CONFINDUSTRIA MODA FEDERAZIONE TESSILE E MODA

THE ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL RESEARCH OFFICE OF CONFINDUSTRIA MODA HAS REVISED DOWNWARD ITS 2025 ESTIMATES FOR THE MADE-IN-ITALY TEXTILE INDUSTRY (INCLUDING WOOL, COTTON, LINEN, SILK, AND KNITS), ORIGINALLY RELEASED IN FEBRUARY 2026. TOTAL SALES, INITIALLY PROJECTED TO DECLINE -1.5%, ULTIMATELY FELL BY -3.1%, REACHING EURO 6.8 BILLION. EXPORTS ALSO DECLINED BY 2.3%, TOTALING EURO 3.7 BILLION. THE DATA AVAILABLE FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 2026, ALTHOUGH NOT FULLY COMPARABLE ACROSS ALL INDICATORS, CONTINUE TO POINT TO A HIGHLY UNCERTAIN ENVIRONMENT FOR THE INDUSTRY. IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 2026, THE ISTAT INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INDEX FOR TEXTILES DECLINED BY -1.3%, WHILE TOTAL TEXTILE EXPORTS FELL BY -3.4%, AMOUNTING TO EURO 729 MILLION. THESE FIGURES, HOWEVER, MASK DIFFERENT TRENDS ACROSS PRODUCT CATEGORIES. DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW, EXPORTS OF SILK FABRICS, FOR EXAMPLE, INCREASED BY +7.5%, COTTON FABRICS BY +2.2%, AND WOOL FABRICS, THE INDUSTRY'S LARGEST SEGMENT IN TERMS OF VALUE AND VOLUME, BY +1.2%. HOWEVER, THIS POSITIVE PERFORMANCE WAS INSUFFICIENT TO OFFSET THE SECTOR'S OVERALL NEGATIVE TREND, MAINLY DUE TO THE SHARP DECLINE IN KNITS (-13.2%). A SIMILAR PICTURE EMERGES FROM THE ANALYSIS OF EXPORT DESTINATIONS. EXPORTS INCREASED TO SEVERAL STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT MARKETS, INCLUDING FRANCE (+8.5%), CHINA (+7.8%), POLAND (+19.6%). HOWEVER, THESE GAINS WERE OUTWEIGHED BY DECLINES IN OTHER KEY MARKETS, NAMELY THE UNITED STATES (-10.7%), TUNISIA (-9.1%), SPAIN (-5.1%), AND GERMANY (-0.8%). DESPITE THESE TRENDS, THE SECTOR'S TRADE SURPLUS REMAINED POSITIVE AT EURO 309 MILLION, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS APPROXIMATELY EURO 48 MILLION LOWER THAN IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 2025. THE REDUCTION REFLECTS BOTH WEAKER EXPORTS AND A +3.6% INCREASE IN IMPORTS, WHICH REACHED EURO 420 MILLION. ON THE IMPORT SIDE, GERMANY UNEXPECTEDLY RANKED AS ITALY'S THIRD-LARGEST SUPPLIER OF TEXTILES, WITH IMPORTS RISING BY +47.2%, BEHIND TURKEY (-15.6%) AND CHINA (-2.3%).

1. The industry balance

In 2025, Made-in-Italy textiles (including wool, cotton, linen, silk, and knits) continued to experience a downturn. However, the decline was less severe than that recorded in 2024.

As anticipated in the February report, Made-in-Italy textiles closed 2025 with negative results. In February 2026, the projected reduction stood at -1.5%; however, final figures show a sharper year-on-year decrease of -3.1%. Total sales fell to Euro 6.8 billion, corresponding to an absolute loss of approximately Euro 217 million compared to 2024.

