

What does the typical successful North American tire dealer look like? How is his/her business structured? Where are they seeing successes, and where are the failures?

Welcome to TIRE REVIEW'S 2007 Tire Dealer Profile Study – the industry's most extensive, most coveted research effort. To compile this year's report, TIRE REVIEW surveyed hundreds of independent tire dealers throughout North America, businesspeople who took time out of their busy schedules to answer these important questions.

Those surveyed dealers served as a unified voice, helping us and our readers better understand the size and scope of today's successful independent tire dealer.

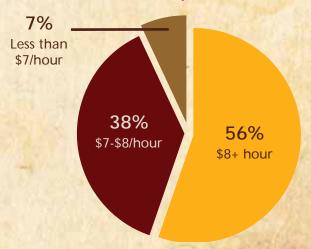
These dealers offered valuable insights into the industry's most pressing questions. They answered fundamental questions, such as: "How is a successful tire dealership structured?" "Where do they buy their tires?" "When do they sell

the most tires?" "What are the average selling prices of consumer and commercial tires?"

They also offered inside information that's not available anywhere else: How much profit do they earn on those tires? Who do dealers consider their toughest competition? Where are their pain points? Seasonally, what are their best months for tire and service sales? How much do they pay their employees?

Presented here are a few of the key questions asked in this year's study. For complete study results, contact Bob Roberts, Babcox Research, at 330-670-1234, ext. 252, or by e-mail at broberts@babcox.com.

What Dealers Pay New Hires (Without Experience)



Sizing Up the Average Dealer

86%	Are family owned
70%	Attended or graduated college
51%	Are sole owners
56.2%	Are members of affinity/marketing groups
78%	Get management information
	from tire trade magazines
42.4%	Posted location sales of
3 3 3	\$1 million or more

What Concerns Dealers Most

(most importar	least important
	1.3	Profitablity
	1.4	Customer retention
	1.4	Cost of business insurance
	1.4	Getting/keeping qualified employees
	1.5	Cost of wages/benefits
	1.6	Tire pricing by suppliers
	1.7	Tire supply/fill rates
	1.9	Price competition from dealers
	2.0	Service info availability
	2.0	Competition from mass merchants/warehouse clubs
	2.0	Health of tire companies
	2.1	National/State legislation
	1.16.50	

Auto dealer competition

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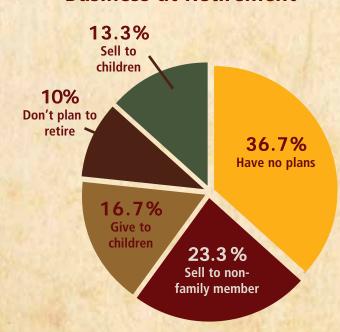
Sizing Up the Average Dealer

Concerned about finding employees
Sell used tires
Sell custom wheels
Service bays
Full-time employees
Are connected to the Internet
Have a Web site
Average consumer tires sold per day
Sell Chinese brand passenger and LT/SUV tires

Employee Retention: What Dealers Think Works

(most imp	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1
	1.5	Treat them with respect
	1.7	Give regular schedules
	1.8	Pay them well
	2.1	Provide quality tools/equipment
	2.3	Offer good benefits
	2.3	Give adequate time off
	2.3	Provide chance to advance
	2.6	Training/education opportunities

What Dealers Will Do With Their Business at Retirement



Sizing Up the Average Dealer

70%	Had employee turnover rate of 10% or less
11.7%	Offer nitrogen inflation
37%	Provide 401(k) plans to employees
22.9%	Have had TIA TPMS training in the past year
11.5%	Have taken TIA's passenger tire service training
39%	Sell Chinese brand medium truck tires

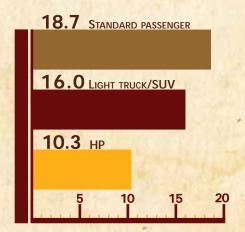


Why Retail Dealers Carry Certain Consumer Tire Brands

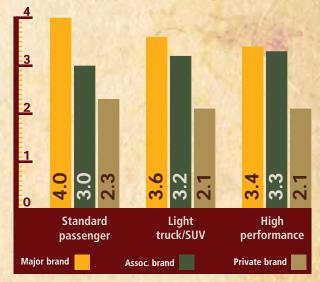


What Retail Dealers Sell Each Day

(Average Tires Sold Per Day)

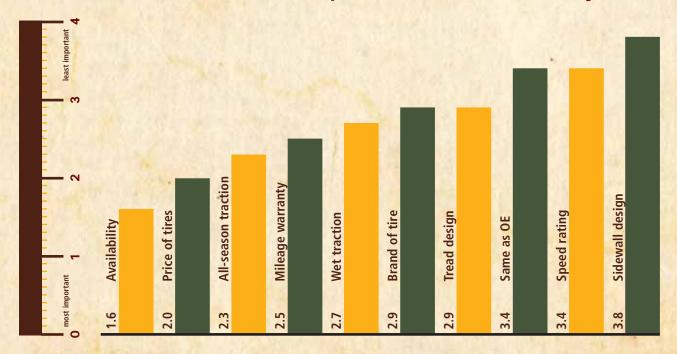


Number of Brands Retail Dealers Carry





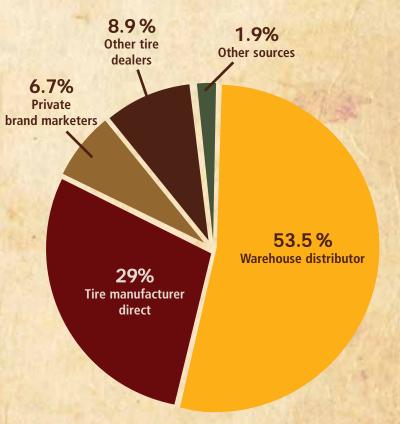
What Dealers Think is Important to Retail Tire Buyers



