CICCA Update
by Member Organisations

Issue 20 – October 2023

Welcome to this Update, keeping you informed of the new developments at the Member Organisations and Observer Organisations. This publication comes as a result of a decision reached at the 2012 Plenary Meeting that "To facilitate the understanding of the latest cotton related information in the countries of Member Associations and to make CICCA more proactive if necessary, it was agreed that Member Associations would update their countries' cotton market information on a quarterly basis, and this would be distributed within the CICCA forum."

Any suggestions and comments would be greatly appreciated. The following Member Associations and Observer Organisations have contributed to this issue:

ACA – African Cotton Association

(No update)

ACSA – American Cotton Shippers Association

The American Cotton Shippers Association founded in 1924 is celebrating its centennial anniversary this year! We plan to commemorate this exciting milestone for our association at our annual convention being held in June of 2024.

The 2023 cotton harvest in the United States is just beginning with 13% completed as of September 24. According to the USDA's September World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimate, U.S. shippers are preparing to deliver 12.3 million 480-pound bales to both their domestic and international customers, while production estimates for the current crop has declined to 13.13 million 480-pound bales (Table 1). All eyes are on drought across the country, as many are concerned about abandonment or loss in yields (Graph 1).

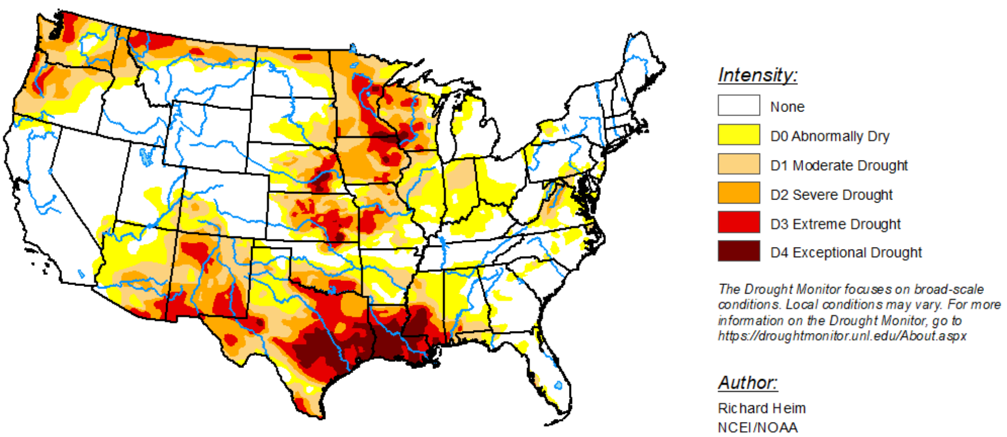
Following two years of supply chain challenges, the U.S. supply chain has begun to normalize, due primarily to the slowdown in the U.S. economy. The slowdown ultimately led to a decline in inbound cargo that once overwhelmed our country's ports and intermodal infrastructure (Graph 2). As mentioned in previous CICCA updates, there are meaningful measures being taken by both the U.S. government and commercial participants to make our supply chain more resilient to prepare for the next economic boom. The landmark, bi-partisan infrastructure package that delivered more than $1 trillion is starting to yield measurable outcomes that will greatly enhance the efficiency and capacity of key, cotton centric facilities across all modes of transportation.

Table 1: U.S. Cotton 2023/2024 Projected Production, Consumption, and Ending Stocks by Month

	PRODUCTION	DOMESTIC USE	EXPORTS	ENDING STOCKS
MAY	15.5	2.2	13.5	3.3
JUNE	16.5	2.2	14	3.5
JULY	16.5	2.2	13.75	3.8
AUGUST	13.99	2.15	12.5	3.1
SEPTEMBER	13.13	2.15	12.3	3