In 2025, the Made-in-Italy textiles industry continued to experience a downturn, although the decline was less severe than in 2024. Sales decreased by -3.1%, totaling Euro 6.8 billion

Table 1 – The Italian textile industry (2020-2025)[(1)]

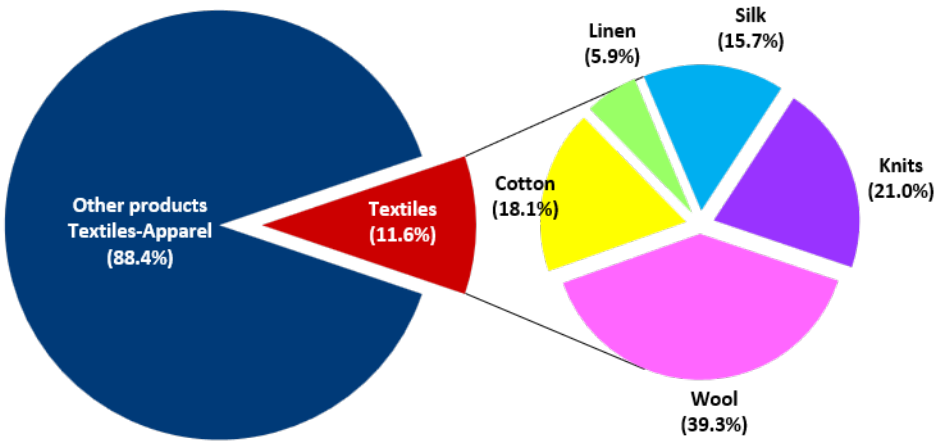
(current Euro millions)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Sales	5.307	6.115	7.922	7.678	6.999	6.782
Var. %		*15,2*	*29,6*	*-3,1*	*-8,8*	*-3,1*
Value of production	4.049	4.688	6.043	5.777	5.272	5.103
Var. %		*15,8*	*28,9*	*-4,4*	*-8,7*	*-3,2*
Exports	3.009	3.474	4.483	4.242	3.789	3.703
Var. %		*15,4*	*29,0*	*-5,4*	*-10,7*	*-2,3*
Imports	1.401	1.705	2.339	1.934	1.810	1.845
Var. %		*21,8*	*37,2*	*-17,3*	*-6,4*	*1,9*
Trade balance	1.609	1.768	2.144	2.308	1.979	1.858
Apparent consumption	2.440	2.919	3.899	3.469	3.293	3.245
Var. %		*19,6*	*33,6*	*-11,0*	*-5,1*	*-1,5*
Structural indexes (%)						
Exports/Sales	56,7	56,8	56,6	55,2	54,1	54,6

Source: Confindustria Moda on ISTAT data and internal surveys

(1)Silk, wool, cotton, linen and knits. (2)Estimates

Figure 1 - The role of textiles in the Italian Textile-Fashion production chain (2025)
(% on sales)



Source: Confindustria Moda

Despite this contraction, Made-in-Italy textiles remains a significant sector within the Italian textile and apparel industry, accounting for 11.6% of the sector's total sales (see Figure 1). Considering only the upstream stages of the production chain, the share of Made-in-Italy textiles rises to 36.9%, confirming its strategic role within the industry.

In 2025, Made-in-Italy textiles accounted for 11.6% of total sales within the Italian textiles-apparel value chain

Wool remains the leading segment, accounting for 39.3% of total sales, followed by knits (21.0%), cotton (18.1%), and silk (15.7%). Linen accounts for the remaining 5.9%. Compared to the previous year, the sector's composition remained broadly unchanged, with only marginal shifts in the shares of the individual segments.

Performance, however, varied across product categories. The sharpest decline was recorded in knits, down -4.2%, followed by silk (-3.1%), and wool (-2.7%). Linen posted a marginal decrease (-0.1%), while cotton was the only segment to record positive growth (+1.8% vs 2024).

All segments recorded negative performances except for cotton

In 2025, the production value (calculated by Confindustria Moda separately as total sales net of imports) followed a trend similar to that of sales, declining by -3.2% reduction to slightly over Euro 5.1 billion. Nevertheless, this decrease was significantly less pronounced than -8.7% recorded in 2024.

