



BREMEN COTTON REPORT



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QUESTION TIME

The Bremen Cotton Exchange and Its Reputation

With a history spanning almost 154 years in the Hanseatic City of Bremen, the Bremen Cotton Exchange can undoubtedly be credited with being highly successful at overcoming structural challenges and economic fluctuations. But how is the Cotton Exchange perceived externally as part of the international cotton industry? What shapes its reputation?

© Bremen Cotton Exchange

Right at the very start of 2026, the Cotton Report's editorial team spoke about this with Fritz Grobien, the Bremen Cotton Exchange's current President and a proven long-time observer and expert in the cotton and textile industry.



Fritz A. Grobien
President, Bremen
Cotton Exchange

Mr. Grobien, based on your observations, how is the Bremen Cotton Exchange perceived internationally?

Fritz Grobien: With its services, the Cotton Exchange is now regarded worldwide as a respectful and reliable partner in the global cotton trade and cotton industry. In its role as an arbitration body in contractual matters, it enjoys a great reputation in the market and has acquired authority over the years.

What other general reasons have led to its current reputation?

To understand this, we need to look back at the history of the Cotton Exchange. In 1872, the parties from industry and commerce involved in the cotton trade came together and agreed on a common set of rules for the international cotton trade between buyers and sellers that took

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BREMEN COTTON MARKET



Reporting Period 17 Dec 25 - 06 Jan 26

Uneventful Turn of the Year on the Cotton Market

Not much happened on the cotton market over the turn of the year. ICE Cotton No. 2 futures mainly moved sideways with a slight upward trend. The employee-friendly holidays restricted active trading activities a little. The dollar remained weak, but this did not necessarily encourage buying.

FACTS & FIGURES



Photo: Canva

Cotlook 'A' Index 2025/26 (Far East)

– in US-Cents/lb CFR Far Eastern Ports

– middling 1.1/8 inch, US-Cents/lb

| 06.01.26 | Prev. Week (30.12.25) | Prev. Month (09.12.25) | Prev. Year (07.01.25) |
|----------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 74.70 | 74.30 | 73.70 | 79.05 |

Adjusted World Price (AWP) for US cotton* in US-Cents/lb

| 02.01.-08.01. | Prev. Week | Prev. Month | Prev. Year |
|---------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| 50.76 | 50.02 | 51.28 | 55.03 |

* subject to further adjustments acc. to Step 1
(First Handler Marketing Certificate Program)

US SPOT MARKET Price

7 Market Average for SM, 1.1/16 inch, US-Cents/lb

| 06.01.26 | Prev. Week (30.12.25) | Prev. Month (09.12.25) | Prev. Year (07.01.25) |
|----------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 61.35 | 60.61 | 60.32 | 64.37 |

Daily Rates* Euro / US\$

| | | PREV. YEAR |
|------------|--------|------------|
| 24.12.2025 | 1.1787 | 1.0395 |
| 25.12.2025 | 1.1787 | 1.0395 |
| 26.12.2025 | 1.1787 | 1.0395 |
| 29.12.2025 | 1.1766 | - |
| 30.12.2025 | 1.1757 | 1.0444 |
| 31.12.2025 | 1.1750 | 1.0389 |
| 01.01.2026 | 1.1750 | 1.0389 |
| 02.01.2026 | 1.1721 | 1.0321 |
| 05.01.2026 | 1.1664 | - |
| 06.01.2026 | 1.1707 | 1.0426 |

