

Signs of timid recovery in 2009

Passenger Car Tyres

Brussels, 1st February 2010

The tyre industry has mixed feelings for the year 2009. The decrease of passenger car tyre sales in the replacement market in 2009 was less big than in 2008, however the Original Equipment Market (OEM) still recorded a -18% decrease.

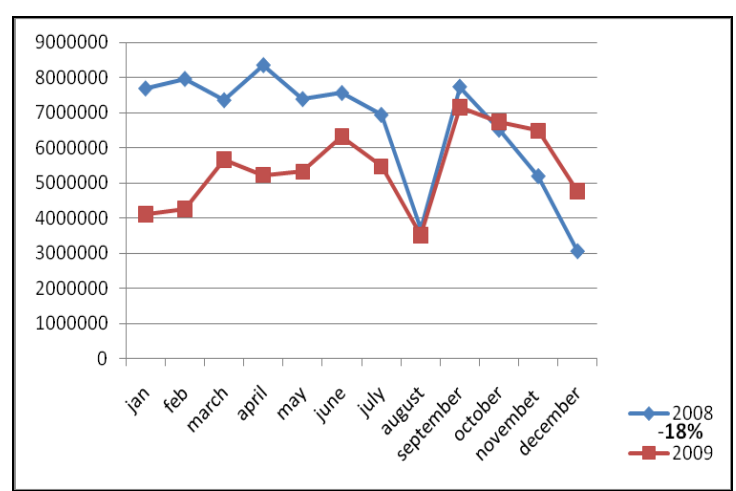
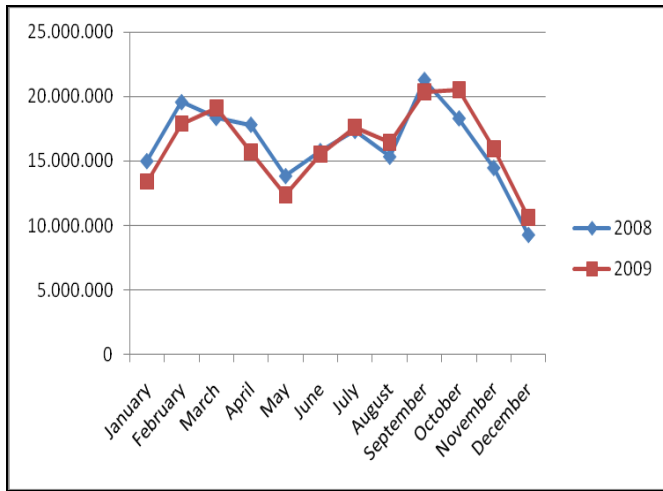
During the last quarter of 2009 a small but constant increase was reported for both markets.

We shall see if the upcoming months will confirm whether the tendency that we have witnessed in the last couple of months will continue or was it only a short correction of the market.

The total 2009 passenger car tyres sales (Replacement Market + OEM) were around 260 million units.

