

# 

**Professional Automotive Repair Technician Survey** 



### **Contents**

#### Where, How & Why They Buy

Now in its 19th year, the *Counterman* Professional Automotive Repair Technician Survey (PARTS) asked 437 shop owners and technicians about their sourcing preferences and thought processes for purchasing automotive parts. For the first time, the survey also went out to counter pros, jobbers and warehouse distributors as well as DIYers.

Cabin Air Filters	4
Clutch Kits	6
Cooling System Stop Leak	8
Engine Oil	10
Fuel Pumps	12
Gaskets	14
Ignition Coils	16

Oil & Air Filters	18
Reman Air Suspension	20
Starters & Alternators	22
Tensioners	24
Timing Chains	26
Wheel Bearings	28

# 2019

#### **Professional Automotive Repair Technician Survey**







## Counterman

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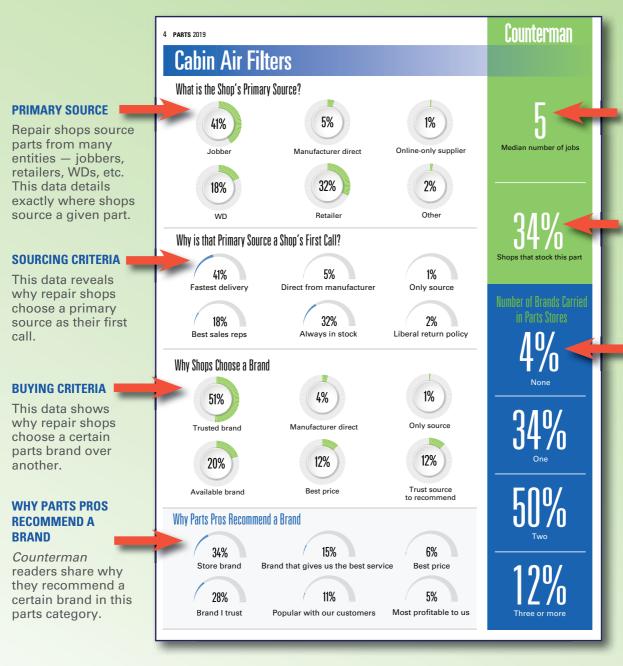
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# Sales Key

# Counterman

### WHERE, HOW & WHY THEY BUY



#### **NUMBER OF JOBS**

This data indicates the median number of jobs performed by repair shops on a monthly basis for this parts category.

#### STOCKING TRENDS

This number shows the percentage of repair shops that stock this part on site.

#### **NUMBER OF BRANDS**

Based on responses from Counterman readers, this column shows the number of brands that retailers, jobbers and warehouse distributors carry for this parts category.

# We've Expanded Our Annual PARTS Report

For nearly two decades, the Professional Automotive Repair Technician Survey (PARTS) has been the aftermarket's most comprehensive survey for the purchasing behavior of shop owners and technicians. This year, we've taken the survey to a new level.

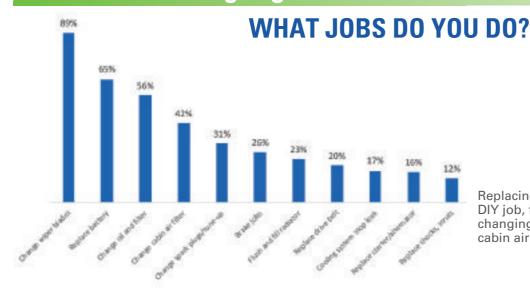
For the first time, *Counterman* has expanded the survey to include responses from counter professionals and DIY customers, providing a complete picture of how and why aftermarket parts move on and off the shelf. The expanded survey delivers powerful insights into the factors determining brand loyalty, on a part-by-part basis. The goal is to empower counter professionals, distributors and manufacturers with an analytical view of how installers and DIYers make their purchasing decisions, and why parts specialists recommend certain brands.