Domestic demand, approximated by "apparent consumption", remained negative, although the pace of decline slowed to -1.5%.

Apparent consumption recorded a -1.5% decline

Trade "from" and "to" Italy continued to weaken in 2025, although at a significant slower pace. Total exports fell by 2.3%, totaling Euro 3.7 billion, approximately Euro 86 million less than in 2024. Compared with the -10.7% decline recorded a year earlier, this value represents a significant improvement in the current economic context. Imports, by contrast, increased for the first time after two consecutive years of decline, totaling Euro 1.8 billion (+1.9%).

In 2025, exports declined by -2.3% year-on-year…

… while imports increased by +1.9%

As a result, the industry's trade surplus declined to Euro 1,858 million, down approximately Euro 121 million year-on-year. The trade balance for Made-in-Italy textiles continues to play a significant role in the textile and apparel value chain, accounting for 20.1% of the sector's overall trade balance.

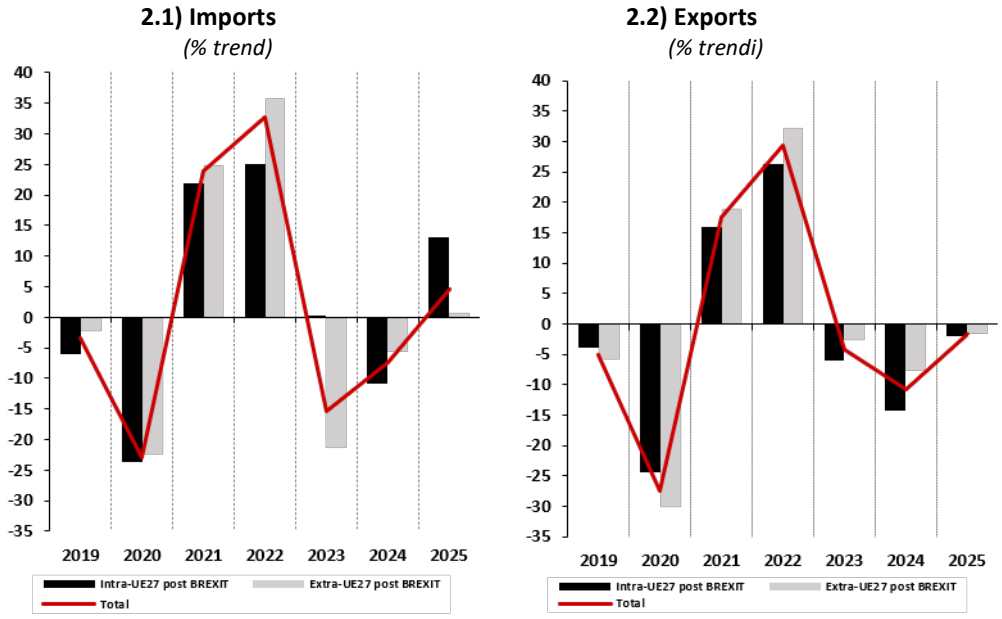
The sector's trade surplus amounted to Euro 1,858 million, accounting for 20.1% of the overall textiles-apparel trade surplus

From a geographic perspective, in 2025, exports and imports exhibited distinct performance trends, as shown in Figure 2. Imports from EU markets rose considerably (+13.1%), while imports from extra-EU countries increased only marginally (+0.7%).

Exports declined in both EU and extra-EU markets, although much less sharply than in 2024. Exports to EU countries fell by -2.1%, while exports to extra-EU markets declined by -1.5%. As noted in the footnote to Figure 2, this analysis covers only woven fabrics predominantly made of natural fibers, thus excluding blends or synthetic-fiber fabrics. Consequently, some discrepancies may emerge when comparing these data with those reported in Table 1.

