



# BREMEN COTTON REPORT

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

INTERNATIONAL COTTON CONFERENCE BREMEN 2026

## Modern Testing Methods for Raw Cotton

The 38<sup>th</sup> International Cotton Conference Bremen will take place from 25 to 27 March 2026 at the Bremen Parliament. This conference has traditionally stood for in-depth expertise and international exchange. The program will focus on technical innovations, market trends, and regulatory frameworks across the entire value chain – from agriculture to the circular economy.

HVI testing  
 © Bremen Cotton Exchange

With high-profile speakers, the conference is regarded as the key meeting point for the global cotton industry. Today's focus: Cotton quality and testing methods.

Raw cotton from different areas of production varies considerably in terms of fibre properties, thus directly influencing how well cotton can be spun into yarn and how textiles behave in further processing. Innovative testing methods enable assessing each bale reliably and reproducibly according to defined quality parameters. The aim is to make cotton qualities comparable, as this is a key prerequisite for global trade, pricing and reliable supply chains. Quality and quality testing are the historical focus of the Bremen conference.



### Real comparability on focus

Various methods for testing cotton include High Volume Instrument Testing (such as Uster HVI) as a common method for instrumental cotton classification for price determination and bale composition; Uster AFIS for testing the length, fineness, neps, etc. of individual fibres and the Mesdan Contest as a thermomechanical method for determining the tendency of cotton to stick together.

**Mourad Krifa from Kent State University, USA**, has been conducting research in the characterisation of cotton fibres for decades, focusing on length distribution. In his presentation he will introduce reliable statistical and

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## Futures Lost Points

ICE Cotton No. 2 futures experienced a rather shallow decline over the past two weeks. During the reporting period, the March trading month in particular lost a good 200 points. May and December lost slightly less, around 150 points. Trading volumes remained stable. Nevertheless, futures fell. In contrast, physical quotations using the Cotlook 'A' index lost only around 100 points.

There was little activity in trading during the reporting period. Global demand remained at a steady level. In Europe, however, the somewhat subdued market activity of the last few weeks continued and there was little movement.

The dollar continued to lose ground against the euro and other currencies, reaching a low last seen in 2021, during the Covid pandemic.

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

- in US-Cents/lb CFR Far Eastern Ports
- middling 1.1/8 inch, US-Cents/lb

03.02.26	Prev. Week (27.01.26)	Prev. Month (06.01.26)	Prev. Year (04.02.25)
73.35	73.30	74.70	77.05

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

29.01.-05.02.	Prev. Week	Prev. Month	Prev. Year
50.23	50.99	50.76	54.02

\* 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

03.02.26	Prev. Week (27.01.26)	Prev. Month (06.01.26)	Prev. Year (04.02.25)
58.77	60.29	61.35	63.05

### Daily Rates\* Euro / US\$

		PREV. YEAR
21.01.2026	1.1739	1.0357
22.01.2026	1.1706	1.0443
23.01.2026	1.1742	1.0404
26.01.2026	1.1836	-
27.01.2026	1.1929	1.0530
28.01.2026	1.1974	1.0421
29.01.2026	1.1968	1.0396
30.01.2026	1.1919	1.0403
02.02.2026	1.1840	-
03.02.2026	1.1801	1.0274

\*) Reference Quotation ECB

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

DELIVERY MONTH	21.01.2026	22.01.2026	23.01.2026	26.01.2026	27.01.2026	28.01.2026	29.01.2026	30.01.2026	02.02.2026	03.02.2026
Mar 26	64.30	63.88	63.81	62.97	63.83	63.73	63.48	63.17	62.67	62.31
May 26	65.92	65.49	65.48	64.68	65.45	65.46	65.37	64.93	64.40	64.11
Jul 26	67.40	66.97	66.97	66.30	67.01	67.10	67.01	66.55	66.10	65.80
Oct 26	68.33	68.31	68.38	67.63	68.31	68.45	68.43	67.99	67.66	67.49
Dec 26	69.16	68.97	69.01	68.41	69.01	69.01	68.98	68.75	68.40	68.28
Mar 27	69.86	69.76	69.81	69.08	69.69	69.68	69.65	69.44	69.21	69.16
May 27	70.21	70.16	70.22	69.41	70.01	70.05	70.01	69.79	69.61	69.66
Jul 27	70.41	70.41	70.48	69.63	70.22	70.31	70.26	70.01	69.87	69.99
Oct 27	69.59	69.69	69.68	68.86	69.45	69.54	69.49	69.24	69.07	69.27
Dec 27	68.37	68.51	68.58	68.25	68.61	68.72	68.73	68.49	68.22	68.40
Mar 25	67.66	67.14	67.47	-	67.27	66.98	66.66	66.27	-	66.04