Passenger Cars Tyre sales Replacement Market

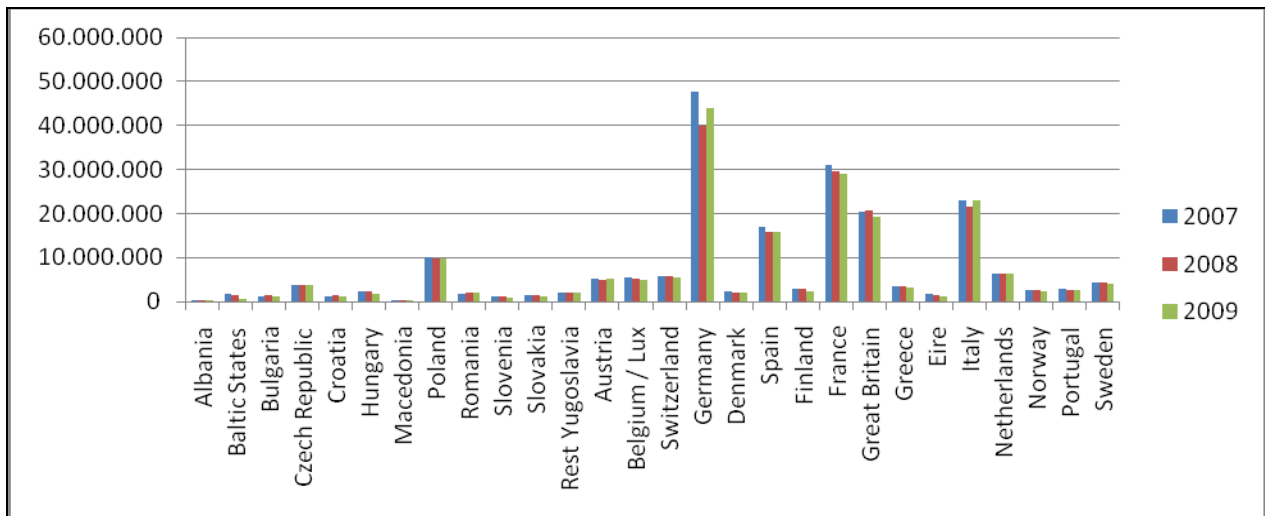
Passenger Cars Tyre sales OEM



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Country Trends: Years 2007-2008-2009

Total of Passenger Car Tyres Sales in Europe (Replacement Market)



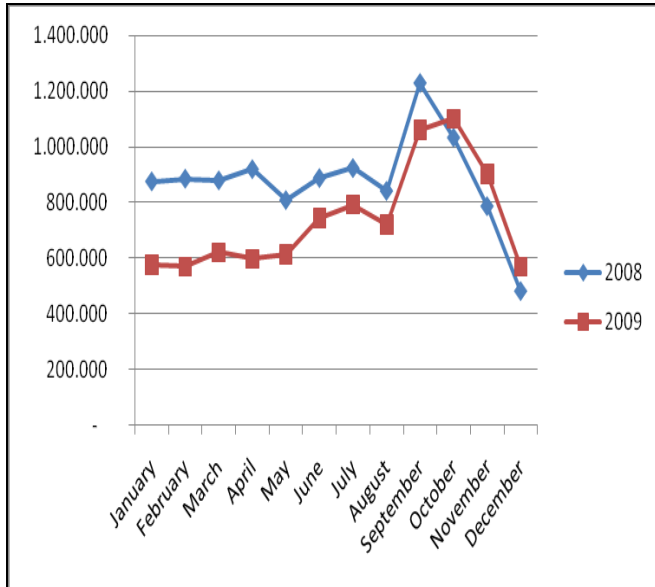
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Looking at the major markets in 2009 only Germany, Italy Austria and Poland increased their sales, but the volume is still less than in 2007. Meanwhile in France, UK and Spain the markets maintained their sales or even small amount of decrease was reported.

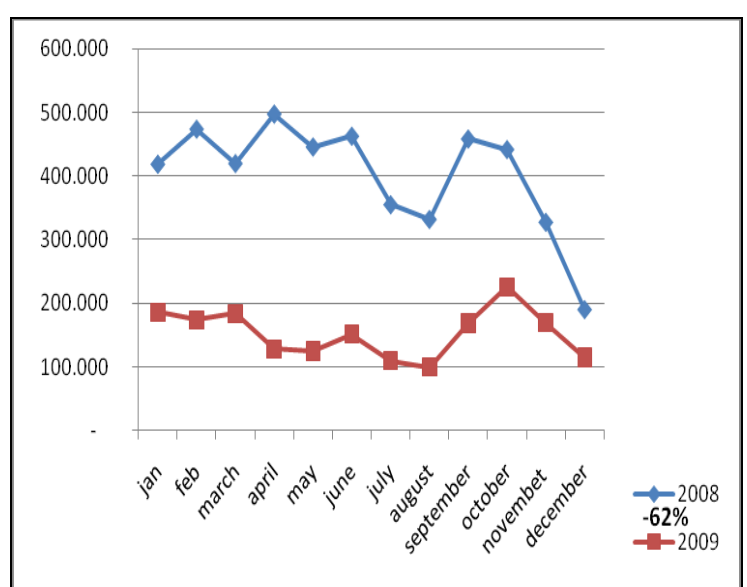
Truck Tyres

The truck market continued to be seriously depressed in 2009. The Replacement sales suffered a further -16% decrease compared to 2008. The OEM sales were -62% lower than in 2008. The total sales (Replacement Market + OEM) reached only 10 million units which is a -30% decrease compared to 2008.