An analysis by macro-areas shows that exports declined in both EU and extra-EU markets, while imports increased in both

Figure 2 – Textiles: analysis by macro-geographic area [(1)]
(January-December 2019-2025)



[(1)] The products analyzed here represent a sub-group (including only woven fabrics with at least 50% natural fiber) of those used to calculate the industry's total results, reported in Table 1. Conversely, Table 1 also considers woven fabrics with a percentage of natural fiber below 50% and the rest composed of man-made fibers. Knits are instead considered as a whole in both aggregates.

Source: Confindustria Moda on ISTAT data

Finally, the number of active companies also declined in 2025. According to data from the Milan Chamber of Commerce, the number of textile companies (ATECO code 13.2) decreased by -7.2%. Based on the same source, employment in the textile industry is estimated to have declined by -4.1% compared to 2024.

2. Made-in-Italy textiles in the first half of 2026

The Italian textile industry entered 2026 on another cautious note. Data available for the first months of the year continue to point to a challenging environment: exports remain on

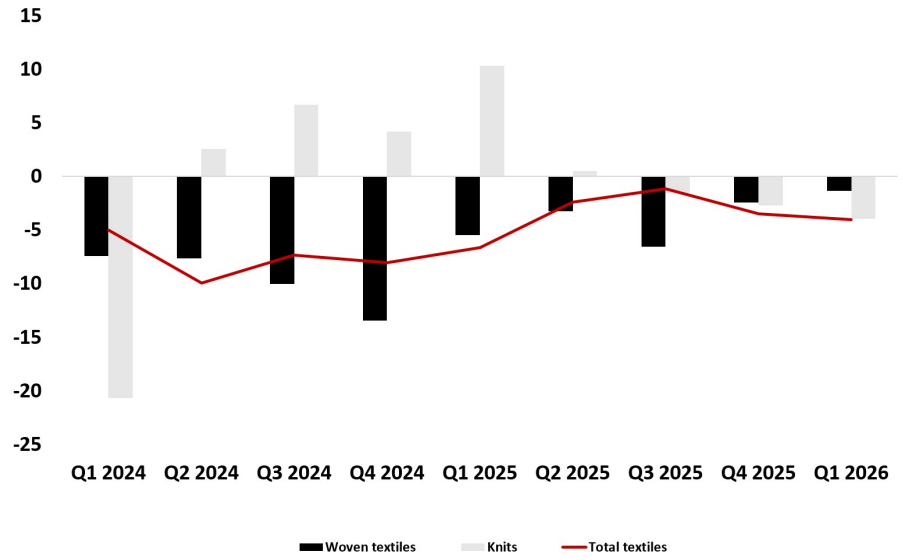
a downward trend, production activity continues to weaken, and imports are still increasing, albeit at a slower pace than in recent years.

According to the ISTAT industrial production index (calendar-adjusted), woven fabrics recorded a year-on-year reduction of -1.3% in the first quarter of 2026, thus confirming the trend already observed at the end of the first quarter of 2025. By contrast, knits experienced a reversal in performance, shifting from growth of +10.3% in the first three months of 2025 to a decline of -4.0% in the first quarter of 2026.

The Italian textile industry entered 2026 on a cautious note. In Q1, the ISTAT industrial production index recorded a year-on-year decline for both woven fabrics and knits

Figure 3 – Textiles: ISTAT industrial production index (adjusted for calendar effects Base year 2021=100), QI 2024 - QI 2026

(% trend)



Source: Confindustria Moda on ISTAT data (ATECO code 2007 CB13, CB132, CB1391)

Trade data for the January-March 2026 period (the latest available) show exports of textiles declining by -3.4% to Euro 729 million. This reduction was slightly more pronounced than that observed in the corresponding period of 2025 (-2.3%). Imports, meanwhile, rose by +3.6%, reaching Euro 420 million. As a result, the sector's trade surplus stood at Euro 309 million, marking a decrease of approximately Euro 40 million compared to the value recorded in the first quarter of the previous year.