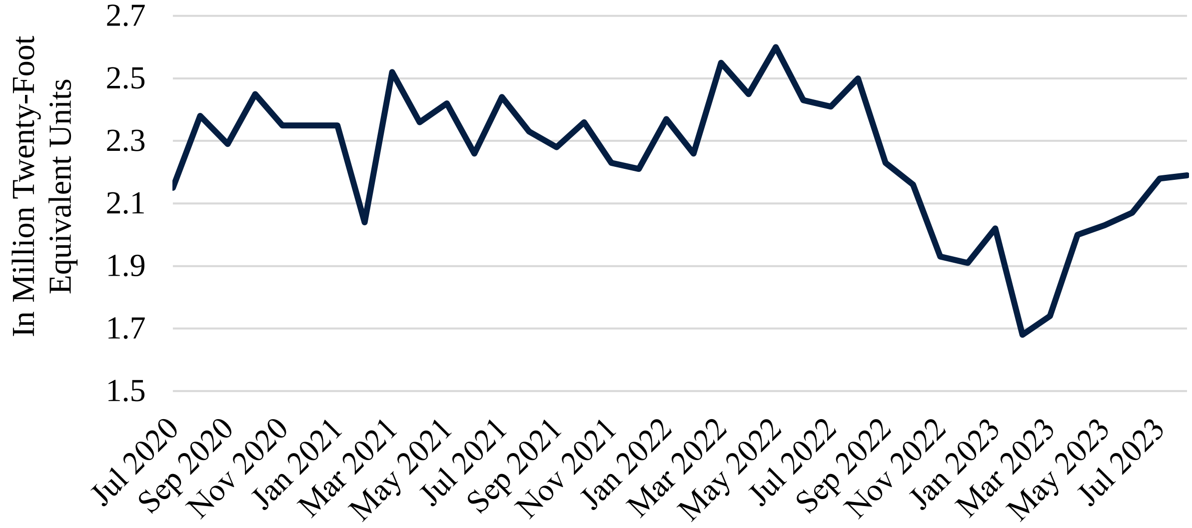
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture's Monthly World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimate, September 2023

Graph 1: U.S. Drought Monitor for the Contiguous United States, as of September 19, 2023



Source: The National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, as of September 25

Graph 2: U.S. Containerized Imports



Source: PIERS and S&P Global, as of September 25

ACSA – Australian Cotton Shippers Association

The Australian 2023 season is drawing to a close – picking has finished but there is still some ginning and classing to be undertaken. Industry estimates the crop will be in the order of 5.4 million bales (227 kg).

In terms of contrasts, 2022 and 2023 growing, ginning and shipping seasons could not be more different.

The 2022/23 growing season started off during the tail end of a three year cool and wet La Niña cycle and the second half of the season saw a distinct change in weather to a warmer and drier period as the threat of an El Niño developed. Ideal growing conditions in Australian cotton regions this past year and this is demonstrated by excellent quality parameters for our cotton.

2023 looks like it will be one of our best on record with the majority of cotton Strict Middling and better and most bales 1-5/32" and longer and 30 GPT plus. Whilst harvest had a slow start, local logistics that support cotton to gin and to warehouse were greatly improved this year. With the crop being delivered a little later than normal, exports started out slow but have been consistently building and July saw Australian merchants ship to 832,000 bales. (Yes, our statistical data has a significant lag!)

WASDE reported in July that Australia is positioned as the second largest exporter of cotton, predicting exports of 6.6 million bales for the reporting period. This is a huge effort and great achievement by our industry given the logistics challenges experienced over the past few years.

Vietnam remains Australia's number one cotton export destination with good volumes of business to Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Turkey, Bangladesh and Thailand. Considerable interest too from the China market has resulted in strong Sales.

As our attention now turns to planting and the 2024 crop, industry estimates forecast a crop of 4.5 million bales with growers having good on-farm water storage. Unfortunately an El Niño event has now been declared which probably means our forward production levels (2025 crop and beyond) will once again turn lower as dry conditions impact.