Why Customers Buy Particular HP Tires

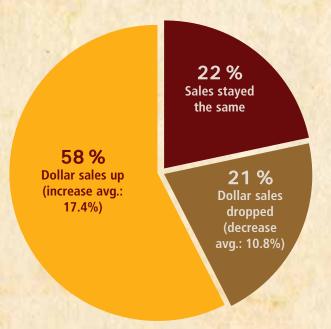


Where Dealers Get Consumer Tires

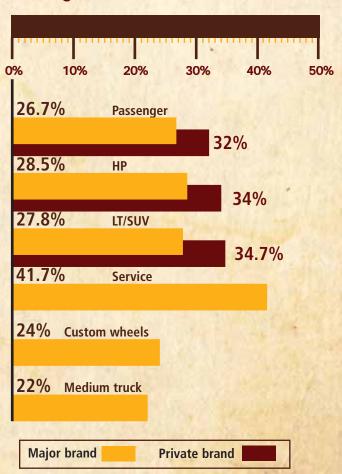




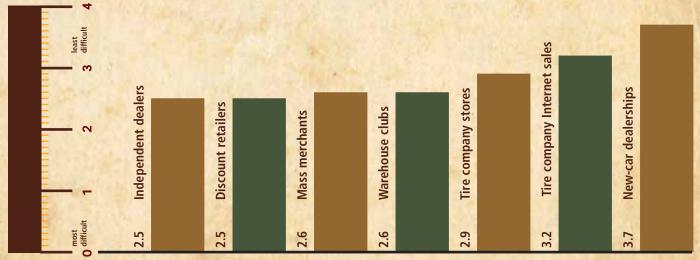
Dealer Sales Volume: Consumer Tires (2006 Sales vs. 2005)



Average Gross Profits: 2006 Sales



Who Dealer Sees as Most Difficult Competition







	Н	low	Deal	lers	Ad	vertise
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(Methods Used)

[More than 100% due to multiple responses]

49% Newspaper ads 16% Local network T.V.	
42% Radio ads 16% Other promotions	
31% Community service 13% Field sales force	14
29% Direct mail 11% Cable T.V.	
29% Reminder cards 2% Telemarketing	9

Average Retail Price: Replacement Passenger Tires

(Most Popular Sizes)



Figures in parenthesis are results from 2006 Tire Dealer Profile study. NL indicates that prices for that size were not tracked last year.





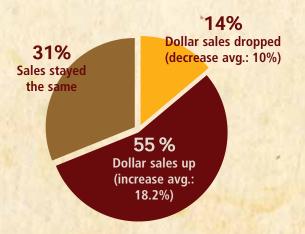
Average Selling Price: Replacement Medium Truck Tires

(Most Popular Sizes)





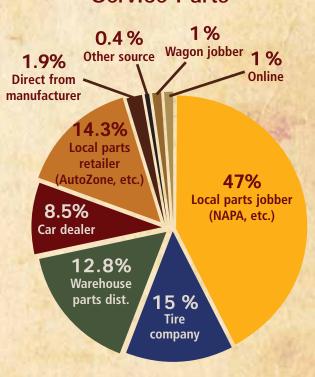
Dealer Sales Volume: Commercial Tires (2006 Sales vs. 2005)



What's Most Important to Truck Fleets (Desired Attributes)

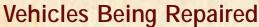


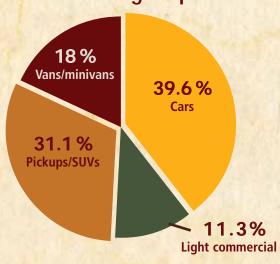
Where Dealers Get Service Parts

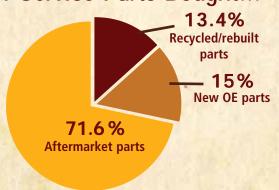




Of Service Parts Bought...



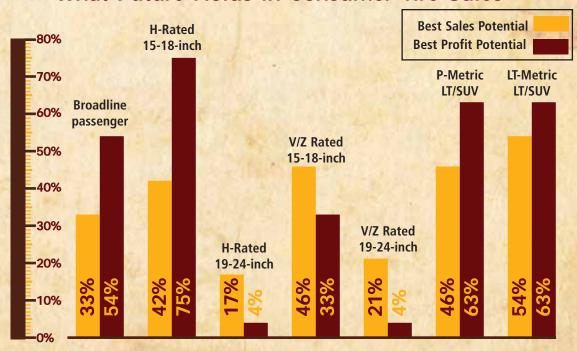




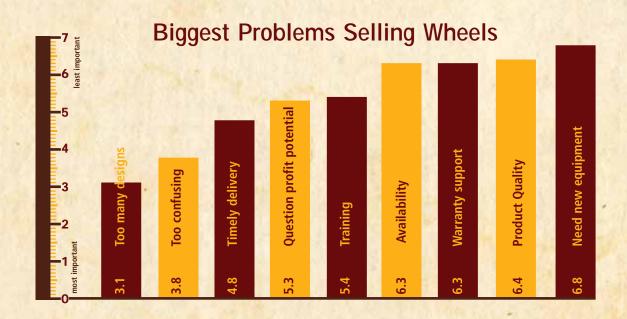
Types of TPMS Encountered (of all TPMS-equipped tires serviced)

40.7%	Direct/valve stem sensor
19.8%	Direct/drop center sensor
39.5%	Indirect system

What Future Holds in Consumer Tire Sales







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