## INTERNATIONAL COTTON CONFERENCE BREMEN

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software-based tools that help cotton growers, biotechnologists and processors to better analyse and utilise fibre distributions.

**Dr Müge Ekizoğlu, Izmir Commodity Exchange (ICE), Türkiye**, is going to present the certified storage and classification system for Turkish cotton based on instrumental classification using High Volume Instruments. As one of the leading cotton-growing and producing countries, objective quality assessment for export and international standards is crucial for the Türkiye.

**Deninson Lima, ABRAPA, Brazil**, will present the results of a study on the measurement uncertainties determined for HVI devices used in Brazil. Based on the GUM standard, significant sources of uncertainty such as instrument design, environmental conditions, sample preparation and operator influence were analysed. The study quantified repeatability, reproducibility and possible distortions and emphasises the importance of regular calibrations, quality controls and systematic uncertainty budgeting.

**Gabriele Salvinelli, Mesdan, Italy**, will present the Contest S series testing equipment. These super automated systems measure the stickiness of raw cotton, which can mess up spinning machines and may lead to higher maintenance effort as well as lower quality. Since standardised environmental conditions are often not fully complied with in practice, the study examines the extended humidity range in which reliable measurement results are possible and provides users with practical recommendations.

#### Online access to the Cotton Conference

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 and may use the wide range of networking tools, this also applies to participants attending in person. All information can be found on the conference website at

[WWW.COTTON-CONFERENCE-BREMEN.DE](http://WWW.COTTON-CONFERENCE-BREMEN.DE)



Information on sponsorship options [here](#)



## ECONOMY AND POLITICS

## Demand from Leading Trade Associations: Stop the National Supply Chain Due Diligence Act

Following the first reading of the amendment to the German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act (LkSG) in the German Bundestag, 17 leading trade associations are calling for the LkSG to be suspended entirely. In the associations' view, the changes proposed so far are not sufficient to provide companies with noticeable relief.

Uwe Mazura, CEO of the Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry: "Germany must end its special national approach and use the ongoing LkSG amendment to provide tangible relief. Postponing this until 2029 is not an option. We call on the Bundestag and the federal government to take the necessary measures without delay."

The current draft law is essentially limited to the elimination of reporting requirements and a reduction in sanctions. However, the comprehensive due diligence obligations along global supply chains and the detailed documentation requirements remain in place. "Noticeable relief is therefore not to be expected," the associations clarify in their letter to the Bundestag and the federal government.

The associations' core demand is therefore to suspend the LkSG. At the same time, the federal government must fulfill its commitment from the coalition agreement and swiftly implement the changes to supply chain regulation ("Omnibus I") adopted at EU level in December 2025 in a

bureaucracy-free and practical form. This promise must now be fulfilled.

If the LkSG is not suspended, the associations advocate at least immediately adapting the national scope of application to that of the European Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD). This only covers very large companies. Accordingly, companies that will no longer be subject to the European regulation in the future should also no longer be bound to national obligations, according to the associations. Otherwise, there would be a risk of competitive disadvantages and legal uncertainty.