In Q1 2026, exports of Made-in-Italy textiles declined by -3.4%, while imports rose by +3.6%

Performance varied considerably across product categories. On the export side, silk recorded the strongest growth (+7.5%), followed by cotton (+2.2%) and, to a lesser extent, wool (+1.2%). However, these gains are insufficient to offset declines in the remaining segments. Knits were particularly affected by significant challenges resulting in declining exports (-13.2%), while linen observed a reversal of the trend with -9.3%.

Exports of knits and linen declined sharply….

Imports likewise showed mixed dynamics. Cotton recorded the most significant increase (+15.3%), followed by wool (+3.4%). Conversely, imports of silk recorded a sharp decline (13.4%), together with linen (-5.6%), while the decline in knits was more moderate (-3.1%).

… while imports of cotton and wool recorded the strongest growth

The analysis of exports by destination market for the January-March 2026 period shows a decline in both EU and extra-EU markets. In particular, exports to the post-Brexit EU27, which accounted for 46.2% of total exports, fell by -2.5%. Exports to extra-EU markets, representing the remaining 53.8%, declined by -4.2%.

The analysis by country confirms France as the first export market for Made-in-Italy textiles with a growth rate of +8.5% year-on-year totaling 74 million and accounting for 10.1% of total exports. Germany retained second place despite a slight decline (-0.8%), representing 7.2% of total exports. China performed particularly well with a +7.8% growth rate, moving from fifth to third position with a 6.5% share of total exports. By contrast, Hong Kong was down -8.8%, dropping to eighteenth place. Taken together, China and Hong Kong would rank as the second-largest export destination with combined exports of Euro 60.2 million. Tunisia ranked fourth, accounting for 6.1% of total exports despite a -9.1% decline, followed by Romania (-2.1%). Among the main trading partners, the United States continued to experience difficulties with exports falling by -10.7% to Euro 36 million compared to the first quarter of 2025. Spain and Portugal followed, both with exports of approximately Euro 33 million, down -5.1% and -2.8%, respectively. Several markets, however, posted strong export performances: Poland was up +19.6%, reaching Euro 27 million, while Sri Lanka and Vietnam topped Euro 19 and 18 million, respectively with growth rates of +31.2% and +14.8%.

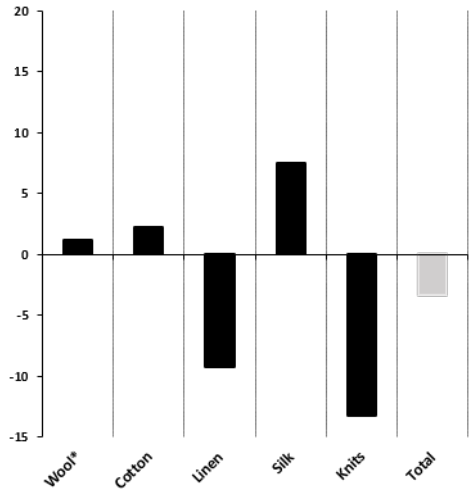
In Q1 2026, France and Germany confirmed to be the leading export markets for Made-in-Italy textiles. China rose to third place thanks to a +7.8% increase

Figure 4 – Exports of Made-in-Italy textiles(*)

(January-March 2026)

4.1) The segments

(% trend)



4.2) Exports

Export country	Euro mln	Var. %	% on total
Total	**729**	***-3,4***	***100,0***
of which:			
EU27 post-Brexit	*337*	*-2,5*	*46,2*
Extra-EU27 post-Brexit	*392*	*-4,2*	*53,8*
The top 15 export countries			
France	74	*8,5*	*10,1*
Germany	53	*-0,8*	*7,2*
China	47	*7,8*	*6,5*
Tunisia	45	*-9,1*	*6,1*
Romania	44	*-2,1*	*6,0*
United States	36	*-10,7*	*4,9*
Spain	33	*-5,1*	*4,6*
Portugal	33	*-2,8*	*4,5*
Turkey	31	*3,3*	*4,2*
Poland	27	*19,6*	*3,8*
Morocco	23	*-3,3*	*3,2*
Sri Lanka	19	*31,2*	*2,6*
Vietnam	18	*14,8*	*2,5*
Bulgaria	18	*-20,3*	*2,5*
United Kingdom	18	*-5,8*	*2,5*

