

Ford: U.S. car, truck sales up 32 percent in December

DETROIT — Ford Motor said Tuesday that U.S. sales of its cars and trucks increased 32.8 percent in December compared with the like month last year, but the automaker still ended the year with a 15.4 percent sales decline compared with 2008.

Ford sold a total of 184,655 Ford, Lincoln, Mercury and Volvo cars and trucks in the United States during December, and a total of 1.68 million for the year.

“Ford’s plan is working,” Ken Czubay, Ford’s vice president of U.S. marketing sales and service, said in a statement.

Compared with last December, Ford said sales of its cars increased 42 percent, crossovers 51 percent, SUVs 33 percent, and trucks and van sales increased 18 percent.

For Ford and for the industry, December sales provided relief from a dismal year that is expected to be the worst on record since 1983.