The DIY portion of the survey is based on responses from a panel of 400 consumers, all residing in the United States. Nearly half of the respondents were over 55 years of age. In July, our survey provider, Qualtrics, asked the consumers, "Do you do some of the maintenance for your own automobile?" If they responded "Yes," they were given a list of 11 basic maintenance jobs. To continue in the survey, they needed to indicate that they perform at least one maintenance job.

DIYers said 58% of their spending on auto parts is done at retail stores such as AutoZone, NAPA and O'Reilly, while 25% is done at mass retailers such as Walmart and Target. Another 13% of their spending is on Amazon and other online sources. Now that we've established a baseline, it will be interesting to see how the numbers change in future surveys. (We've highlighted these and other DIY results on page 3.)

A special thanks goes out to Bruce Kratofil, manager of market research for Babcox Media. This survey wouldn't be possible without his hard work and dedication.

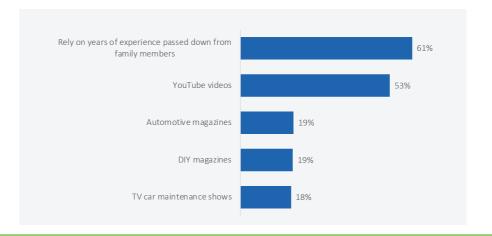
# PARTS: DIY Highlights



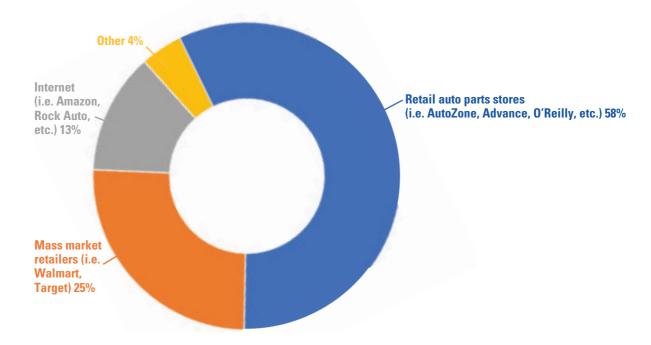
Replacing wiper blades is the most common DIY job, followed by replacing the battery, changing the oil and changing the oil and cabin air filters.

#### WHERE DO YOU LEARN ABOUT AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE?

Most DIYers say they learn about automotive maintenance from older generations, but many of them also are turning to YouTube for guidance.



# WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR SPENDING ON AUTO PARTS IS DONE AT THE FOLLOWING SOURCES?



Median number of jobs

Shops that stock this part

**Number of Brands Carried** 

in Parts Stores

### What is the Shop's Primary Source?

**Cabin Air Filters** 



5%



Jobber Manufacturer direct

Online-only supplier



WD

32%

2%

Retailer

Other

### Why is that Primary Source a Shop's First Call?

5%

1%

Fastest delivery

Direct from manufacturer

Only source

18% Best sales reps

32% Always in stock

2% Liberal return policy

### Why Shops Choose a Brand



Manufacturer direct

Best price



Only source



Available brand

12%

Trust source to recommend

## Why Parts Pros Recommend a Brand



15% Brand that gives us the best service

6% Best price

28% Brand I trust

11% Popular with our customers

5% Most profitable to us Three or more

None

WHAT ARE YOU REACHING FOR NEXT? WE'LL GET YOU THE

Whatever problem you're trying to solve, WIX Filters will never steer will never steer, WIX Filters will never steer, will never solve, WIX Filters will never solve, will never solve, will no resurce do-overs.

Whatever problem you're trying to solve, WIX Filters will never do-overs.

With a problem you're trying to solve, we'll keep you on the road to success.

With a product for every vehicle and every we'll keep you on the road to success.