AFCOT – Association Française Cotonnière

(No update)

ALCOTEXA - Alexandria Cotton Exporters' Association

	Commitments (Tons)	Shipped (Tons)	Value (US$)
1st Quarter	21,110	4,817.50	67,303,444
2nd Quarter	36,541	30,512.40	108,222,855
3rd Quarter	30,855	32,694.10	76,237,982
4th Quarter	11,795	28,509.30	33,965,564
Total	**100,301**	**96,533.30**	**285,729,845**

APPA – Asociación para la promoción de la Producción Algodonera

In Argentina, the area planted for this season was 532,880 hectares of cotton, distributed as shown in the following graph.

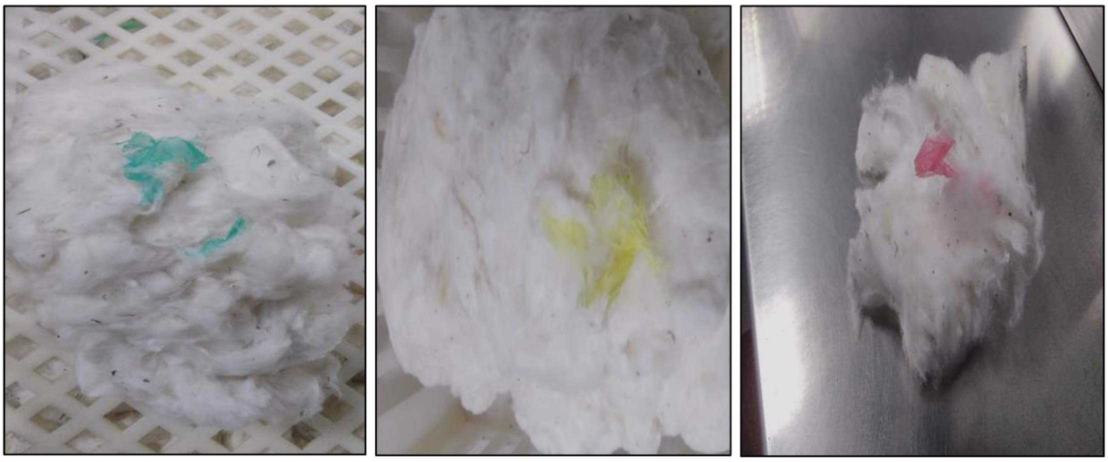
Chaco	167.700
Santiago de Estero	180.800
Formosa	4.000
Santa Fe	154.500
Corrientes	60
Salta	19.020
Córdoba	1.350
La Rioja	
Catamarca	450
Entre Rios	
San Luis	5.000
Misiones	
Total	532.880

The province of Santa Fe increased by 93% compared to the previous campaign, reaching 154,500 hectares. In the following figure you can see the area planted in Santa Fe from the 1993/94 campaign to the present.

The production of cotton fiber at the country level was five hundred and eighty (580) kg per hectare, with an average ginning yield of 30%. The average quality of the fiber obtained was "strict low middling"; a lower quality than normal due to the severe dry season that the crop suffered.

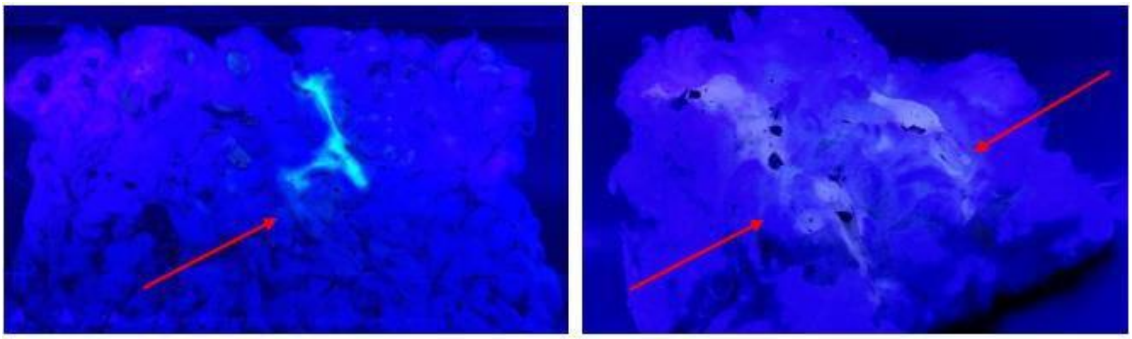
As in any season affected by some type of stress, in this case thermal stress, all fiber quality values were negatively affected. In the areas of the country where the impact was not so strong, very good cotton qualities with a "middling" average were obtained.

