weld the stamped panels into a single body, which then goes through the paint shop.

WELDING THE BODY



Robots spot-weld the stamped panels into 1 body

Animated. Still frame when motion is reduced. Simplified. Source: Honda of Canada Mfg.

WELDING	Robots spot-weld the body
THEN	Painting
WHO	Honda of Canada Mfg.

WHY HERE, WHAT IT COSTS, HOW IT MOVES ON

WHY HERE	Welding and paint happen in the same plant.
COST	Not published
NEXT LEG	To the assembly line.

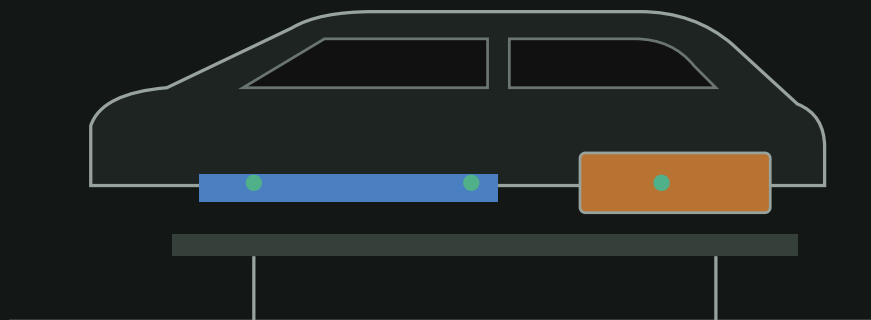
Sources: [Honda of Canada Mfg.](#)

The powertrain goes in

Alliston

On the assembly line the engine, motors and battery are raised into the painted body and bolted in. Alliston began building the Civic Hybrid in 2024, after a \$1.4 billion upgrade.

THE POWERTRAIN GOES IN



Bolted in

Animated. Still frame when motion is reduced. Simplified.

HYBRID	Built in Alliston since 2024
INVESTMENT	About \$1.4 billion upgrade announced in 2022
BATTERY	Lithium-ion; the supplier is not published*

WHY HERE, WHAT IT COSTS, HOW IT MOVES ON

WHY HERE	Building hybrids in Alliston was part of the 2022 upgrade.
COST	Not published
NEXT LEG	Down the line to final assembly and testing.

Sources: [Automotive News](#), [Honda Canada](#)

The plant

Alliston

Alliston can build 400,000 vehicles a year, Civics in Plant 1 and CR-Vs in Plant 2. About 76% of them are sold in the US.

HONDA OF CANADA MFG., ALLISTON

Since 1986
Plant 1 builds Civics

400,000
vehicles a year, capacity

4,000+
employees

About 76% of Alliston's Civics and CR-Vs go to the US

Sources: Honda of Canada Mfg.; [Simcoe.com](#); [GoodCarBadCar](#).

CAPACITY	400,000 vehicles a year
STAFF	More than 4,000
EXPORTS	About 76% of Civics and CR-Vs go to the US

WHY HERE, WHAT IT COSTS, HOW IT MOVES ON

WHY HERE Most of Alliston's output goes to the US, the bigger market.

COST Not published per car

NEXT LEG South to the US border*

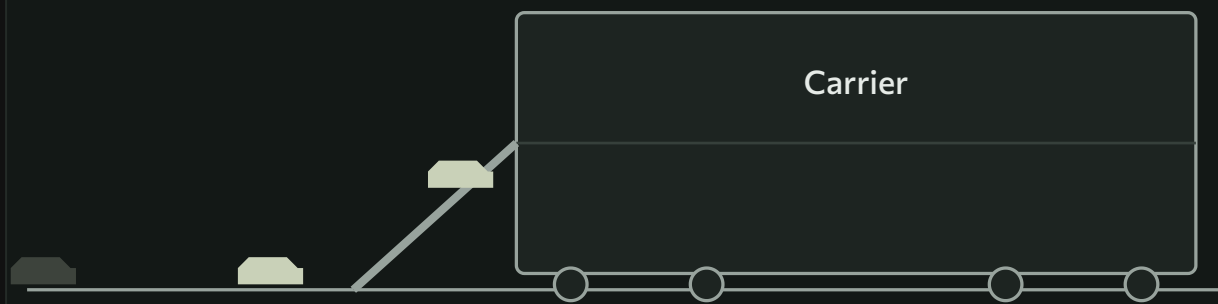
Sources: [Simcoe.com](#), [GoodCarBadCar](#), [HCM](#)

The trip south

Alliston to the border

The finished Civic heads south for the US border. Honda does not publish whether it goes by rail or by truck, or which crossing it uses.

LOADING FOR THE TRIP SOUTH



By rail or truck to the US; Honda does not publish which *

Animated. Still frame when motion is reduced. Mode of transport not confirmed.

DISTANCE	About 505 km in a straight line to Saratoga Springs [†]
MODE	Rail or truck*
CROSSING	Not published*

WHY HERE, WHAT IT COSTS, HOW IT MOVES ON

WHY HERE	Saratoga Springs is about 505 km from Alliston in a straight line.
COST	Not published
NEXT LEG	To the border crossing*

Sources: [Honda of Canada Mfg.](#)

The border

Canada to the US

At the border the Civic pays a 25% US tariff on its non-US content.

A proposed 50% tariff on Canadian-built cars would start on 1 January 2027, and Honda says it may have to raise US prices.

US TARIFF ON A CANADIAN-BUILT CIVIC

Today



25%, on the non-US content only

From 1 Jan 2027



50%, proposed

Who pays: Honda may absorb it, or raise US prices, it says

Sources: CBP guidance via GHY; Reuters; Axios.