### What is the Shop's Primary Source?



**Clutch Kits** 

9%

Jobber

Manufacturer direct

Online-only supplier



WD

35%

Retailer



Other

### Why is that Primary Source a Shop's First Call?



9%

3%

Direct from manufacturer

Only source



35% Always in stock

4% Liberal return policy

### Why Shops Choose a Brand





Trusted brand

Manufacturer direct

Only source



3%



Available brand

Best price

Trust source to recommend

### Why Parts Pros Recommend a Brand



16%

1%

Store brand

Brand that gives us the best service

Best price

25% Brand I trust

6% Popular with our customers

2% Most profitable to us

Three or more

Median number of jobs

Shops that stock this part

**Number of Brands Carried** in Parts Stores



Now and in the future, count on Schaeffler.

#### **Further information:**

www.schaeffler.us • www.repxpert.us





### <u>Counterman</u>

# **Cooling System Stop Leak**

What is the Shop's Primary Source?



7%



Manufacturer direct

Online-only supplier







WD

Retailer

Other

### Why is that Primary Source a Shop's First Call?

37% Fastest delivery

7% Direct from manufacturer

2%

Only source

15%

Best sales reps

37% Always in stock

2% Liberal return policy

### Why Shops Choose a Brand



2%



Trusted brand

Manufacturer direct

Only source



5%



Available brand

Best price

Trust source to recommend

### Why Parts Pros Recommend a Brand

10% Store brand 20% Brand that gives us the best service

3% Best price

41% Brand I trust

27%

Popular with our customers

0%

Most profitable to us

Median number of jobs

370/ 32/0 Shops that stock this part

# Number of Brands Carried in Parts Stores

13%

13%

00/0

GGO/O
Three or more

# K-Seal

# LEAKING COOLING SYSTEM? CRACKED ENGINE BLOCK? BLOWN HEAD GASKET?

# K-Seal® Coolant Leak Repair

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  - WORKS ON ALUMINUM HEADS

**JUST SHAKE, POUR & GO!** 



Don't just seal it, K-Seal it!™

### What is the Shop's Primary Source?



11%

**Engine Oil** 

Manufacturer direct

Online-only supplier



WD

11%

Retailer

7%

Other

### Why is that Primary Source a Shop's First Call?

25% Fastest delivery

16% Direct from manufacturer

5% Only source

23%

Best sales reps

30% Always in stock

1% Liberal return policy

### Why Shops Choose a Brand



Manufacturer direct

16%



Trusted brand

30%

Only source

23%

Available brand

Best price

1%

Trust source to recommend

### Why Parts Pros Recommend a Brand



17%

Store brand

Brand that gives us the best service

23% Brand I trust

18% Popular with our customers 4%

6%

Best price

Most profitable to us

Median number of jobs

Shops that stock this part

Number of Brands Carried

Three or more

# PROBLEM.

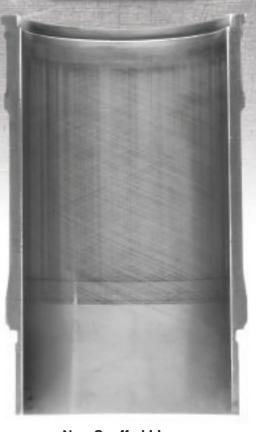
# SOLUTION.

THEIR OIL



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### What is the Shop's Primary Source?



**Fuel Pumps** 

9%

2%

Jobber

Manufacturer direct

Online-only supplier



WD

31%



Other

Retailer

00/0 Shops that stock this part

Number of Brands Carried

in Parts Stores

Median number of jobs

Why is that Primary Source a Shop's First Call?