An additional problem this season was the appearance of foreign matter in the cotton, mainly bark (mostly caused by the special conditions of the campaign coupled with the use of the stripper harvester), plastic from the rolls, seeds and cotton oil.



Regarding plastic pollution, from our fiber quality laboratory, we are helping the cotton chain through our written analysis reports, as well as reports that we deliver to our clients based on photographs and digital microscope images.

In relation to the appearance of cotton seed and oil fragments, they are due to the fact that many farmers use grass rollers to reduce costs. This involves throwing the cotton on the ground, and trampling it with a tractor, which results in fragmented seed and release of cotton oil.



UV Light test – Cotton oil and seed fragments detection.

It should be noted that since the end of the year two thousand twenty-one (2021), we have been conducting experimental tests by subjecting the samples to UV light. This is an effective method in detecting mainly oil contamination and also enables the rapid detection of other foreign materials.

The fiber market is very active, both for domestic sales and export, where the domestic market is currently paying around 20% more for fiber.

Finally, comment that the planting intention for the next campaign remains uncertain, since there are several factors such as: a high stock of fiber in the country, the cost/benefit relationship with other crops such as soybeans, and the climate forecast of the "El Niño" year that would prevent planting in low areas, among other factors.

BBB – Bremer Baumwollbörse

(No update)

BBM – Bolsa Brasileira de Mercadorias

Crop 22/23

Up to September 28th, 99.96% of harvest has been completed and about 56% ginned as per ABRAPA'S report.

Total production as per CONAB's latest figures to be 3.15 million tons although some market players are expecting final number to be slightly higher.

We believe producers commitments to date to be around 70% , in other words about 2.2 million tons already sold by producers.

Domestic consumption estimated to be around 650/700 thousand tons, with industries working way below their full capacity.

Crop 23/24

Expected increase in acreage of minimum 10% possible more, due bad perspectives for the corn second crop who disputes acreage with cotton.
Some players are expecting a much higher increase, with potential up to 3.7/3.8 million tons but it is still a bit early to guarantee such figures.

Estimates of about 60% of commitments by producers, representing something 1.75 million tons.

Arbitration

Currently we have no open arbitration processes and had only two in the last 12 months.

BCA – Bangladesh Cotton Association

As the global industry edges towards a recovery, there is an emphasis among industry actors that are now reevaluating and diversifying their supply chains to enhance resilience against future disruptions. Furthermore, countries are taking advantage of a strong United States consumer market helping them recover from the pandemic slowdown. According to Fashinza, leading Asian textile exporting countries have seen double digit growth in export to the United States following the pandemic. However, it's important to note that the recovery of the textile industry may vary by region and sector within the industry. While some segments, like casual wear and home textiles, might recover more quickly, others, such as formal wear or luxury fashion, may take longer to rebound fully.

Signs of recovery is also present in the Bangladesh market. Focusing solely on Ready Made Garments (RMG) , according to provisional data released by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Bangladesh's exports of Readymade Garments (RMG) witnessed a substantial increase of 12.17 percent, reaching $35.252 billion in the first nine months of fiscal year 2022-23 (July-June FY23). This is a significant uptick from the $31.428 billion recorded during the July-March 2022 period. Notably, woven RMG exports outpaced knitwear exports in terms of growth rate during this period. It's worth mentioning that RMG exports from Bangladesh exceeded expectations, surpassing the target of $34.102 billion for July-March 2023 by 3.37 percent, based on EPB data. Specifically, exports of knitwear surged by 11.78 percent, amounting to $19.137 billion during July-March 2023. This marks a notable increase from the $17.119 billion recorded in the same months of the preceding fiscal year.