*) Reference Quotation ECB

ICE Futures Cotton #2. Basis Strict Low Middling 1.1/16 inch (in US-cents/lb)

| DELIVERY MONTH | 24.12.2025 | 25.12.2025 | 26.12.2025 | 29.12.2025 | 30.12.2025 | 31.12.2025 | 01.01.2026 | 02.01.2026 | 05.01.2026 | 06.01.2026 |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Mar 26 | 64.24 | 64.24 | 64.49 | 64.35 | 64.32 | 64.27 | - | 64.01 | 64.65 | 65.06 |
| May 26 | 65.49 | 65.49 | 65.78 | 65.63 | 65.64 | 65.60 | - | 65.37 | 65.99 | 66.43 |
| Jul 26 | 66.58 | 66.58 | 66.95 | 66.84 | 66.85 | 66.83 | - | 66.72 | 67.31 | 67.74 |
| Oct 26 | 67.02 | 67.02 | 67.56 | 67.47 | 67.59 | 67.53 | - | 67.42 | 67.94 | 68.39 |
| Dec 26 | 67.81 | 67.81 | 68.24 | 68.20 | 68.32 | 68.35 | - | 68.22 | 68.60 | 69.06 |
| Mar 27 | 68.49 | 68.49 | 68.89 | 68.93 | 69.06 | 69.07 | New Year | 68.94 | 69.18 | 69.69 |
| May 27 | 69.03 | 69.03 | 69.40 | 69.46 | 69.57 | 69.58 | - | 69.45 | 69.59 | 70.09 |
| Jul 27 | 69.44 | 69.44 | 69.79 | 69.86 | 69.94 | 69.95 | - | 69.82 | 69.83 | 70.28 |
| Oct 27 | 68.69 | 68.69 | 69.04 | 69.11 | 69.19 | 69.20 | - | 69.07 | 69.08 | 69.48 |
| Dec 27 | 67.99 | 67.99 | 68.21 | 68.07 | 68.11 | 67.98 | - | 67.92 | 68.14 | 68.20 |
| Mar 25 | 68.78 | 68.78 | 68.75 | - | 68.48 | 68.40 | 68.40 | 68.57 | - | 68.68 |



QUESTION TIME

Continued from page 11

the interests of both sides equally into account. This also applied to the establishment of an independent arbitration tribunal, which settles disputes by balancing the interests of both parties. In 1881, the associations of the Austrian and Swiss textile industries also adopted this set of rules.

The Bremen Cotton Exchange Association owns a company building and service centre on the market square in Bremen's city centre. This guarantees its financial independence and enables investment in research and development for the benefit of cotton.

What role does the International Cotton Conference play?

To answer this question, it is also helpful to look in the rear-view mirror. In 1965, the Cotton Exchange organised its first laboratory managers' conference, where aspects of cotton quality testing and processing were discussed. In later years, this developed into the biennial International Cotton Conference on issues relating to cotton processing and the market environment. Due to the expansion of its scope, this conference attracted an ever-wider range of participants.

From 25th to 27th March 2026, the 38th International Cotton Conference will take place in Bremen under the motto 'Let's Talk about Cotton', embedded in a Cotton Week with many side events, such as a spinning seminar and the 'Discover Natural Fibre Initiative' meeting. Around 450 visitors from over 40 countries and the entire textile value chain are again expected to attend this year's event.

How does the ICA Bremen joint venture contribute to this with its global laboratory certification programme?

ICA Bremen GmbH is a joint venture between the International Cotton Association, Liverpool (ICA) and the Bremen Cotton Exchange. With its highly functional, modern testing laboratory and classification facilities, Bremen has become the centre for all matters relating to cotton quality. As a part of the University of Bremen and a partner, the Fibre Institute Bremen is responsible for scientific research. The number of reference laboratories certified by Bremen is growing year on year. Overall, the joint venture with the ICA has created a world-leading authority on all quality issues relating to cotton. This has earned Bremen a special place in the global cotton industry.



The Cotton Exchange is also becoming increasingly active at EU level, for example as part of the Make the Label Count initiative. Why is this commitment so important?

The goal of the 'Make the Label Count' campaign is to ensure fair treatment in the assessment of the ecological footprint of natural fibres. The criteria established to date have failed to take account of factors such as biodegradability, in contrast to chemical fibres, which merely break down into tiny particles known as microfibres. It has now been scientifically proven that microparticles settle in vital organs via food, for example, which increases the risk of serious illness later in life. In addition, the assessment criteria failed to take social factors into consideration.