Source: Press release [textil+mode](#), January 29, 2026



## AVERAGE PRICES CIF BREMEN

(CASH ON ARRIVAL, MICRONAIRE GRUPPE 5)

Nearby Deliveries - in US-Cents/lb

N = Nominal, n.q. = not quoted		28.01.2026	04.02.2026
<b>Medium Staple</b>			
West Africa	Strict Middling, 1.1/8"	83.50	83.00
	Middling, 1.3/32"	82.00	82.00
East Africa	Strict Middling, 1.1/8"	85.00	84.50
	Middling, 1.3/32"	84.00	83.50
Central Asia	Strict Middling, 1.1/8"	83.00	83.00
	Middling, 1.3/32"	81.50	81.50
	Strict Low Middling, 1.1/16"	80.00	80.00
Greece	Strict Middling, 1.1/8"	82.50	82.00
	Middling, 1.3/32"	80.50	80.00
	Strict Low Middling, 1.3/32"	79.50	79.00
Spain	Strict Middling, 1.1/8"	81.50	81.00
	Middling, 1.3/32"	80.50	80.00
	Strict Low Middling, 1.1/16"	79.50	79.00
Brazil	Strict Middling, 1.1/8"	79.50	79.00
	Middling, 1.3/32"	78.00	77.50
	Strict Low Middling, 1.1/16"	76.50	76.00
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"	81.50	80.50
	Middling, 1.3/32"	79.50	78.50
	Strict Low Middling, 1.1/16"	77.50	76.50
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.
<b>Long/Extra -Long Staple</b>			
Egypt	Giza 94, G/FG	156.00	156.00
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.
<b>Bremen CIF-Index (M 1.3/32")</b>		<b>80.00</b>	<b>79.50</b>

Photo © Israel Cotton Board, Matanya Zuntz

## ECONOMY AND POLITICS

## DUH – First Legal Victory Against Ultra-fast Fashion Giant: German Environmental Aid Stops Shein's Greenwashing Advertising

German Environmental Aid (DUH) is the first environmental and consumer protection organization in Germany to achieve a groundbreaking legal victory against ultra-fast fashion giant Shein, thereby putting an end to what it describes as brazen consumer deception.

The company had failed to provide sufficient information on how it would achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 despite a massive 23 percent increase in climate emissions within a year. The DUH fundamentally criticizes the practice of fast fashion companies of embellishing their products with climate neutrality promises far in the future without explaining how these improvements are actually to be achieved in detail.

In order to limit the massive environmental and climate damage caused by fast fashion, the DUH is calling on Federal Environment Minister Carsten Schneider to hold textile manufacturers and platforms accountable for their fast fashion practices and make them pay. In addition, the DUH has initiated further legal action against Shein operator Infinite Styles Services Co. Ltd. This concerns misleading advertising claims for various products that are advertised as "local," "environmentally friendly," and "100% natural."

Barbara Metz, Federal Managing Director of the DUH: "We are now the first environmental and consumer protection organization to expose Shein's untrustworthy climate protection promises. Ultra-fast fashion, with its masses of toxic disposable clothing flown halfway around the globe, can never be climate-friendly per se."

Background: EU Directive (EU) 2025/1892 requires member states to introduce an extended producer responsibility (EPR) system for textiles. Germany must also set up such a system by summer 2027. France and the Netherlands are showing how it can be done: manufacturers there are already legally obliged to reuse textiles, enable repairs, and promote recycling. With the help of EPR systems, the EU wants to curb the considerable resource and climate impact of the textile industry, which ranks fifth among the most emission- and raw material-intensive industries in Europe. Around 70 percent of textiles are made from fossil-based synthetic fibers. And textile consumption continues to rise: between 2019 and 2022 alone, it increased by almost 12 percent from 17 to 19 kilograms per EU citizen on average. According to the DUH, the Chinese platforms Shein and Temu are further driving this consumption: the DUH estimates that around 400,000 parcels are now imported into Germany every day – mostly by airmail.

Source: [DUH press release](#), January 30, 2026



## Global Trends in Cotton: A Review of the 2024/25 Season

In a report published by the International Cotton Advisory Committee at the end of last year, Parkhi Vats and Mike McCue take stock of the 2024/25 season and draw conclusions. According to the report, the cotton sector in 2024/25 navigated a complicated mix of weather shocks, shifting demand, and rising expectations for traceability and environmental performance. Producers contended with irregular rainfall, localized pest outbreaks, and input costs that were slower to retreat than many had hoped. Traders dealt with fragile shipping schedules and occasional bottlenecks in key ports, while spinners and brands balanced inventory discipline with the need to respond quickly to changes in consumer demand. Yet despite the turbulence, the system proved resilient. Plantings stabilized in many origins, and several governments used this period to refine policies on seed quality, farmer income support, extension services, and incentives for domestic value addition.