9% Direct from manufacturer

2% Only source

27%
Best sales reps

31% Always in stock 2% Liberal return policy

### Why Shops Choose a Brand



1/0



Trusted brand

Manufacturer direct

Only source



Available brand

2%



Best price

Trust source to recommend

### Why Parts Pros Recommend a Brand



**24%**Brand that gives us the best service

4% Best price

37% Brand I trust

8%
Popular with our customers

3% Most profitable to us 36%

31% Three or more



# **Delphi** Technologies

### Fuel systems to power your business

When it comes to building fuel modules, Delphi Technologies applies its OE heritage and technological leadership to deliver the highest level of performance and customer satisfaction. At Delphi Technologies we engineer each fuel module with the same stringent standards we apply to the parts we make for Chrysler, Ford, GM and other OEMs. We carry fuel pumps, modules and hanger/sender assemblies for more than 90% of vehicles in North America.



Gaskets

### Counterman

### What is the Shop's Primary Source?



4%



Jobber

Manufacturer direct

Online-only supplier

Median number of jobs



WD

21% Retailer

1%

Other

Why is that Primary Source a Shop's First Call?

36% Fastest delivery

9%
Direct from manufacturer

3% Only source

22% Best sales reps

27% Always in stock 3% Liberal return policy

### Why Shops Choose a Brand



Manufacturer direct



Only source



Available brand

4%

Best price

3%

Trust source to recommend

### Why Parts Pros Recommend a Brand



Brand that gives us the best service

1% Best price

42% Brand I trust

17%
Popular with our customers

0% Most profitable to us 60/0 Three or more

Number of Brands Carried in Parts Stores

Shops that stock this part

7% None

67%

20%



# **SMART PARTNER**

www.mahle-aftermarket.com



THE ORIGINAL CHOICE IN OE SEALING SOLUTIONS!TM



### What is the Shop's Primary Source?



**Ignition Coils** 

15%



Jobber

Manufacturer direct

Online-only supplier

Median number of jobs



WD

30%



Retailer

Other

### Why is that Primary Source a Shop's First Call?



15% Direct from manufacturer

2% Only source

21% Best sales reps

30% Always in stock

2% Liberal return policy

### Why Shops Choose a Brand





Trusted brand

Manufacturer direct

Only source



3%

11%

Available brand

Best price

Trust source to recommend

### Why Parts Pros Recommend a Brand



21% Brand that gives us the best service

3% Best price

39% Brand I trust

9% Popular with our customers

3% Most profitable to us Number of Brands Carried

Shops that stock this part

27%





Premium Quality, Proven Performance.



www.prenco.com

Median number of jobs

### What is the Shop's Primary Source?

Oil & Air Filters



3%

0%

Jobber

Manufacturer direct

Online-only supplier



18%

1%

WD

Retailer

Other

### Why is that Primary Source a Shop's First Call?



9% Direct from manufacturer

3% Only source

27% Best sales reps

25% Always in stock

2% Liberal return policy

### Why Shops Choose a Brand



Trusted brand

Manufacturer direct

3%



Only source



Available brand

5%

Best price

5%

Trust source to recommend

### Why Parts Pros Recommend a Brand

Store brand

18% Brand that gives us the best service

2% Best price

34% Brand I trust

16% Popular with our customers

0% Most profitable to us **Number of Brands Carried** in Parts Stores

Shops that stock this part

Three or more



DRIVING PERFORMANCE FROM CHANNEL PARTNERS TO TECHNICIANS

# **SMART PARTNER**

www.mahle-aftermarket.com

The top plastic piece is ultrasonically welded to the endplate, which creates a housing for the sealing o-ring ensuring a proper seal between the clean and dirty side of the filter.



Has a thicker and more efficient synthetic fleece media for **better filtration** meeting demands for today's oil change regimen.

#### FILTRATION PERFECTED™







# Reman Air Suspension

What is the Shop's Primary Source?



14%

Manufacturer direct



Online-only supplier

Median number of jobs

Shops that stock this part

**Number of Brands Carried** in Parts Stores



29%





Other

WD

Why is that Primary Source a Shop's First Call?