The cotton fruit consists not only of fibre but also 60% seed, which is very important as food or animal feed for the rural population. Cotton is generally undemanding and grows in regions where farmers have few alternatives

for crop rotation. What is also less well known is that its cultivation makes an important contribution to carbon storage in the soil.

Thanks to dedicated lobbying as part of the MTLC initiative, the European Commission and European Parliament have now agreed that the current methodology should be reviewed and replaced. The Cotton Exchange team made an important contribution to this process.

European cotton producers are making their mark as part of the EU Cotton Alliance with the EUCotton initiative, offering the textile market the opportunity to transparently trace EU cotton throughout the supply chain. How do you rate the EUCotton initiative from the perspective of the Bremen Cotton Exchange?

The Bremen Cotton Exchange focuses primarily on the international market. European cotton-producing countries, mainly Greece and Spain, offer cotton that meets high quality standards. The traceability of EU cotton along the textile value chain, from fibre to end product, makes it possible to highlight the advantages and benefits of European cotton over cotton from other regions. The Bremen Cotton Exchange welcomes this commitment to transparency and credibility on the part of the EU Cotton Alliance.



Thank you for talking to us!



**38TH INTERNATIONAL
Cotton CONFERENCE**
BREMEN 2026 | MARCH 25-27



AVERAGE PRICES CIF BREMEN

(CASH ON ARRIVAL, MICRONAIRE GRUPPE 5)

Nearby Deliveries - in US-Cents/lb

N = Nominal, n.q. = not quoted

31.12.2025 07.01.2026

Medium Staple

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|-------|-------|
| West Africa | Strict Middling, 1.1/8" | 82.50 | 83.50 |
| | Middling, 1.3/32" | 81.00 | 82.00 |
| East Africa | Strict Middling, 1.1/8" | 84.00 | 85.00 |
| | Middling, 1.3/32" | 83.00 | 84.00 |
| Central Asia | Strict Middling, 1.1/8" | 82.50 | 83.00 |
| | Middling, 1.3/32" | 81.00 | 82.00 |
| | Strict Low Middling, 1.1/16" | 79.50 | 80.50 |
| Greece | Strict Middling, 1.1/8" | 82.00 | 83.00 |
| | Middling, 1.3/32" | 80.00 | 81.00 |
| | Strict Low Middling, 1.3/32" | 79.00 | 80.00 |
| Spain | Strict Middling, 1.1/8" | 81.00 | 82.00 |
| | Middling, 1.3/32" | 80.00 | 81.00 |
| | Strict Low Middling, 1.1/16" | 79.00 | 80.00 |
| Brazil | Strict Middling, 1.1/8" | 78.50 | 79.50 |
| | Middling, 1.3/32" | 77.00 | 78.00 |
| | Strict Low Middling, 1.1/16" | 75.50 | 76.50 |
| Argentina | Middling, 1.3/32" | n.q. | n.q. |
| | Strict Low Middling, 1.1/16" | n.q. | n.q. |
| USA E/M/O/T | Strict Middling, 1.1/8" | 80.00 | 81.50 |
| | Middling, 1.3/32" | 78.00 | 79.50 |
| | Strict Low Middling, 1.1/16" | 76.00 | 77.50 |
| India | S-6, 1.1/8" | n.q. | n.q. |
| | Mech, 1.3/32" | n.q. | n.q. |
| Türkiye | Middling, 1.3/32" | n.q. | n.q. |
| | Strict Low Middling, 1.3/32" | n.q. | n.q. |

Long/Extra -Long Staple

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|--------|
| Egypt | Giza 94, G/FG | 158.00 | 158.00 |
| USA Pima | Gr. 2, 1.7/16" | 180.00 | 180.00 |
| Israel Pima | H-1, 1.7/16" | 182.00 | 182.00 |
| Israel Acalpi | H-1, 1.3/8" - 1.7/16" | n.q. | n.q. |
| Bremen CIF-Index (M 1.3/32") | | 79.20 | 80.30 |

Photo © Israel Cotton Board, Matanya Zuntz

COTTON NEWS

Ample Cotton Supplies Leading to Lower Prices

According to the monthly report published by the Discover Natural Fibres Initiative at the end of December last year, Cotton prices dropped to the lowest level in five years during November, with the ICE contract falling 4% to \$1.39 per kg by the end of the month. Cotton futures reached more than \$3 per kilogram in May 2022 and have been trending lower since.



