

The value of the U.S. tire imports soared in 2011

According to the U.S. Rubber & Plastics News reported, the U.S. Commerce Department recently released data show that the 2011 car, light truck and medium truck / bus tire import value rose to more than \$ 10.5 billion. Canada and China remained the largest trading partner, tire value of last year were \$ 19.3 billion and \$ 1.82 billion U.S. dollars, accounting for the total value of imports quarter. Although last year's car and light truck tire imports stagnated, medium truck / bus tire imports than in 2010 surged by 16.5 percent for the first time crossed the 10 million units mark. Import trends and the growth of the aftermarket in the United States last year is roughly equal. According to the Rubber Manufacturers Association (RMA) data, the U.S. passenger tire replacement market fell 2.2 percent to 195 million units in 2011, light truck tires aftermarket flat with last year, to 28.5 million units. On the other hand, the demand for medium / heavy truck tires aftermarket grew by 4.4 percent to \$ 16.5 million sets. RMA and Commerce Department data released by the market analysis, imports now account for about 62 percent of the replacement truck tire market, of which China alone accounted for 29.5%. 2011 passenger cars, light and medium truck tires trade deficit increased by 5.8% to \$ 6.18 billion. U.S. Department of Commerce data show that the rise in the value of imports of each category, resulting in passenger tires and light truck tires, the average import price increased 18 percent to \$ 56.43 and \$ 82.76 respectively; the average import prices of truck tires increased by 21.8%, \$ 197.44. Last year, imports of passenger car tires only slightly less than 0.1 percent to 120.5 million units, China is still the top of the list – even though they accounted for only last year's tire exports to the U.S. less than 16.6%. In since the imposition of high tariffs since 2009, imports from China fell by more than 40%. Although the decline in China still accounted for nearly one fifth of U.S. imports of passenger car tires. Chinese consumer tires tariff of 29% is expected in September will return to 4%. Obama administration has not publicly expressed intention to extend. Cooper Tire & Rubber Company chairman Roy Armes recently said, is about to expire as scheduled high tariffs, is expected to bring some downward price pressure, but may not be such as industry-one years ago that so much. Car tire import growth last year, the country of origin as follows: Germany, an increase of 37.1%; Mexico, an increase of 27.4%; Thailand, an increase of 19.3%; Indonesia, an increase of 12%. With the Pirelli tire plant in commissioning and expansion within the next few years, Mexican exports to the U.S. tire may maintain an upward trend. Of Japan's exports to the U.S. passenger car tires dropped 17.2%, partly due to the cut-off caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis of the Pacific coast of Japan's main island on March 11 last year. The young truck tire imports edged up by 0.2% in 2011 to \$ 20.6 million, of which Canada is the largest country of origin, accounting for more than 42 percent of the imports of the sector. Imports continued to account for more than 70 percent of the shipments of the department, which tire imports from Canada and Mexico accounted for a third. Although China last year exported tires to the United States was 23.4 percent less than in 2010, but China is still the

second largest exporter, exports to the U.S. tire ahead of South Korea and Japan. Mexican exports to the U.S. light truck tire shipments grew nearly twice as Thailand and Indonesia are also doing well, an increase of 73% and 43.9% respectively. China accounted for almost half of the imports of U.S. medium-duty truck / bus tires, truck / bus tires average imports were lower than the sector average price per set \$ 30. Truck tire imports from Thailand increased by 44.7 percent to 1.56 million units, ahead of Canada and Japan for the first time in the same category. China, Thailand, Canada and Japan together account for truck / bus tire imports nearly 90%. Last year, the U.S. tire industry, in fact all these three categories of export growth in both, although most are exported to Canada and Mexico. In light and medium truck tire sector, the United States and even maintained a trade surplus with Mexico. 2011, even under the impact of the tires safeguard China's tire exports are subject to certain constraints. However, due to the strong demand of the U.S. market as well as the price advantage of Chinese tires, and other factors, China's tire exports remain steadily trend. The face of strong competition in the international tire industry, tire companies at the same time ensure the quality and price advantage, but also to strengthen the brand marketing, a brand effect. The only way to seize market opportunities, to promote the development of China's tire industry. Source: HC Auto Parts Network