A defining feature of this period has been the normalization of “sustainability as strategy.” Where a few years ago environmental and social assurances were often treated as compliance tasks, today they are shaping investment and procurement decisions throughout the value chain. More ginners and merchants are aligning with farm programs that document good practices, while mills and brands are adopting digital tools that integrate farm data with bale identification and shipment records. The trend is not uniform, and the cost of verification remains a barrier in some smallholder systems, but the direction of travel is clear: data credibility has become part of cotton’s competitive proposition.

Another notable shift is the renewed attention to regional integration. West African producers, for instance, are

looking beyond lint exports to selective investments in spinning, weaving, and training. In parts of Asia, cluster policies are encouraging co-location of gins, mills, dyeing/finishing units, and logistics services to reduce costs and lead times. Latin America continues to explore near-shoring opportunities that connect agricultural strengths with North American retail demand. Meanwhile, Australia has quietly demonstrated how precision agriculture, efficient water management, and transparent benchmarking can lift productivity and environmental outcomes at the same time.

Prices across the period reflected a tug-of-war between cautious demand and persistent supply risks. Periodic weather scares, transportation hiccups, and currency swings generated short spikes, but downstream buyers remained disciplined about inventory. In practice, this rewarded origins that could offer reliable quality, predictable shipping windows, and credible documentation. That mix of factors explains why several exporters maintained share even when their absolute output fluctuated.

Finally, the sector’s dialogue has broadened from “farm versus factory” to a more integrated view of the entire value chain. Agronomy improvements, gin modernization, fiber classification, logistics reliability, and mill efficiency are now seen as mutually reinforcing components of competitiveness.



Photo: Canva

### MAJOR THEMES

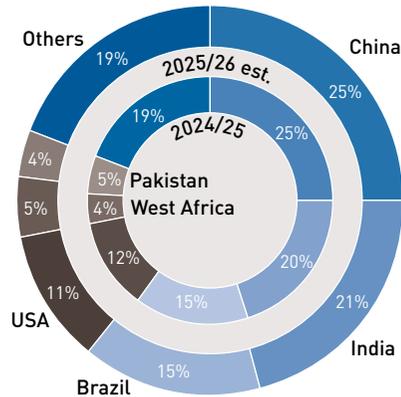
#### Traceability and Data Credibility

The most notable system-wide change is the integration of farm and bale data into commercial workflows. Gins increasingly capture and transmit identifiers that link fiber lots to known attributes, while merchants and mills standardize how that information flows through contracts and invoices. The practical benefit is reduced rework and fewer disputes about quality. The strategic benefit is stronger positioning with brands that need to make credible claims about sourcing.

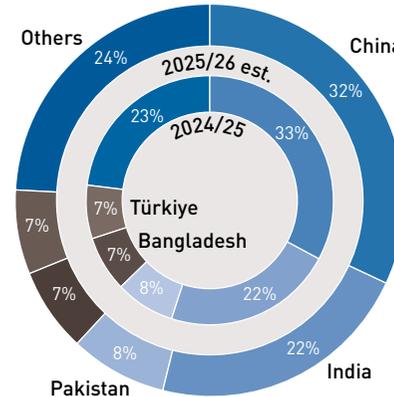


Fortsetzung von Seite 15

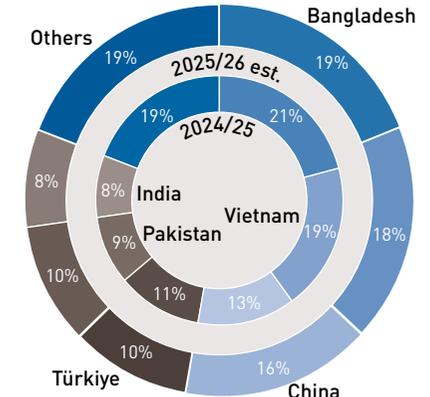
**Leading Producers 2024/25 and 2025/26**  
(estimated)



**Leading Consumers 2024/25 and 2025/26**  
(estimated)



**Leading Importers 2024/25 and 2025/26**  
(estimated)



Source: ICAC

**Quality, Contamination, and Mill Performance**

Contamination control has moved up the agenda because small improvements here can deliver outsized gains in spinning efficiency. Training at harvest and in gin yards, better bagging materials, and stricter yard management all contribute. Countries that implement coherent national campaigns - supported by classification and feedback loops from mills - tend to see durable improvements that translate into better prices and stickier customer relationships.

