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"The car parts aftermarket is showing signs of value growth helped by a shift towards premium products in the tyre sector and continued pressures on imports. Yet despite this the car sector is passing through a difficult period. Sluggish new and used sales have combined with a dip in confidence. Taken with the growing impact of the internet on retail sales, the market is in an uncertain period." – Neil Mason, Category Director - Retail

This report looks at the following areas:

- Interest in the internet is growing
- Automotive sector continues to evolve
- Premiumisation within the tyre sector

Mintel's consumer research offers an insight into where the market is heading. Whereas there is a strong level of support for the ownership of older cars, and the likely replacement opportunities these present, there is also a trend towards the purchase of 'newer' used vehicles which are likely to be more reliable. While in-store purchasing of replacement parts remains popular, there appears to be growing interest in purchasing online. With this typically offering lower prices, it is potentially worrying that Mintel's research highlights the importance of this channel for the most affluent car owners. Exploring ways of offering added value for those looking at parts replacement continues as shown by the continuing expansion in fast-fit outlets.

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This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market



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