In its November estimate for 2025/26 (August-July), USDA raised its estimate of world cotton production to 26.1 million tonnes, 500,000 tonnes more than its previous estimate in September. The preliminary estimate of world cotton production in 2024 is 26 million tonnes.

In Brazil and Argentina, growers are preparing to plant, while planting of the 2025 crop is complete in Australia. Producers in Argentina, Australia and Brazil are almost all large operators with mechanized operations, and they make extensive use of futures to hedge production. Futures prices for cotton as of November 2025 were lower relative to futures prices for wheat, corn and soybeans than in November 2024. Cotton everywhere is almost always planted in rotations. Cotton/wheat is common in Australia, while cotton/corn/

soybeans are common in South America. The decline in cotton prices relative to rotation options suggest that area devoted to cotton in the Southern Hemisphere in 2025 is declining.

A federal court in the United States ruled in August against the Trump administration's use of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to impose reciprocal tariffs on nearly all foreign countries. The Trump administration appealed the decision, and the Supreme Court heard the case on November 5. The tariffs remain in effect until the case is decided, probably not for several months.

Suppliers and brands are hoping the Supreme Court invalidates the tariff authority. However, tariffs are now a revenue stream, so the federal government has little incentive to end them. According to DNFI the predicted spike in consumer prices never materialized, weakening the main argument against the tariffs. And, even if the courts challenge the IEEPA basis for the duties, the administration is already preparing other justifications to keep them in place.

Source: [DNFI](#) Monthly Report December 2025,



Make the Label Count – Recent Progress on EU Methodological Tools

Since 2021, the campaign Make the Label Count (MTLC) has been calling for fair and credible sustainability claims in the textiles sector, advocating for a level playing field across all fibre types. At the heart of this work is the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) methodology, a tool to calculate the environmental impact of a wide range of products, including textiles. Below are recent wins reflecting several months of engagement with EU policymakers specifically aimed at improving methodological tools used at EU level, an encouraging signal that campaign efforts are paying off.

No single-score consumer label under current PEF for Apparel and Footwear

After sustained engagement by MTLC, the European Commission has ruled out the use of a consumer-facing single environmental score under the current PEF Category Rules for Apparel and Footwear (PEFCR for A&F). In April 2025, the Commission formally requested the technical group developing the methodology to rule out a single-score as a condition for final approval, rendering it ineffective in legislation such as the Green Claims Directive.

Review of EU Environmental Footprint methods for potential key improvements

The European Commission will review the EU footprinting methods, the scientific rules that underpin the development of the PEF methodology, by early 2026 and has communicated openness to improving how environmental impacts are measured in those methods, when doing so. Thanks to consistent MTLC advocacy, the upcoming review of these methods should focus on better reflecting

positive impacts on issues such as biodegradability and microplastic release.

In a written response to the European Parliament prompted by MTLC engagement, the EU Environment Commissioner publicly acknowledged the value of natural fibres as biodegradable and microplastic-free alternatives to fossil-based synthetics. She also announced additional focus on the topic in the context of the upcoming



review of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy, a proposal aiming to boost innovation and position the EU as a leader in the bioeconomy sector.

European Commission approves alternative French methodology

In May 2025, the European Commission approved the use of an alternative French national methodology for voluntary disclosure of the environmental impact of clothing. While based on the EU's PEF method, this methodology better reflects critical impacts such as durability and microplastics emissions. MTLC has engaged closely with both EU and French officials, advocating for the methodology's approval and contributing to its development. Validation by the European Commission marks a significant step towards more comprehensive and fair impact measurement, while continued advocacy is needed to ensure a truly level playing field across Europe.