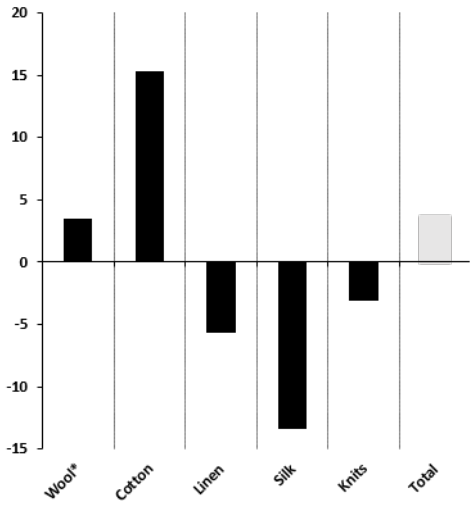
Source: Confindustria Moda on ISTAT data; (*) – See footnote 1 of Figure 2

Figure 5 – Imports of Made-in-Italy textiles(*)

(January-March 2026)

5.1) The segments

(% trend)



5.2) Imports

Import country	Euro mln	Var. %	% on total
Total	**420**	***3,6***	***100,0***
of which:			
EU27 post-Brexit	*170*	*33,7*	*40,6*
Extra EU27 post-Brexit	*249*	*-10,2*	*59,4*
The top 15 import countries			
China	117	*-2,3*	*27,8*
Turkey	60	*-15,6*	*14,2*
Germany	45	*47,2*	*10,7*
Spain	24	*73,6*	*5,6*
Czech Republic	20	*-0,5*	*4,8*
Pakistan	20	*-12,2*	*4,7*
Poland	17	*251,9*	*4,0*
France	13	*11,0*	*3,2*
Slovenia	11	*1.115,1*	*2,7*
Egiypt	10	*-19,9*	*2,3*
United Kingdom	9	*15,1*	*2,2*
Hungary	8	*29,6*	*1,9*
Japan	7	*-17,2*	*1,7*
India	6	*-15,6*	*1,5*
Belgium	6	*73,1*	*1,4*

Source: Confindustria Moda on ISTAT data; (*) – See footnote 1 of Figure 2

In the first three months of 2026, China confirmed its position as Italy's leading supplier, despite a -2.3% decline in imports

Finally, the analysis of import countries confirms China as Italy's top supplier with Euro 117 million in total and a 27.8% share of total imports. However, compared to the same period in 2025, imports from China dropped by -2.3%. Turkey remains the second-largest supplier with Euro 60 million and a 14.2% share, although imports declined by -15.6%. Germany ranked third, supplying Euro 45 million worth of textiles and posting growth of +47.2%, thereby strengthening its position in the Italian market. Spain followed with imports totaling Euro 24 million and one of the strongest growth rates among the leading suppliers (+73.6%). The Czech Republic and Pakistan followed with imports of around Euro 20 million. While imports from the Czech Republic declined only marginally (-0.5%), those from Pakistan fell more markedly (-12.2%). Particularly strong performances were recorded by Poland, whose exports to Italy surged by +251.9%, reaching Euro 17 million, and by France which consolidated its position in the Italian market with a +11.0% growth rate and imports worth Euro 13 million. Slovenia also recorded exceptionally strong growth in exports to Italy compared with the first quarter of 2025. By contrast, imports from Egypt declined by -19.9%, falling to Euro 10 million.

Although the first indications for 2026 should be interpreted with caution given the limited period under review, Italian textile companies continue to operate in a fragile and uncertain

economic environment. The forthcoming edition of Milano Unica, a key meeting point for for industry professionals and international buyers, will provide an important opportunity to gauge the sector's expected evolution over the coming months.

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