GROUP 1 AUTOMOTIVE INC Form SC 13G January 26, 2006

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549 Schedule 13G Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 () GROUP 1 AUTOMOTIVE INC (Name of Issuer) Common Stock (Title of Class of Securities) 398905109 (CUSIP Number) December 31, 2005 (Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

[X] Rule 13d-1(b)

*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

| CUS | IP No. | 398905109 |
|------------|-----------------------|--|
| (1 | I.R.S. 1 | eporting Persons. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only). S GLOBAL INVESTORS, NA., 943112180 |
| (a) (b) | / / /X/ | ppropriate box if a member of a Group* |
| | SEC Use Only | |
| (4) | Citizenship U.S.A. | or Place of Organization |

| Number of Shares Beneficially Owned | (5) Sole Voting Power 2,151,662 |
|--|---|
| by Each Reporting Person With | (6) Shared Voting Power - |
| | (7) Sole Dispositive Power 2,377,117 |
| | (8) Shared Dispositive Power - |
| <pre>(9) Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned 2,377,117</pre> | by Each Reporting Person |
| (10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount | in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares* |
| <pre>(11) Percent of Class Represented by Am 9.73%</pre> | ount in Row (9) |
| (12) Type of Reporting Person* BK | |
| | |
| CUSIP No. 398905109 | |
| <pre>(1) Names of Reporting Persons. I.R.S. Identification Nos. of a BARCLAYS GLOBAL FUND ADVISORS</pre> | bove persons (entities only). |
| <pre>(2) Check the appropriate box if a memb (a) / / (b) /X/</pre> | er of a Group* |
| (3) SEC Use Only | |
| (4) Citizenship or Place of Organizatio U.S.A. | n |
| Number of Shares Beneficially Owned | (5) Sole Voting Power 527,280 |
| by Each Reporting Person With | (6) Shared Voting Power - |
| | (7) Sole Dispositive Power 530,115 |
| | (8) Shared Dispositive Power - |
| <pre>(9) Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned 530,115</pre> | by Each Reporting Person |
| (10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount | in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares* |

| (11) Percent of Class Represented by Amo 2.17% | ount in Row (9) |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| (12) Type of Reporting Person* IA | |
| | |
| CUSIP No. 398905109 | |
| (1) Names of Reporting Persons. I.R.S. Identification Nos. of ab | oove persons (entities only). |
| BARCLAYS GLOBAL INVESTORS, LTD | |
| <pre>(2) Check the appropriate box if a membe (a) / / (b) /X/</pre> | er of a Group* |
| (3) SEC Use Only | |
| (4) Citizenship or Place of Organization England | 1 |
| Number of Shares Beneficially Owned | (5) Sole Voting Power |
| by Each Reporting Person With | (6) Shared Voting Power - |
| | (7) Sole Dispositive Power - |
| | (8) Shared Dispositive Power - |
| (9) Aggregate | |
| (10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount i | In Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares* |
| (11) Percent of Class Represented by Amc 0.00% | ount in Row (9) |
| (12) Type of Reporting Person* BK | |
| CUSIP No. 398905109 | |
| <pre>(1) Names of Reporting Persons. I.R.S. Identification Nos. of ab</pre> | pove persons (entities only). |

BARCLAYS GLOBAL INVESTORS JAPAN TRUST AND BANKING COMPANY LIMITED

_____ (2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group* (a) / / (b) /X/ _____ _____ (3) SEC Use Only _____ (4) Citizenship or Place of Organization Japan _____ _____ Number of Shares (5) Sole Voting Power Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting _____ Person With (6) Shared Voting Power _____ (7) Sole Dispositive Power _ _____ (8) Shared Dispositive Power _____ (9) Aggregate _ _____ (10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares* _____ (11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9) 0.00% _____ (12) Type of Reporting Person* BK _____ ITEM 1(A). NAME OF ISSUER GROUP 1 AUTOMOTIVE INC _____ _____ ITEM 1(B). ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES 950 ECHO LANE, STE 100 HOUSTON, TX 77024 _____ ITEM 2(A). NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING BARCLAYS GLOBAL INVESTORS, NA _____ _____ ITEM 2(B). ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE 45 Fremont Street San Francisco, CA 94105 _____ _____ ITEM 2(C). CITIZENSHIP U.S.A _____ _____ ITEM 2(D). TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES Common Stock _____ ITEM 2(E). CUSIP NUMBER 398905109 _____ ITEM 3. IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULES 13D-1(B), OR

