

Consumer tire sizes

Five years ago there were six 14-inch sizes among the top 15 domestic replacement passenger tire sizes. In 2005 there were three. Conversely, in 2001 there were two 16-inch sizes among the most popular 15 sizes; today there are five, including the top size.

MOST POPULAR RADIAL PASSENGER AND LIGHT TRUCK TIRE SIZES, 2005 (2004 rank in parentheses)

P-metric/metric

Radials made up 99.2% of the replacement passenger tire market and 100% of the original equipment market in 2005.

Size	Replacement % of total
P225/60R16	6.4% (2)
P235/75R15	6.0% (1)
P205/65R15	4.7% (3)
P215/70R15	4.0% (5)
P205/70R15	3.7% (4)
P195/65R15	3.4% (7)
P185/65R14	3.1% (6)
P195/60R15	2.7% (9)
P195/70R14	2.7% (8)
P205/55R16	2.4% (11)

The top 10 sizes make up 39.1% of the replacement passenger tire market. That compares to 40.3% in 2004. Last year's 10th most popular size, P185/70R14, dropped out of the top 10.

Size	OE % of total
P215/60R16	6.0% (1)
P205/65R15	5.2% (2)
P265/70R17	5.0% (3)
P245/65R17	4.6% (5)
P235/70R16	4.3% (4)
P195/60R15	3.5% (10)
P245/70R17	3.2% (9)
P205/60R16	3.0% (7)
P225/60R17	2.8% (NR)
P235/65R17	2.6% (NR)

The top 10 sizes make up 40.2% of the OE passenger tire market. That compares to 43.4% in 2004. Last year's sixth and eighth most popular sizes, P265/70R16 and P215/70R15, dropped out of the top 10.

Light truck tires

Radials made up 97.5% of the replacement LT tire shipments and 99.6% of the OE shipments in 2005.

Size	Replacement % of total
LT265/75R16	16.1% (1)
LT245/75R16	14.9% (2)
LT235/85R16	13.5% (3)
31x10.50R15	8.6% (4)
LT225/75R16	8.0% (5)
LT285/75R16	5.9% (7)
LT235/75R15	5.7% (6)
LT215/85R16	4.5% (8)
30x9.50R15	2.5% (9)
265/70R17	2.0% (11)

The top 10 sizes make up 81.7% of the replacement light truck tire market. That compares to 82.7% in 2004. Last year's 10th most popular size, 33x12.50R15, dropped out of the top 10.

Size	OE % of total
LT245/75R16	37.7% (1)
LT225/75R16	10.7% (2)
LT265/70R17	10.0% (6)
LT215/85R16	5.7% (7)
LT245/75R17	5.4% (NR)
LT275/65R18	5.4% (5)
LT205/75R14	3.0% (9)
30x9.50R15	2.6% (10)
LT265/75R16	2.5% (3)
LT225/75R15	2.4% (8)

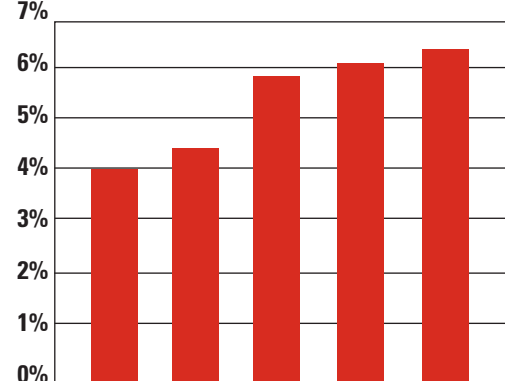
The top 10 sizes make up 85.4% of the OE light truck tire market. That compares to 84.7% in 2004. Last year's fourth most popular size, LT235/85R16, dropped out of the top 10.

SIZE POPULARITY: P225/60R16

For the first time in 10 years, P235/75R15 is not the most popular replacement passenger tire size in the United States. It has been replaced by P225/60R16, which has hovered near the top for five years (it was the second most popular replacement size in 2003 and 2004).

P225/60R16 as a percent of total replacement passenger tire shipments

%	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	4.0%	4.4%	5.9%	6.1%	6.4%



Sources: MTD Facts Issues, 1995-2006, RMA

ANALYSIS

More proliferation

For the second consecutive year, the top 10 most popular domestic replacement passenger and light truck tire sizes represented *less* of the total market than they did the previous year. The same trend applies to original equipment passenger tire shipments. That seems to indicate an increase in the proliferation of tire sizes, despite the direction in which tire manufacturers say they are headed. Blame the vehicle manufacturers.