

U.S. Bicycle Imports Through January 2007 Year-to-Date

Commerce Numbers	China	Taiwan	Canada	Italy	Other	Total	Change Percentage	Value C.I.F.	Unit Value	
Kids', 2005	258,280	1,334	0	0	1,285	260,899	36,420	16%	6,714,968	25.74
2006	277,758	841	0	0	1,033	279,632	18,733	7%	6,008,955	21.49
2007	223,754	2,270	0	0	0	226,024	-53,608	-19%	6,074,096	26.87
20", 2005	340,972	44,070	0	0	11	385,053	48,741	14%	14,755,615	38.32
2006	272,537	15,269	0	0	0	287,806	-97,247	-25%	10,733,316	37.29
2007	277,678	7,058	0	0	444	285,180	-2,626	-1%	11,400,573	39.98
24", 2005	100,070	22,358	239	0	0	122,667	38,864	41%	5,797,503	47.26
2006	81,550	5,193	171	0	0	86,914	-35,753	-29%	5,414,894	62.30
2007	53,828	957	614	0	0	55,399	-31,515	-36%	4,333,777	78.23
26" Mtn, Comfort 2005	322,878	40,562	1,324	1	691	365,456	4,915	1%	35,702,324	97.69
2006	311,881	21,768	875	10	641	335,175	-30,281	-8%	33,746,170	100.68
2007	344,680	23,596	82	0	554	368,912	33,737	10%	37,335,718	101.20
27", 700C, 2005	28,338	22,133	132	134	341	51,078	28,598	127%	15,333,221	300.19
2006	44,138	25,425	992	0	514	71,069	19,991	39%	22,969,524	323.20
2007	62,561	21,067	39	314	297	84,278	13,209	19%	20,917,991	248.20
Other, 2005	30,228	2,656	14	1	224	33,123	29,299	766%	2,369,184	71.53
2006	2,314	890	0	101	384	3,689	-29,434	-89%	272,298	73.81
2007	12,376	519	2	0	556	13,453	9,764	265%	516,216	38.37
Totals '05	1,080,766	133,113	1,709	136	2,552	1,218,276	176,837	17%	80,672,815	66.22
Totals '06	990,178	69,386	2,038	111	2,572	1,064,285	-153,991	-13%	79,145,157	74.36
Totals '07	974,877	55,467	737	314	1,851	1,033,246	-31,039	-3%	80,578,371	77.99
Difference '06/'07	-15,301	-13,919	-1,301	203	-721	-31,039			1,433,214	
Percentage Change, '06/'07	-2%	-20%	-64%	183%	-28%	-3%			2%	

Season's Opening Bell Rings; Imports Take a Tap to the Chin

WASHINGTON, D.C.—January's bicycle imports did not deliver an opening-round punch, defying odds makers' early predictions of a recovery from last year's overall drop in bicycle deliveries.

Instead, the Round One bell rang on a three-point slippage compared with January 2006, itself off 13 percent compared with the opening month of 2005.

Tikes' bikes took a sharp 19 percent drop of nearly 54,000 units. That

maintained the pattern set throughout 2006, which closed with a 9 percent decrease in the 19-inch-and-under category. Twenty-four-inch bike imports plummeted 36 percent for the month, hardly a rebound from last year's 6 percent drop.

The 20-inch wheel category fared somewhat better, off only 1 percent for the month. That category had dropped 13 percent during full-year 2006.

China lost kids' bikes but scored better in the mountain and comfort

category with a 32,000-unit gain, at least teasing toward a recovery from 2006 (down 1 percent overall for the year). Taiwan also gained a couple of thousand mountain bikes back, after suffering a 157,000-unit loss in 2006.

The 345,000 26-inch bikes from China were worth, on average, \$82; the 24,000 mountain-type bikes from Taiwan averaged \$374. Only 82 such bikes came in from Canada in January, on the other hand, but their average value was \$1,573.

Something similar happened in the road category. Italy shipped barely 300 road bikes to the United States, but their average value was \$1,161. Taiwan's 2,500 road bikes averaged \$456, and China's 63,000 units averaged \$162.

But anyone who's still arguing that China only produces low-end cheapies needs to move into this century. One 584-unit road bike shipment from China was worth, on average, \$2,061, CIF. **BRAIN**



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