**Climate Resilience and PES**

Producers across diverse systems face similar questions about climate resilience: how to conserve soil moisture, manage pests that respond to weather shifts, and stabilize yields under variability. Conservation tillage, residue retention, and diversified rotations are spreading, assisted by localized extension advice. PES aligns with this agenda by identifying and compensating specific

ecosystem services – carbon storage in soils, water filtration, or habitat benefits. For now, program design and measurement costs remain hurdles, but the institutional groundwork is improving.

**Logistics and Cost Discipline**

The sector learned hard lessons from global shipping disruptions. Exporters that invested in storage near railheads or ports, diversified routes, and strengthened relationships with logistics providers have been better able to meet shipment windows. Mills also diversified suppliers to reduce the risk of supply interruptions. Cost discipline – across energy, transport, labor, and finance – remains decisive for margin preservation throughout the chain.

**Outlook**

The next stretch will test how quickly the sector can scale what already works: credible data flows, practical farm-level resilience, and targeted value addition. Demand will

likely remain sensitive to macro conditions, but cotton’s long-term fundamentals – comfort, breathability, and strong performance in blends – are intact. The competitive edge will go to origins and companies that offer three things at once: reliable quality, timely delivery, and verifiable environmental and social assurances.

Public policy can accelerate this transition by aligning seeds and standards, investing in classification and extension, and supporting pilot-to-program pathways for PES. Private investment can do the same by backing gin upgrades, contamination control, and mill modernization that demonstrably lift efficiency. For producers and processors alike, the playbook is the same: pair operational excellence with transparent proof. Do that consistently, and cotton will continue to deliver livelihoods for farming families while meeting the expectations of a more demanding marketplace.

Source: International Cotton Advisory Committee, Cotton Review of the World Situation, Volume 78, Number 4



# Japan Cotton Situation in 2024

## General Overview

Looking back over the past year, the global outlook remains uncertain amid ongoing crises, including the prolonged Russia-Ukraine war, escalating military tensions between Israel and Hamas, growing unrest across the Middle East, and continued stagnation in the European economy.

In the United States, President Trump's second administration has been advancing trade policies rooted in "economic nationalism." The rapid rollout of tariff measures has caused considerable global disruption, and the recurrence of U.S.-China trade frictions clearly indicates that the trade war between the two nations has reignited. These tariff policies are expected to further disturb international supply chains, heightening uncertainty about future prospects.

Under these circumstances, it has become increasingly important for Japan's cotton industry to respond effectively to external factors such as international price fluctuations, logistical constraints, and exchange rate volatility. In particular, imports of U.S. cotton into China fell sharply - by approximately 80 percent year-on-year in the 2024/25 season - due to retaliatory tariffs. Given that the textile industry is heavily influenced by U.S.-China dynamics, close monitoring of future U.S. trade policies remains essential.

## Cotton Imports

In the 2024/25 season, Japan's cotton imports totaled 26,700 tons, nearly unchanged from the previous season.

Domestic cotton imports have remained low in recent years due to the ongoing overseas relocation of spinning mills. Moreover, cotton consumption continues to stagnate as Japan's population declines and ages.

By country of origin, imports of Greek cotton fell by 70 percent year-on-year to just 290 tons, likely due to production plan adjustments associated with product diversification. Imports from Australia decreased by four percent to 5,290 tons (20 percent of the total) but maintained their position as the second-largest source after the United States, supported by stable supply capacity and strong quality evaluations. Meanwhile, imports from Brazil - the world's largest cotton exporter - fell by 24 percent to 1,950 tons (seven percent). However, Brazilian cotton continues to attract attention for its improved quality and price competitiveness.