Thank you

The campaign is extremely grateful for your support, which is helping shift the conversation in Europe. "We have made significant progress since the start of our activities, but our work continues with a particular focus on the upcoming review of the Environmental Footprint methods, the implementing act of the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation for textiles and the EU Bioeconomy Strategy", state the MTLC campaigners.



Let's talk about cotton!

Recycling: Fibre Quality – How to Measure It Accurately

**INTERNATIONAL
Cotton
CONFERENCE
BREMEN 2026
25th-27th March**

The 38th International Cotton Conference Bremen, to be held on 25-27 March 2026 in Bremen's parliament building on market square, once again sends a powerful signal for professional excellence and international dialogue. The focus is on the latest market trends and technical innovations throughout the entire value chain – from agriculture and quality assurance to processing and the circular economy. With its high-calibre speakers, the conference remains an indispensable forum for anyone involved in shaping the cotton industry scientifically, technically or economically.

Today's focus: recycled fibres and their quality assessment. Here, light will also be shed on the topic of the fibre quality of recycled fibres and their impact on yarn quality.

Recycled fibres are key to achieving a truly circular textile industry. However, the way in which they are processed raises crucial questions about quality: how do they compare to new materials – and how can this be reliably measured? How does fibre quality affect yarn quality? One thing is clear: specific testing methods tailored to recycled materials are essential for realistically assessing the performance of recycled fibres. Four experts take a closer look at these challenges and provide fresh answers from research and practice.

Stefan Fliescher, Textechno in Mönchengladbach, talks about "Advances in testing technology for mechanically recycled fibres". While the suitability of new cotton for spinning can be determined primarily by fibre length

distribution and nep content, these characteristics can only be measured to a limited extent in recycled fibres. Their damaged, heterogeneous structural profile requires adapted testing methods. In addition, parameters such as the proportion of unopened yarn remnants are becoming increasingly important. Optimised measurement techniques are therefore essential for improving quality assurance in mechanical recycling and enabling consistent yarn qualities.

Adele Abdoos, Mesdan, Italy investigates the use of laboratory equipment such as shredders, carding machines and yarn separators to simulate and optimise fibre recovery from various waste textiles in a realistic manner. In her presentation, she shows that woven fabrics are more resistant to shredding and retain longer fibres, while knitted materials suffer greater damage and produce more short fibres. Adjusting the machine parameters, for example by increasing the speed of the main drum and reducing the speed of the working roller, proved particularly advantageous. The study presented in Bremen emphasises the importance of laboratory testing, as small-scale tests reliably predict industrial results while reducing material losses.

In his presentation, **Oswald Baldischwieler, Uster Technologies**, examines the quality parameters of mechanically recycled and new cotton yarn. He shows that the quality of recycled cotton depends on the origin and fibre properties of the textile waste. Analysis with new material revealed significant differences. Using a matrix, the fibre properties of different types of waste were recorded and examined to determine how production parameters need to be adjusted to achieve the desired yarn quality and what impact this has on efficiency and yarn properties.

The results offer insights into how to optimise recycled yarn production and emphasise the need for differentiated quality assessment in mechanical cotton recycling.

Pierre Lanfer, RWTH Aachen University examines two mechanical recycling cycles in his presentation. The starting point is a fabric made from 100% new spun respectively knitted cotton, which is torn into fibres in the first cycle. These fibres are reprocessed in the second cycle. Initial results show a significant reduction in fibre length in the first cycle, while the loss is lower in the second cycle. The data suggests that losses in yarn and fabric properties could decrease in later cycles. The findings are presented on the basis of a characterisation of the original fabric and the fibres, yarns and fabrics of both recycling stages.

Online access to the Cotton Conference

The registration for the conference has already started. Conference participants who are not travelling to Bremen and have opted to participate online can follow the conference on the tried-and-tested online platform. Here, all participants have access to the main conference sessions. Participants attending in person can also follow sessions online and use the wide range of networking tools.