Truck Tyre sales Replacement Market



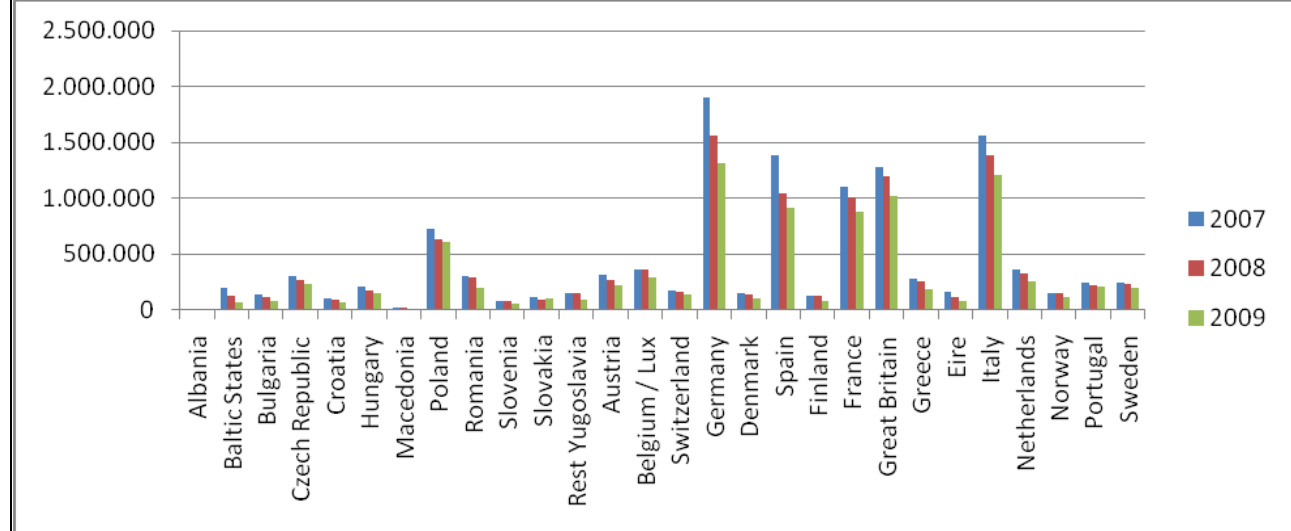
Truck Tyre sales OEM



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Country Trends: Years 2007-2008-2009

Total of Truck Tyre Sales in Europe (Replacement Market)

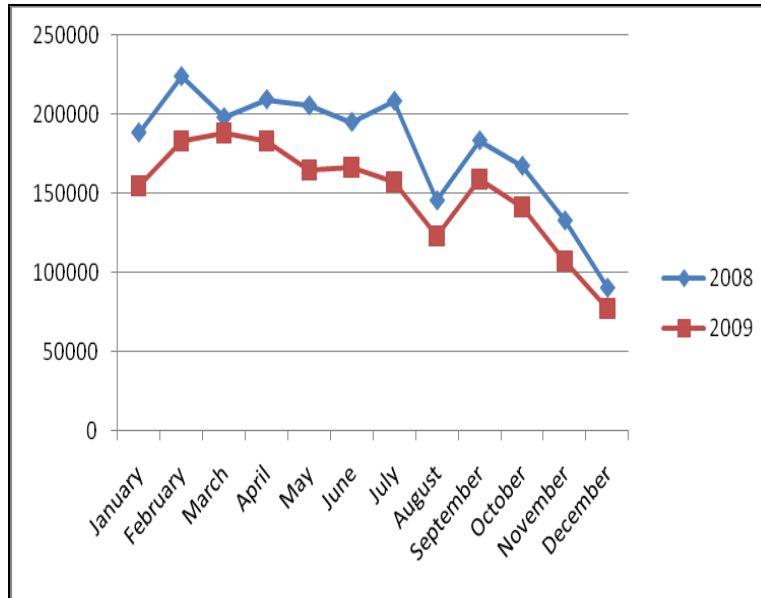


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In 2009 all markets have further declined and the negative tendency continued.

Agriculture Tyre sales Replacement Market

The Agriculture segment witnessed also a -16% decrease in 2009 compared to 2008.



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