



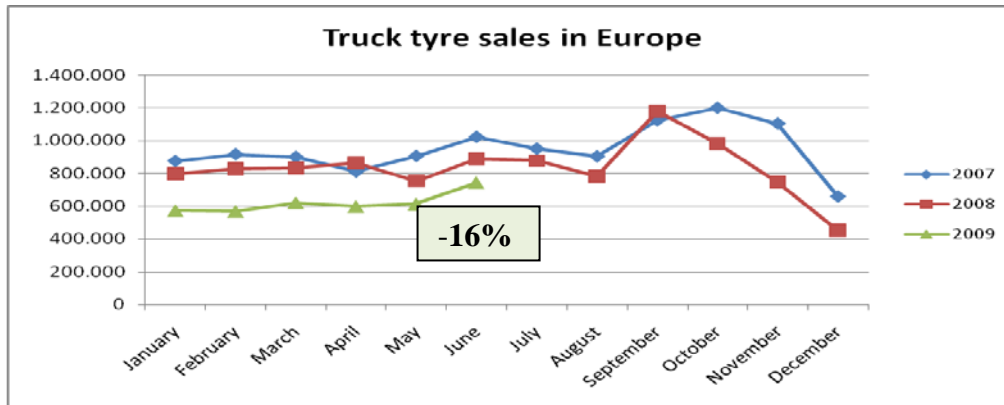
The 1st semester of 2009 confirms the tyre sales downturn started in September 2008

Brussels, 16th July 2009 – The severe decline of the tyre demand on the European replacement market, which started from September 2008, is confirmed in the first semester of 2009. From January, sales of truck tyres have dropped by **-29%**, while sales of passenger car tyres decreased by **-7%**, and agricultural tyres by **-15%**, compared to the 1st six months of 2008.

In June:

Truck tyre sales

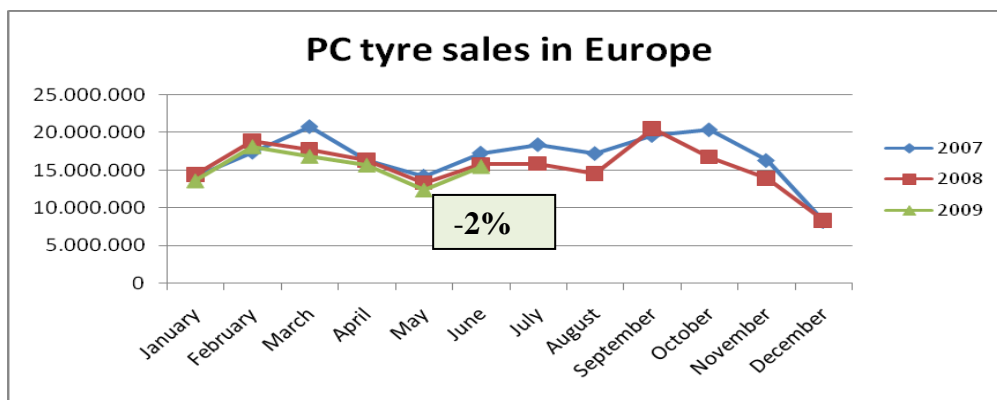
Truck tyre sales, down by -16%, remain well below the level of 2007. All European markets are affected: Denmark(-34%), Germany (- 29%), Italy (-12%), UK (-22%) but also in Eastern Europe: Poland (-14%) and Romania (-24%).



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Passenger car tyre sales

The sales of passenger car tyre sales dropped by -2% in June, which represents the less important monthly decrease since the beginning of the year. This certainly results from the national market support measures (such as scrapping schemes).

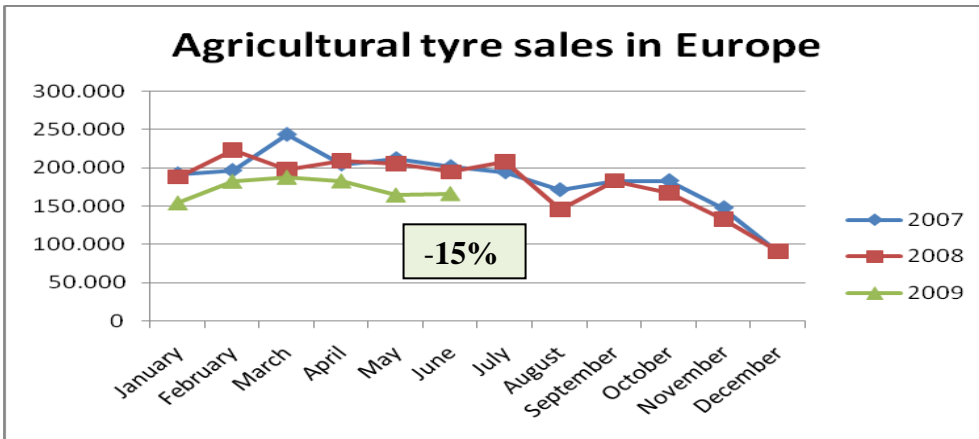


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Agriculture tyre sales

The agricultural tyres market continues also being negatively affected in June by a decrease of -15%. The most affected markets are: Denmark (-55%), Finland (-51%), France (-24%), Germany (-26%), NL (-43%) and Czech Republic (-29%).



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