

COOPER TIRE & RUBBER CO

Form 11-K

June 26, 2003

**Table of Contents**

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20549

FORM 11-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2002

Commission File No. 1-4329

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company  
Pre-Tax Savings Plan (Auburn)

COOPER TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

34-4297750  
(I.R.S. employer  
identification no.)

Lima and Western Avenues, Findlay, Ohio 45840  
(Address of principal executive offices)  
(Zip code)

(419) 423-1321  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

FORM 11-K

ITEM 1. Not applicable.

ITEM 2. Not applicable.

ITEM 3. Not applicable.

ITEM 4. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PLAN

EXHIBITS:

SIGNATURES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE

Table of Contents

Report of Independent Auditors

Statements of Assets Available for Benefits

Statement of Changes in Assets Available for Benefits Year Ended December 31, 2002

Notes to Financial Statements

Schedule H, Line 4(i) Schedule of Assets (Held At End of Year)

EX-23 Consent

EX-99 Certification

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**Table of Contents**

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company  
Pre-Tax Savings Plan (Auburn)

ITEM 1. Not applicable.

ITEM 2. Not applicable.

ITEM 3. Not applicable.

ITEM 4. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PLAN

The Financial Statements of the Cooper Tire & Rubber Company Pre-Tax Savings Plan (Auburn) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002, together with the report of Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors, are attached to this Annual Report on Form 11-K. The Financial Statements and the notes thereto are presented in lieu of the financial statements required by items 1, 2 and 3 of Form 11-K and were prepared in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

EXHIBITS:

- (23) Consent of Independent Auditors
- (99) Certification Pursuant To 18 U.S.C. § 1350

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Plan Administrator has duly caused this Annual Report to be signed by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

COOPER TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY

/s/ Philip G. Weaver

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PHILIP G. WEAVER  
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
Plan Administrator

Date: June 26, 2003

**Table of Contents**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company  
Pre-Tax Savings Plan (Auburn)

December 31, 2002 and 2001  
Year Ended December 31, 2002 with Report of Independent Auditors

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**Table of Contents**

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company  
Pre-Tax Savings Plan (Auburn)

Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule

December 31, 2002 and 2001  
Year Ended December 31, 2002

**Table of Contents**

Report of Independent Auditors	1
Financial Statements	
Statements of Assets Available for Benefits	2
Statement of Changes in Assets Available for Benefits	3
Notes to Financial Statements	4
Supplemental Schedule	
Schedule H, Line 4(i) Schedule of Assets (Held At End of Year)	9

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**Table of Contents**

Report of Independent Auditors

Pre-Tax Savings Plan Committee  
Cooper Tire & Rubber Company  
Pre-Tax Savings Plan (Auburn)

We have audited the accompanying statements of assets available for benefits of the Cooper Tire & Rubber Company Pre-Tax Savings Plan (Auburn) ( Plan ) as of December 31, 2002 and 2001, and the related statement of changes in assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2002. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the assets available for benefits of the Plan at December 31, 2002 and 2001, and the changes in its assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2002, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Our audits were performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2002 is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor s Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan s management. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audits of the financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

May 19, 2003

**Table of Contents**

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company  
Pre-Tax Savings Plan (Auburn)

Statements of Assets Available for Benefits

	December 31	
	2002	2001
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Investments, at market:		
Interest in investment trust	\$2,201,154	\$2,065,810
Mutual funds	1,027,571	1,160,026
	<u>3,228,725</u>	<u>3,225,836</u>
Cash	18,701	18,227
Receivables:		
Employer contributions	197,744	26,742
Interest receivable	10	17
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Assets available for benefits	<b>\$3,445,180</b>	<b>\$3,270,822</b>
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>

*See accompanying notes.*



**Table of Contents**

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company  
Pre-Tax Savings Plan (Auburn)

Statement of Changes in Assets Available for Benefits  
Year Ended December 31, 2002

Additions:	
Employer contributions	\$ 197,744
Participant contributions	465,795
Interest and dividends	102,732
Other	293
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Total additions	766,564
Deductions:	
Net depreciation in fair value of investments	277,824
Participant withdrawals	314,382
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Total deductions	592,206
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Net increase	174,358
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Assets available for benefits at beginning of year	3,270,822
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Assets available for benefits at end of year	<b>\$3,445,180</b>
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*See accompanying notes.*

**Table of Contents**

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company  
Pre-Tax Savings Plan (Auburn)

December 31, 2002

Notes to Financial Statements

**1. Description of Plan**

The following description of Cooper Tire & Rubber Company Pre-Tax Savings Plan (Auburn) (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

**General**

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all hourly employees who have completed 30 days of continuous credited service and are covered by the collective bargaining agreement between the United Steelworkers of America Local #634 and Cooper Tire & Rubber Company (the Company). The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

**Contributions**

Each year, participants may contribute up to 15 percent of their pretax compensation. Participants may direct their contributions to any of the Plan's investment fund options.

The employer contributions to the Plan are made annually by the Company as provided in the Plan document and at the discretion of the Company's Board of Directors. All employer contributions are invested in Cooper Tire & Rubber Company common stock until they become vested, after which they are invested as directed by the participant.

**Participant Accounts**

Individual accounts are maintained for each participant in the Plan. Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, their allocation of the Company's contributions and Plan earnings.

**Forfeitures**

At December 31, 2002 forfeited nonvested accounts totaled \$11,989. These accounts will be used to reduce future employer contributions. In 2002, no forfeited nonvested accounts were used to reduce employer contributions.