13D-2(B), CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON FILING IS A (a) // Broker or Dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 780). (b) /X/ Bank as defined in section 3(a) (6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c). (c) // Insurance Company as defined in section 3(a) (19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c). (d) // Investment Company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-8). (e) // Investment Adviser in accordance with section 240.13d(b)(1)(ii)(E). (f) // Employee Benefit Plan or endowment fund in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F). (g) // Parent Holding Company or control person in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G). (h) // A savings association as defined in section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813). (i) // A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15U.S.C. 80a-3). (j) // Group, in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J) NAME OF ISSUER TTEM 1(A). GROUP 1 AUTOMOTIVE INC _____ ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES ITEM 1(B). 950 ECHO LANE, STE 100 HOUSTON, TX 77024 _____ TTEM 2(A). NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING BARCLAYS GLOBAL FUND ADVISORS _____ ITEM 2(B). ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE 45 Fremont Street San Francisco, CA 94105 _____ ITEM 2(C). CITIZENSHIP U.S.A _____ ITEM 2(D). TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES Common Stock _____ ITEM 2(E). CUSIP NUMBER 398905109 _____ ITEM 3. IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULES 13D-1(B), OR 13D-2(B), CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON FILING IS A (a) // Broker or Dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o). (b) // Bank as defined in section 3(a) (6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c). (c) // Insurance Company as defined in section 3(a) (19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c). (d) // Investment Company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-8). (e) /X/ Investment Adviser in accordance with section 240.13d(b)(1)(ii)(E). (f) // Employee Benefit Plan or endowment fund in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F). (g) // Parent Holding Company or control person in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G). (h) // A savings association as defined in section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813).

(i) // A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment

company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15U.S.C. 80a-3). (j) // Group, in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J) ITEM 1(A). NAME OF ISSUER GROUP 1 AUTOMOTIVE INC _____ _____ ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES ITEM 1(B). 950 ECHO LANE, STE 100 HOUSTON, TX 77024 _____ _____ ITEM 2(A). NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING BARCLAYS GLOBAL INVESTORS, LTD _____ ITEM 2(B). ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE Murray House 1 Royal Mint Court LONDON, EC3N 4HH _____ ITEM 2(C). CITIZENSHIP England _____ ITEM 2(D). TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES Common Stock _____ _____ ITEM 2(E). CUSIP NUMBER 398905109 _____ TTEM 3. IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULES 13D-1(B), OR 13D-2(B), CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON FILING IS A (a) // Broker or Dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o). (b) /X/ Bank as defined in section 3(a) (6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c). (c) // Insurance Company as defined in section 3(a) (19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c). (d) // Investment Company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-8). (e) // Investment Adviser in accordance with section 240.13d(b)(1)(ii)(E). (f) // Employee Benefit Plan or endowment fund in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F). (g) // Parent Holding Company or control person in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G). (h) // A savings association as defined in section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813). (i) // A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15U.S.C. 80a-3). (j) // Group, in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J) NAME OF ISSUER TTEM 1(A). GROUP 1 AUTOMOTIVE INC _____ _____ _____ TTEM 1(B). ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES 950 ECHO LANE, STE 100 HOUSTON, TX 77024 _____ _____ NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING ITEM 2(A). BARCLAYS GLOBAL INVESTORS JAPAN TRUST AND BANKING COMPANY LIMITED _____ TTEM 2(B). ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE Ebisu Prime Square Tower 8th Floor

1-1-39 Hiroo Shibuya-Ku Tokyo 150-0012 Japan _____ _____ ITEM 2(C). CITIZENSHIP Japan _____ _____ ITEM 2(D). TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES Common Stock _____ _____ ITEM 2(E). CUSIP NUMBER 398905109 _____ _____ ITEM 3. IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULES 13D-1(B), OR 13D-2(B), CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON FILING IS A (a) // Broker or Dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o). (b) /X/ Bank as defined in section 3(a) (6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c). (c) // Insurance Company as defined in section 3(a) (19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c). (d) // Investment Company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-8). (e) // Investment Adviser in accordance with section 240.13d(b)(1)(ii)(E). (f) // Employee Benefit Plan or endowment fund in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F). (g) // Parent Holding Company or control person in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G). (h) // A savings association as defined in section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813). (i) // A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15U.S.C. 80a-3). (j) // Group, in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J) ITEM 4. OWNERSHIP Provide the following information regarding the aggregate number and percentage of the class of securities of the issuer identified in Item 1. (a) Amount Beneficially Owned: 2,907,232 _____ (b) Percent of Class: 11.90% _____ (c) Number of shares as to which such person has: sole power to vote or to direct the vote (i) 2,678,942 _____ (ii) shared power to vote or to direct the vote -----(iii) sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of 2,907,232 _____ _____ _____ (iv) shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of

ITEM 5. OWNERSHIP OF FIVE PERCENT OR LESS OF A CLASS If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof

the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following. //

- ITEM 6. OWNERSHIP OF MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER PERSON The shares reported are held by the company in trust accounts for the economic benefit of the beneficiaries of those accounts. See also Items 2(a) above.
- ITEM 7. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE SUBSIDIARY WHICH ACQUIRED THE SECURITY BEING REPORTED ON BY THE PARENT HOLDING COMPANY Not applicable
- ITEM 8. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF THE GROUP Not applicable
- ITEM 9. NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF GROUP Not applicable

ITEM 10. CERTIFICATION

(a) The following certification shall be included if the statement is filed pursuant to section 240.13d-1(b):

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

(b) The following certification shall be included if the statement is filed pursuant to section 240.13d-1(c):

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

January 31, 2006 Date Signature Mei Lau Financial Reporting Manager

Name/Title