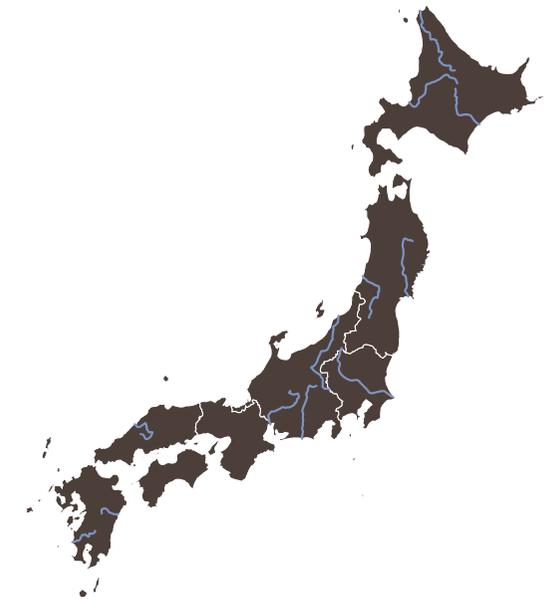
Amid these shifts, imports of U.S. cotton increased by seven percent to 16,500 tons, accounting for 62 percent of the total and remaining Japan's largest source of supply. Turkish cotton imports rose by 20 percent to 900 tons, surpassing Greece to become the fourth-largest source, supported by the growing use of Mediterranean organic cotton.

Japan's cotton imports remain highly concentrated, with the top three suppliers - the United States, Australia, and Brazil - accounting for 89 percent of total imports in 2024/25, up two percentage points from the previous season.

Looking ahead, growing interest in the SDGs and the trend toward casual, natural-fiber fashion are expected

to support demand for cotton. However, the potential impact of renewed U.S. tariffs on global cotton supply and demand, as well as on Japan's textile industry, warrants continued attention.

Source: The Japan Cotton Traders Association, The Japan Cotton Statistics and Related Data 2025



## Textiles + Fashion: Industry Unable to Emerge From Economic Slump

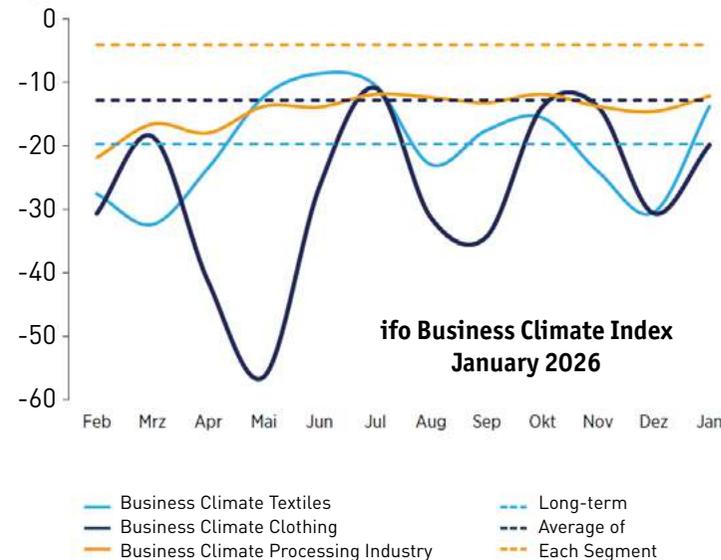
According to the Economic Report 01.2026 published by the Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry (textil+mode) on January 29, the German textile and fashion industry has been characterized by stagnation for several months. Data from the Federal Statistical Office from January to November 2025 was used for the evaluation. According to this, the industry has not yet emerged from the economic slump. Compared to the previous year, almost all figures remain in negative territory. The few optimistic outlooks of recent months have not yet been followed by a turn for the better. Even in the January forecasts, expectations are better than the actual situation.

The downward trend in sales, which has been ongoing for many months, is continuing: in November 2025, the monthly figures were more than six percent below those of the previous year. As of November 2025, the decline for the industry as a whole compared to the same period in 2024 is now 2.8 percent. The textile industry recorded a decline of 3.2 percent, while clothing recorded a decline of 2.2 percent. The number of companies with more than 50 employees in Germany is falling even more sharply: at the end of November, the figure for textiles was 7.4 percent below the previous year's level, while for clothing it was 1.1 percent below.

Domestic production has fallen steadily over the course of 2025, both in textiles (-4.7 percent) and clothing (-6.1 percent). Here, too, the current month is no exception, with -6.1 percent for textiles and -12.1 percent for clothing.