TODAY 25% on the non-US content

FROM 2027 50% proposed

WHO PAYS Honda may absorb it or raise prices

WHY HERE, WHAT IT COSTS, HOW IT MOVES ON

WHY HERE Canadian-built cars pay US tariffs on their non-US content.

COST 25% of the non-US content today; 50% proposed from 2027

NEXT LEG On to Saratoga Honda*

Sources: [GHY](#), [Reuters](#), [Reuters](#), [Axios](#)

The dealer

Saratoga Springs, New York

The car reaches Saratoga Honda, at 3402 Route 9 in Saratoga Springs. The 2026 Civic Sport Hybrid sedan has an MSRP of \$29,395, or \$30,590 with destination.

WHAT THE BUYER PAYS, SPORT HYBRID SEDAN

MSRP	\$29,395
Destination charge	+\$1,195
Before tax and fees	\$30,590

Source: Honda. Dealer prices may vary.

DEALER	Saratoga Honda, 3402 Route 9
MSRP	\$29,395
WITH DESTINATION	\$30,590, before tax and fees

Sources: [Saratoga Honda](#), [Honda](#)

SUMMARY

The whole chain

\$30,590 at the dealer, with a tariff paid at the border

PRICE	\$29,395 MSRP plus \$1,195 destination, Sport Hybrid sedan
CONTENT	55% US and Canadian; engine and transmission from Japan
COUNTRIES	4: Canada, Japan, China and the US
RISK	The US tariff on Canadian cars is set to double to 50% in 2027

LEGS

How each piece reaches the next place

Every leg of the chain. Distances are straight lines between the points on the globe.

LEG	FROM	TO	WHAT	HOW	PACKED	DISTANCE OR TIME	COST
1	Japan	Alliston	Engine and 2-motor unit	Sea and rail*	Crates*	About 10,500 km [†]	Not published
2	China	Alliston	Chips	Air or sea*	Reels and trays*	About 12,400 km [†]	Not published
3	Hamilton	Alliston	Steel	Truck or rail*	Coils	About 100 km [†]	Not published
4	Newmarket	Alliston	Seats	Truck	In build order*	About 35 km [†]	Not published
5	Ohio	Alliston	Parts	Truck*	Racks	About 520 km [†]	Not published
6	Alliston	Saratoga Springs	Finished car	Rail or truck*	Unpacked	About 505 km [†]	Tariff on non-US content

CHOKEPOINTS

Who controls each step

STEP	WHO	IF IT STOPS
Powertrain	Honda, Japan	No engine or motors, no hybrid
Chips	Nexperia and others	The 2025 crisis halved Civic output at Alliston
Assembly	Honda of Canada Mfg.	The only plant building the Civic Hybrid sedan
Border	US Customs and Border Protection	Every car pays the tariff on its non-US content

PAPERWORK

The rules along the way

RULE	SET BY	WHERE	WHAT IT DOES
USMCA rules of origin	The US, Mexico and Canada	Border	Decide whether the car counts as North American

RULE	SET BY	WHERE	WHAT IT DOES
Section 232 auto tariff	US President	Border	25% on the non-US content of qualifying Canadian cars
Content label	NHTSA	Window sticker	Shows US and Canadian content and where the engine and transmission come from
EPA rating	US EPA	Window sticker	49 mpg combined for the hybrid sedan
Registration	New York DMV	Dealer	Plates and title, paid on top of the price

RISK

What can go wrong, and where

WHERE	RISK	WHAT HAPPENS
Border	Tariff	A 50% tariff from 2027 would raise the cost of every Civic sent south
Alliston	Future production	Honda Canada says Alliston's future is not automatic
Chips	Politics	The Nexperia dispute halted production in 2025
Japan	Distance	The powertrain crosses an ocean before the car is built

GAPS

What the public record does not show

- Who makes the hybrid battery and its cells.
- Which Japanese plants build the engine and 2-motor unit.
- Who supplies the steel, chips and seats for this car.
- Whether the car travels south by rail or truck, and where it crosses the border.
- How much tariff is paid on each car, and who bears it.

SOURCES

Where the figures come from

1. [NHTSA: MY2026 American Automobile Labeling Act report](#)
2. [Honda: how the 2-motor e:HEV hybrid system works](#)
3. [Honda: 2026 Civic sedan pricing and EPA ratings](#)

4. [GoodCarBadCar: Honda halves output at its Ontario Civic plant over Nexperia](#)
5. [Automotive News: Nexperia shortage and Honda's North American plants](#)
6. [Honda of Canada Mfg.: what the Alliston plants do](#)
7. [ArcelorMittal: Dofasco, Canada's leading flat steel producer](#)
8. [TS Tech: TS Tech Canada, Newmarket](#)
9. [TS Tech: seats and door trim for the Civic](#)
10. [Honda: the Ohio transmission plant builds the 2-motor hybrid system](#)
11. [HCM: Plant 1 and the Civic, since the 1980s](#)
12. [Automotive News: Civic Hybrid output starts in Ontario](#)
13. [Honda Canada: production of the Civic Hybrid sedan begins at Alliston](#)
14. [Simcoe.com: 2 plants, more than 4,000 employees, 400,000 capacity](#)
15. [GoodCarBadCar: 76% of Alliston's Civics and CR-Vs go to the US](#)
16. [GHY: CBP applies the 25% tariff to non-US content of USMCA vehicles](#)
17. [Reuters: Toyota and Honda may get stuck with the bill for the Canada tariffs](#)
18. [Reuters: automakers expected a deal; then the tariffs doubled](#)
19. [Axios: Honda warns it may raise US prices](#)
20. [Saratoga Honda](#)

Land and borders from Natural Earth. Branches are drawn between the main suppliers and are not confirmed shipping routes.