**Table of Contents**

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company  
Pre-Tax Savings Plan (Auburn)

December 31, 2002

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**1. Description of Plan (continued)**

**Vesting**

The participants are immediately vested in their contributions plus actual earnings thereon. After five years, the participants are vested in the Company's contributions plus actual earnings thereon.

**Participant Withdrawals**

In the event of retirement, death, termination, permanent disability or other separation from service, participants are entitled to receive an amount equal to the value of the vested interest in their accounts. Payment of benefits may be taken in a lump sum distribution or in two lump sum installments.

In the event of hardship, as defined, participants may make a partial or full distribution of their accounts, subject to certain tax withholdings.

**Termination of the Plan**

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right, under the Plan, to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA.

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Accounting**

The accompanying financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

**Investment Valuation and Recognition**

Except for the investment contracts held in the Investment Trust, the Plan's investments are stated at fair value, which equals the quoted market price on the last business day of the plan year. The shares of mutual funds are valued at quoted market prices, which represent the net asset values of shares held by the Plan at year-end.

**Table of Contents**

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company  
Pre-Tax Savings Plan (Auburn)

December 31, 2002

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

**Investment Valuation and Recognition (continued)**

Investment contracts are recorded at their contract values, which represent contributions and reinvested income, less any withdrawals plus accrued interest, because these investments have fully benefit-responsive features. There are no reserves against contract values for credit risk of contract issues or otherwise. The average yield was approximately 5.1% in 2002. The crediting interest rate for these investment contracts is reset monthly by the issuer but cannot be less than zero and ranged from 2.1% to 6.4% at December 31, 2002.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

**Administrative Expenses**

The Company pays the administrative expenses of the Plan.

**Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**3. Investments**

During 2002, the Plan's investments (including investments purchased, sold as well as held during the year) depreciated in fair value as follows:

Interest in investment trust	\$ (36,106)
Mutual funds	(241,718)
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	\$ (277,824)
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**Table of Contents**Cooper Tire & Rubber Company  
Pre-Tax Savings Plan (Auburn)

December 31, 2002

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**3. Investments (continued)**

Investments that exceed 5% of the Plan assets available for benefits are as follows:

	December 31	
	2002	2001
Investment Company of America Fund	\$435,452	\$506,080
American Washington Mutual Investors Fund	424,652	523,635

**4. Investment Trust**

Certain investments of the Plan are held in an Investment Trust, which also combines similar investments of the other defined contribution plans sponsored by the Company. The Plan's interest in the Investment Trust was determined by the Plan's relative asset value to the Investment Trust's total asset value at the end of the year. Investment income is allocated to the Plan based on its pro-rata share in the net assets of the Investment Trust.

At December 31, 2002 and 2001, the Plan's interest in the net assets of the Investment Trust was approximately 0.9% and 0.8%, respectively.

The following presents the fair value of the investments in the Investment Trust:

	December 31	
	2002	2001
Cooper Tire & Rubber Company common stock*	\$124,386,354	\$141,871,696
Investment contracts	119,169,527	69,409,794
Money market mutual fund	4,013,166	4,777,526
Total assets	<b>\$247,569,047</b>	\$216,059,016

The fair value of the investment contracts was \$122,235,019 and \$65,893,809 at December 31, 2002 and 2001, respectively.

**Table of Contents**Cooper Tire & Rubber Company  
Pre-Tax Savings Plan (Auburn)

December 31, 2002

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**4. Investment Trust (continued)**

Investment income for the Investment Trust for the year ended December 31, 2002 is as follows:

Interest and dividends	<b>\$9,456,742</b>
Net appreciation in fair value of investments:	
Common stock	<b>4,545,497</b>
Money market mutual fund	

**5. Nonparticipant-Directed Investments**

Cooper Tire &amp; Rubber Company common stock is a nonparticipant-directed investment. Information about the significant components of changes in net assets related to the nonparticipant-directed investment for the year ended December 31, 2002 is as follows:

Contributions	<b>\$ 9,829,415</b>
Dividends	<b>3,408,746</b>
Net appreciation in fair value of investment	<b>4,545,497</b>
Participant withdrawals	<b>(6,847,107)</b>
Transfers out to other investment options	<b>(28,421,893)</b>

**6. Income Tax Status**

The Plan has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service dated September 9, 1996, stating that the Plan is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code) and, therefore, the related trust is exempt from taxation. Subsequent to this issuance of the determination letter, the Plan was amended. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the Code to maintain its qualification. The Plan administrator believes the Plan is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code and, therefore, believes that the Plan, as amended, is qualified and the related trust is tax exempt.

**7. Related Party Transactions**

Certain Plan investments are shares of mutual funds managed by the trustee, National City Bank, and, therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions. There have been no known prohibited transactions with a party-in-interest.

**Table of Contents**

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company  
Pre-Tax Savings Plan (Auburn)

Employer ID # 34-4297750  
Plan # 015

Schedule H, Line 4(i) Schedule of Assets (Held At End of Year)

December 31, 2002

<b>Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor or Identity of Issue</b>	<b>Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value</b>	<b>Current Value</b>
American Funds	Investment Company of America Fund	\$ 435,452
American Funds	American Washington Mutual Investors Fund	424,652
MFS Family of Funds	Massachusetts Investors Growth Stock Funds	48,264
* National City Bank	Armada Equity Index Fund #42	40,009
Janus Funds	Janus Worldwide Fund	39,404
Invesco Funds	Dynamics Fund	22,990
* National City Bank	Armada Government Money Market Fund #509	11,989
Aim Funds Group	Balanced Fund Class A Shares	4,811
		<u>\$1,027,571</u>