Fastest delivery

16%

Retailer

Direct from manufacturer

0%

Only source

20% Best sales reps

26% Always in stock

2% Liberal return policy

### Why Shops Choose a Brand



Trusted brand



Manufacturer direct



Only source



Available brand



Best price



Trust source to recommend

### Why Parts Pros Recommend a Brand

30%

Store brand

16%

Brand that gives us the best service

4%

Best price

25% Brand I trust

26% Popular with our customers

0%

Most profitable to us



# AIR SUSPENSION PERFECTED

Others will say it, but we can prove it.

Three decades of relentless commitment to R&D, manufacturing and testing from the authority in replacement air suspension.

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### What is the Shop's Primary Source?

Starters & Alternators



6%

Jobber

Manufacturer direct

Online-only supplier



WD

12%

Retailer



Other

### Why is that Primary Source a Shop's First Call?



Fastest delivery

Direct from manufacturer

1%

Only source

22% Best sales reps

31% Always in stock

4% Liberal return policy

### Why Shops Choose a Brand



Trusted brand



Manufacturer direct



Only source



Available brand



Best price



Trust source to recommend

### Why Parts Pros Recommend a Brand

23%

Brand that gives us the best service

3%

Best price

Brand I trust

Store brand

8% Popular with our customers

4% Most profitable to us Median number of jobs

Shops that stock this part

Number of Brands Carried



The Litens OAD™ is the only one with a patented internal spring design allowing the alternator pulley to absorb harmful torsional vibrations in the engine. Other "so called OADs" don't have an internal spring. They are one way clutches that only overrun and don't cushion the pulses coming from your crank shaft. So, when you replace an alternator with an OAD, make sure the alternator is equipped with a real Litens OAD™.

THE OEMS DEMAND IT FOR A REASON AND SO SHOULD YOU!



POWERED BY LITENS AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

litensaftermarket.com

Median number of jobs

Shops that stock this part

**Number of Brands Carried** 

### What is the Shop's Primary Source?



Tensioners

8%



Manufacturer direct

Online-only supplier



10%

0%

WD

Retailer

Other

### Why is that Primary Source a Shop's First Call?



10% Direct from manufacturer

3% Only source

13% Best sales reps

29% Always in stock

1% Liberal return policy

### Why Shops Choose a Brand



Trusted brand



Manufacturer direct

Only source



12%



Available brand

Best price Trust source to recommend

### Why Parts Pros Recommend a Brand



10%
Brand that gives us the best service

1% Best price

43% Brand I trust

7%
Popular with our customers

2% Most profitable to us 26%

Two

60/0
Three or more



LITENS ORIGINAL PARTS.

C

(8)

6

O

MANUFACTURED BY THE O.E. SUPPLIER



- **Best coverage:** we offer the most complete line of belt tensioning products in the market.
- **Best quality:** 93% of our products are designed and manufactured by the OE supplier.
- Best technical information: we provide tools to sell and promote the product line.
- Best in class fill rates!