Clothing retail sales have only shown a minimal increase of +0.1 percent so far in 2025. Clothing retail sales have been below average, especially in recent months. Overall retail sales increased by +3.2 percent through November.

Foreign trade is unusually weak in 2025 and is also negative. As of November, exports were down 2.4 percent overall. Exports to the US are disproportionately affected, but it



is only one of several countries with negative export growth. The decline in textiles is -0.7 percent, while for clothing it is -3.3 percent. In contrast, imports are rising, both for textiles (+9.2 percent) and clothing products (+9.5 percent).

### ifo Business Climate Index January 2026

The overall economic climate in German industry improved slightly in January. The same applies to the textile and clothing industry. Overall, however, companies remain skeptical. The slight improvements in recent months were mostly due to somewhat more optimistic expectations, while assessments of the current situation were generally less positive. The few positive changes in the index were thus fueled more by hopes for improvement in the future. This is also reflected in the details on capacity utilization and production plans: expectations are consistently more optimistic than the current situation. The lack of orders remains a problem, especially in the textile sector.

Source: [textil+mode](#), Economic Report, 01.2026

## USDA: Global Cotton Production Estimated Lower in January

The January update of the 2025/26 global balance sheet shows lower production, higher consumption, lower ending stocks, and essentially unchanged trade compared to last month.

The forecast for China's cotton crop is raised by 217,70 tonnes which is more than offset by reductions for India, the United States, Argentina, and Türkiye, resulting in a reduction of over 76,200 tonnes to world cotton production. Global cotton consumption is raised over 65,300 tonnes as an increase for China is partially offset by reductions for Türkiye and Nicaragua. Cotton trade is raised a negligible amount as higher imports by India are largely offset by reductions for Türkiye and Nicaragua. Global 2025/26 ending stocks are revised downward by 326,600 tonnes because of lower production, higher consumption, and reductions to India's 2024/25 production and ending stock estimates. As a result, the global stocks-to-use ratio is reduced to below 63 percent.

Source: USDA World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, January 16, 2026



# New Markets Through Free Trade Agreements: Globally Oriented Textile Industry Sees Potential

The economic situation in Baden-Württemberg's textile industry remains challenging – EU free trade agreements could provide important growth impetus and should not be slowed down.

The textile industry in Baden-Württemberg is showing a mixed picture: although sales rose by 1.6 percent in November, the decline over several months was 3.2 percent compared to the previous year. Competition with international production locations and the resulting high cost pressure is also reflected in a 6.1 percent decline in the number of employees.

## EU must set a new course for economic and security policy

Südwesttextil, the association of the textile and clothing industry in Baden-Württemberg, therefore sees a great need for political action. In view of US President Donald Trump's tariff threat, which has been withdrawn for the time being, the EU needs above all to engage in stringent foreign policy cooperation on security and economic issues. Chief Executive Edina Brenner: "The geopolitical warning signals are all flashing red, and we must focus emphatically on the essentials: growth and security for the EU. This means not only that we must take a clear and unambiguous stand against attacks, but also that we must forge strategic partnerships."

## Free trade agreement with India opens up new markets for the textile industry

Against this backdrop, Südwesttextil expressly welcomes the fact that the EU and India have agreed on a free trade

agreement after almost 20 years of negotiations. The country is one of the world's largest fiber producers and already an important part of the textile value chain. The removal of trade barriers and tariffs will create new purchasing and sales markets for the industry and for the industries it supplies. From the association's perspective, rapid ratification of the agreement should therefore be a priority.

## Mercosur agreement must not be slowed down

At the same time, Südwesttextil criticizes the signal sent by European parliamentarians when they called on the European Court of Justice to review the Mercosur agreement. Chief Executive Edina Brenner: „The EU must finally become aware of its economic power and take a clear position in favor of free trade in the realignment of international trade policy. Especially in light of the severe economic crisis in Germany, it is incomprehensible that Members of the EU Parliament from Germany, among others, are now accepting a further delay by referring the matter to the European Court of Justice after more than 25 years of negotiations.“

Source: Press Release [Südwesttextil](#), 01/27/2026

## 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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