

Study Predicts Modest Growth in Gear Manufacturing

Gears, a new 192-page study from The Freedonia Group (Cleveland, OH), projects U.S. demand for gears to increase 4.3 percent annually through 2002, when shipments are predicted to reach \$25.7 billion.

The automotive industry will continue to be the largest source of gear demand, comprising about two-thirds of total sales. However, growth in the sales of automotive gears will be the slowest among major industry sectors, the study says.

The reasons for the expected slowdown include a saturation of key gear-powered accessories such as power windows, the ongoing development of belt-driven and other continuously variable transmissions and the slowdown of the overall economy.

Demand for gears in equipment and machinery is also likely to slow down because of the overall economy, while marine applications should exhibit the best growth prospects because of a projected continued demand for recreational boats, the study says.

Individual gears accounted for about 60 percent of total shipment value in 1997. However, growth in gear assembly shipments is expected to rise faster than that of individual gears through 2002. Most of this is expected because of growth in the gearmotor market.

Gear Demand By Market & Origin (million dollars)

Item 1987	1992	1997	2002	2007	
Durable Goods Shipments	1229	1456	2050	2582	3247
\$ gears / 000 \$ durable goods	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.2	10.2
Gear Demand	12770	15125	21405	26380	33165
By Market:					
Motor Vehicles	8720	10070	14700	17820	22010
Machinery & Equipment	2800	3355	4905	6120	7845
Other	1250	1700	1800	2440	3310
By Origin:					
OEM	11425	13495	19225	23660	29735
Captive	8120	9435	13635	16570	20535
Merchant	3305	4060	5590	7090	9200
Aftermarket	1345	1630	2180	2720	3430

Gears is available for \$3,300 from The Freedonia Group, Inc., 767 Beta Drive, Cleveland, OH 44143-2326.

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