POWERED BY LITENS AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

Median number of jobs

#### What is the Shop's Primary Source?

Timing Chains



14%

4%

Jobber

Manufacturer direct

Online-only supplier



WD

10%

Retailer

2%

Other

### Why is that Primary Source a Shop's First Call?

25% Fastest delivery

Direct from manufacturer

3% Only source

23%
Best sales reps

30% Always in stock

2% Liberal return policy

### Why Shops Choose a Brand



10%



Trusted brand

Manufacturer direct

Only source



4%



Available brand

Best price

Trust source to recommend

### Why Parts Pros Recommend a Brand



| 14% | Brand that gives us the best service

1% Best price

38% Brand I trust

5%
Popular with our customers

0%

Most profitable to us

Shops that stock this part

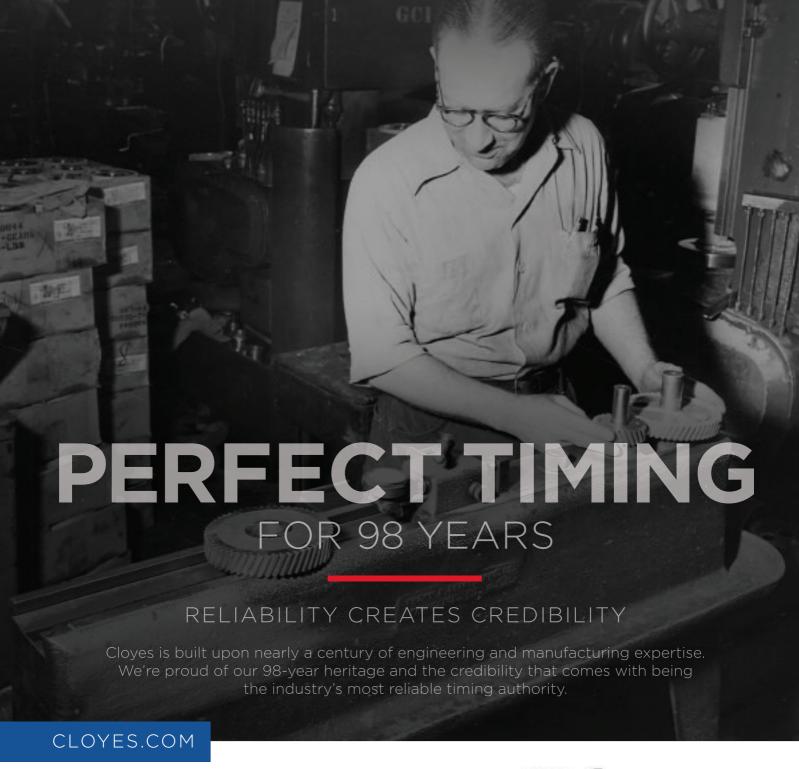
Number of Brands Carried in Parts Stores

21% None

60%

9%

2% Three or more







YOUR COMPLETE TIMING AUTHORITY







### What is the Shop's Primary Source?

Wheel Bearings



1%



Jobber

Manufacturer direct

Online-only supplier

Median number of jobs



17%



WD Retailer

Other

### Why is that Primary Source a Shop's First Call?



Direct from manufacturer



25% Best sales reps

25% Always in stock

4% Liberal return policy

### Why Shops Choose a Brand



Trusted brand

Manufacturer direct



Only source



3%



Available brand

Best price

Trust source to recommend

### Why Parts Pros Recommend a Brand



14% Brand that gives us the best service

5% Best price

Brand I trust

10% Popular with our customers

0% Most profitable to us Number of Brands Carried in Parts Stores

Shops that stock this part

# Installing confidence. Yesterday. And today.





Since the earliest days of the automobile, SKF has been supplying the world with the highest quality drivetrain, engine and wheel end components available. Today, SKF continues to provide high quality products and premium services to car and truck manufacturers, technicians and distributors across North America and around the globe.

Install confidence. Install SKF.









Visit www.vsm.skf.com to learn more





# This Could Be You!

We know counter professionals aren't in it for the fame and glory – but we want to give it to you anyway! WIX Filters is proud to salute the Counter Professional of the Year for going the extra mile when customers need a quality replacement part or trusted advice ... day in and day out.

**WIX Filters** invites you to nominate your favorite local parts pro – or yourself – to be recognized as the **2019 Counter Professional of the Year**. For three decades, the award has acknowledged the vital role counter pros play in the automotive aftermarket, honoring those whose passion, expertise and dedication have elevated their businesses and the profession.

#### As part of the award, the Counter Professional of the Year receives:

- An exclusive cover story in Counterman magazine
- An all-expenses-paid trip to Las Vegas for AAPEX and the SEMA Show
- A VIP experience at the Babcox Media & WIX Filters Night of Excellence

Since 1986, Counterman has been recognizing America's most trusted "go-to" parts pros with the annual Counter Professional of the Year award. Nominate yourself or a colleague today!



