

Romania

Market Environment

In 1989 the car population of Romania stood at 241,000 units. In 1991 new car sales were estimated at 100,000 and new truck sales at 35,000. By the end of 1991 1,200,000 cars, 200,000 trucks and 20,000 buses and minbuses were registered in Romania.

The auto repair/maintenance equipment and tools sub-sector in Romania is a component of the machine building industry which is one of the largest sectors of the Romanian economy.

Since the revolution of 1989 Romania has experienced a sizeable increase in the number of vehicles registered for use. Many of those vehicles have been brought into the country from other European countries. Until December 1991 there were very few restrictions on the types of vehicles that could be imported or on the inspection standards required to drive the vehicles. New regulations serve to monitor the age, safety and pollution emissions of registered vehicles as well as to develop standards for inspection, maintenance and repair facilities. They are not intended to preclude the importation or use of vehicles or equipment in this sub-sector.

During the last ten years the volume of imports of auto repair/maintenance equipment/tools has been low. It has come primarily from the former socialist countries.

The number of car service garages was estimated at 2,000 at the end of 1992.

Garages performing technical inspections on behalf of the Government must be equipped with brake test equipment, lighting test equipment, steering test equipment, pollution test equipment and hoists capable of handling at least 1.5 tons.

Romanian production of repair/maintenance equipment/tools does not meet the domestic demand.

There were virtually no exports of repair/maintenance equipment/tools in the past.

Export Marketing Opportunities

Being short of hard currency the Romanian machine building industry is looking for foreign manufacturers willing to enter into joint venture or licensing agreements to build the following items in Romania: noise test equipment, pressure testers, engine testers, brake testers, steering and suspension testers.