As the Bangladeshi textile industry recovers from the effects of the pandemic, it can also take advantage of favorable circumstances following a decline of a market leaders influence in the textile markets. Thus it is paramount that the local textile industry to prepare itself by investing in state of the art technology, training, and sustainability as it seeks to cement itself as the leading destination for textile in the global market.

COTTON PRODUCTION IN BANGLADESH

Cotton has been cultivating in 39 districts in Bangladesh including 3 Hill districts. Two types of cotton have been grown in Bangladesh- i.e. medium staple length Gossypium hirsutum (Upland Cotton) and short staple length Gossypium arboreum (Hill cotton). Upland cotton are mainly grown in Kharif-2 season (July-December) and Hill cotton during April to November in Bangladesh. Hill cotton are mainly grown under Jhum cultivation method in the hill slope by the tribal. The average yield of upland cotton is 1200 kg lint per hectare and 115 kg lint per hectare. The highest and lowest yield of hybrids are ranging from 1800 to 1200 kg lint per hectare.

The production of seed cotton during 2022-23 season was 91579 metric tonnes which is equivalent to 201272 bale from 45000 hectares of land. In the current season the production target is set for 210000 bale from 46000 hectares of land.

Cotton Development Board (CDB) is mandated to provide extension services to the cotton farmers, conduct research on cotton, ensure supply of cotton seed to the farmers, facilitate ginning and marketing activities and provide small scale loan to the cotton farmers.

BANGLADESH'S RMG EXPORT TO WORLD

Bangladesh's RMG Export to World (January-August 2022 & 2023)