For further information on the preliminary conference programme, additional meetings during the Bremen Cotton Week and the registration form as well as sponsoring options visit www.cotton-conference-bremen.de.



German Economic Institute, Cologne

“Simplified Supply Chain Act Is a Step in the Right Direction”

The EU has decided to modify its supply chain act. Only very large companies will have to comply with reporting requirements in the future. However, even the toned-down version carries the risk that European companies will lose competitiveness and soon import less from developing countries, according to the Cologne-based German Economic Institute.

The compromise is a done deal: the EU has decided to simplify its supply chain act. In its original form, the directive obliging companies to respect human rights and environmental standards along their supply chains would have been virtually impossible to implement due to the extensive reporting requirements. Additionally, it would have put European companies at a significant competitive disadvantage.

For this reason, the EU has now reduced the number of companies which are required to report to those with more than 5,000 employees and an annual turnover of more than €1.5 billion – previously, the thresholds were 1,000 employees and €450 million in annual turnover. The companies affected are also no longer required to monitor their entire supply chain across the board, but rather to investigate areas where they themselves suspect a high risk of violations. In addition, the EU has given companies an extra year to implement the regulations, which will now only become mandatory from July 2029.

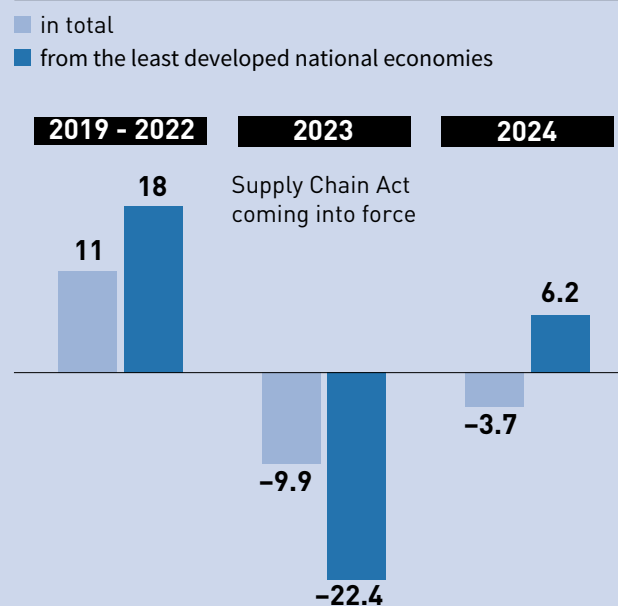
German imports of goods from developing countries have recently declined

The modifications that have been initiated are a step in the right direction – but even the toned-down version could prompt European companies to withdraw from

developing countries with unclear production structures and buy less there. This effect has already been seen in parts of Germany, where a national supply chain act came into force in 2023:

Fluctuating Imports from Developing Countries

Changes of nominal imports of Germany in comparison to the previous year in percent



2019 until 2022: Average over all three years compared to the previous year; least developed economies: currently 44 countries according to the United Nations classification

Sources: Eurostat, Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft
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iwd

Total German imports of goods fell by around 10 percent in 2023 compared to the previous year, with imports from the least developed countries – currently 44 economies according to the United Nations – falling by around 22 percent.

In previous years, German imports from developing countries had risen even more sharply than total imports. In 2024, they returned to positive growth – possibly due to uncertainty about the continued existence of the supply chain act. Overall, however, supply chain regulation in Germany was a disadvantage for these countries – and thus led to less economic growth, according to the institute.

Source: [iwd](#), Information Service of the German Economic Institute, Cologne, December 22, 2025



Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry (textil+mode) Develops Take-Back and Recycling System Leverage Opportunities of the Textile Circular Economy

In the opinion of textil+mode, the Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry, practical take-back, sorting, and recycling systems must be developed in order to leverage opportunities of the circular economy. To this end, the industry needs a reliable regulatory framework that enables innovation, takes economic realities into account, and allows sufficient scope for necessary adjustments. This was the topic of the second stakeholder dialogue “Extended producer responsibility for textiles – national implementation and environmental goals” hosted by textil+mode together with GRS PRO Textil and the GRS Foundation, taking place at Environmental Action Germany (DUH) in Berlin. Around 100 representatives from industry, trade, politics, administration, science, NGOs, PROs, and the waste management industry discussed the key requirements for a practical EPR¹ system for textiles.

