

OE Expected to Push U.S. Tire Shipments

In its recent updated analysis, the RMA said it expects total tire shipments to increase by 1.2%, but that won't be on the back of replacement tire shipments. For 2012, RMA sees a total of 288 million tires being shipped in the U.S. – OE and replacement P-metric, LT-metric and medium truck tires combined. RMA doesn't offer shipment data on OTR or ag tires. Overall, OE shipments are expected to increase 16%, while replacement shipments will fall some 2%, RMA said. Here is how each segment breaks down:

- OE P-Metric: Up slightly more than 18% to 42 million units.
- OE LT-Metric: Up nearly 1%.
- OE Medium Truck: Forecasting 12% increase to 5.5 million tires total.
- Replacement P-Metric: Drop of some 1% to 192 million tires.
- Replacement LT-Metric: Decrease of 3% to 28 million tires.
- Replacement Medium Truck: Decline of 6% to 15.5 million tires.