From the perspective of the textile and fashion industry, it became clear again that the sector is ready to take

responsibility and establish textile cycles. At the same time, the economic situation is extremely tense, with many companies under massive cost and competitive pressure. Additional bureaucracy, inefficient structures, or pure cost increases must therefore be avoided in order not to further weaken the sector in European and international competition.

Uwe Mazura, CEO of textil+mode, said: “Our companies need relief, planning security, and clear goals – not new, expensive, and ineffective systems. If we want to remain competitive in Germany and Europe, we must reduce bureaucracy and design EPR in such a way that it remains economically feasible. Manufacturers may not solely act as paying agents in such a system.”

Although the EU requires the introduction of an EPR system for textiles, it has not yet defined any specific environmental targets or suitable target indicators. From the industry’s point of view, this leads to considerable uncertainty and carries the risk that national regulations will be

ineffective or merely generate additional costs. From the perspective of textil+mode, the German implementation must therefore be clearly aligned with the needs bearing manufacturers’ expertise in mind.

“It is not enough to adopt collection rates or inefficient structures from other waste streams that already have little ecological impact there,” says Jonas Stracke, recycling expert at textil+mode. “What happens after collection is crucial: sorting, recycling, quality of material flows. Only if these structures work, EPR will develop ecological effect – and not just create more bureaucracy.”

¹EPR: Extended Producer Responsibility



Source: [Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry](#)

USDA: Bangladesh Top Cotton Importer in 2024/25, Second in 2025/26

According to the USDA Report Cotton World Markets and Trade, December 2025, Bangladesh imported 8.05 million bales or 1.75 million tonnes of cotton in marketing year 2024/25 (August 2024 – July 2025) making it the top global cotton importer as the textile industry continues to recover from a post-pandemic slowdown.

For the past decade, Bangladesh has competed with China for the top importer spot largely depending on whether China made purchases for the state reserve. However, in 2024/25, Vietnam was the second largest cotton importer,

less than 100,000 bales (21,722 tonnes) below Bangladesh. China only imported 5.19 million bales or 1.13 million tonnes as above average production stopped state reserve sales and limited demand for imported supplies.

Looking forward to 2025/26, Vietnam and Bangladesh are expected to continue competing for the top global importer spot with Vietnam imports forecast only slightly above Bangladesh. While both countries face similar tariffs from the United States, Bangladesh could benefit from being more reliant on the EU market where it has duty-free access until at least 2029. However, the

readymade garment industry in Bangladesh also faces challenges from foreign currency shortages, political and social unrest, and energy shortages that could limit future growth potential as it attempts to remain competitive in the textile and ready-made garment industries.

Source: USDA Cotton World Markets and Trade, December 2025



COTTON NEWS



8th Mediterranean Cotton Roads Conference

The 8th Mediterranean Cotton Roads Conference took place in Thessaloniki, Greece, on November 27, 2025.

The Bremen Cotton Exchange was represented by its President Fritz A. Grobien, its Executive Director Jens Wirth as well as its Director for Communication and International Relations Elke Hortmeyer. In addition, Jens Wirth and Elke Hortmeyer also took part in the conference panel discussion

entitled “Cotton Versus Polyester”. In doing so, they represented both the Bremen Cotton Exchange as an international association and the Make the Label Count initiative.

With almost 300 participants, the conference was extraordinarily well attended. The event showcased the great diversity and capabilities of the European cotton and textile industry.

IMPRINT

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BREMEN VALUE DIFFERENCES

The value differences of the Bremen Cotton Exchange No. 2/23 according to Bremen Cotton Report No. 29/30 of 03 August 2023 remain in force until further notice. They can be found on the [website](#) of the Bremen Cotton Exchange.

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