Export Value in Million USD

EU Countries	Woven			Knit			Total		
	Jan-Aug 2022	Jan-Aug 2023	Growth %	Jan-Aug 2022	Jan-Aug 2023	Growth %	Jan-Aug 2022	Jan-Aug 2023	Growth %
Austria	9.21	9.92	7.61	20.95	23.67	13.03	30.16	33.59	11.37
Belgium	140.39	183.73	30.87	340.08	340.44	0.11	480.47	524.17	9.10
Bulgaria	0.15	0.10	-32.29	0.70	0.84	20.29	0.85	0.94	10.94
Denmark	279.33	263.15	-5.79	527.23	646.64	22.65	806.56	909.79	12.80
Finland	4.51	10.05	122.71	23.39	24.46	4.57	27.91	34.52	23.68
France	611.36	725.61	18.69	1,086.44	1,205.18	10.93	1697.79	1930.80	13.72
Germany	2,064.21	1,561.87	-24.34	2,832.03	2,661.16	-6.03	4896.24	4223.04	-13.75
Greece	8.57	12.74	48.60	33.66	41.01	21.84	42.23	53.75	27.27
Italy	385.67	513.39	33.12	764.09	965.51	26.36	1149.76	1478.90	28.63
Ireland	62.17	70.48	13.36	98.11	120.68	23.00	160.28	191.16	19.26
Netherlands	462.46	540.05	16.78	613.96	734.79	19.68	1076.43	1274.84	18.43
Portugal	21.55	28.27	31.16	40.51	58.14	43.52	62.06	86.41	39.23
Romania	2.61	10.32	295.13	10.61	42.94	304.67	13.22	53.26	302.79
Spain	904.10	1,109.66	22.74	1,238.36	1,491.20	20.42	2142.46	2600.87	21.40
Sweden	195.94	220.91	12.75	368.80	415.12	12.56	564.74	636.04	12.62
Cyprus	0.17	0.38	130.63	1.68	1.86	11.02	1.84	2.25	21.65
Czech Republic	100.20	131.94	31.67	106.23	121.35	14.24	206.43	253.29	22.70
Estonia	0.06	0.11	80.37	0.81	1.59	96.09	0.87	1.70	94.98
Hungary	25.22	27.63	9.55	81.13	95.05	17.16	106.35	122.68	15.36
Latvia	0.13	0.36	176.76	0.36	3.42	842.01	0.49	3.78	665.68
Lithuania	0.07	0.03	-54.51	0.21	0.10	-51.24	0.28	0.13	-52.07
Malta	0.07	0.04	-50.56	0.22	0.13	-40.60	0.29	0.16	-43.10
Poland	493.98	459.45	-6.99	833.87	823.25	-1.27	1327.85	1282.69	-3.40
Slovakia	17.44	17.10	-1.91	47.34	44.81	-5.35	64.77	61.91	-4.42
Slovenia	21.63	10.98	-49.21	77.85	39.28	-49.55	99.48	50.26	-49.47
Croatia	3.89	17.47	349.39	10.53	36.84	249.84	14.42	54.32	276.68
Luxembourg	0.14	0.93	582.38	1.34	2.57	91.31	1.48	3.50	136.46
Sub-Total (EU)	**5,815.23**	**5,926.68**	**1.92**	**9,160.48**	**9,942.05**	**8.53**	**14,975.71**	**15,868.73**	**5.96**
EU % of World	*41.97*	*41.35*		*57.37*	*56.29*		*50.21*	*49.60*	
USA	**4,163.04**	**3,744.18**	**-10.06**	**2,038.06**	**1,955.76**	**-4.04**	**6201.11**	**5699.94**	**-8.08**
% of USA	*30.04*	*26.12*		*12.76*	*11.07*		*20.79*	*17.82*	
U.K.	**1,327.02**	**1,504.22**	**13.35**	**1,848.60**	**2,103.15**	**13.77**	**3175.62**	**3607.37**	**13.60**
% of U.K.	*9.58*	*10.49*		*11.58*	*11.91*		*10.65*	*11.28*	
Canada	**478.09**	**563.72**	**17.91**	**472.49**	**451.39**	**-4.47**	**950.58**	**1015.11**	**6.79**
% of Canada	*3.45*	*3.93*		*2.96*	*2.56*		*3.19*	*3.17*	
Non-Traditional Markets									
Japan	368.86	474.02	28.51	417.83	662.48	58.56	786.68	1136.50	44.47
Australia	217.81	293.78	34.88	345.94	571.78	65.28	563.75	865.56	53.54
Russia	99.39	95.58	-3.84	172.22	192.47	11.76	271.61	288.05	6.05
India	301.54	394.76	30.91	236.21	251.59	6.51	537.75	646.35	20.20
Korea Rep.	171.00	190.07	11.15	179.28	211.04	17.72	350.28	401.11	14.51
China	94.37	120.28	27.46	51.46	87.37	69.77	145.83	207.65	42.39
United Arab Emirates	91.44	80.90	-11.52	107.14	107.77	0.59	198.58	188.68	-4.99
Mexico	114.01	116.89	2.52	101.38	109.80	8.31	215.39	226.69	5.25
Malaysia	45.78	61.90	35.21	124.68	117.35	-5.88	170.46	179.25	5.16
Saudi Arabia	36.80	43.80	19.01	62.55	72.91	16.57	99.35	116.71	17.47
Turkey	83.40	118.86	42.52	85.61	108.65	26.92	169.00	227.51	34.62
South Africa	32.55	37.60	15.50	46.97	49.31	4.99	79.52	86.91	9.29
New Zealand	21.61	25.30	17.10	53.55	70.77	32.16	75.15	96.07	27.83
Chile	60.72	54.27	-10.63	70.48	66.31	-5.92	131.21	120.58	-8.10
Brazil	27.60	51.64	87.14	38.61	63.77	65.16	66.21	115.41	74.32
Other Countries	**306.49**	**434.34**	*41.71*	**354.83**	**464.99**	*31.04*	661.33	899.33	*35.99*
Total (Non-Trad. Markets)	**2,073.37**	**2,593.98**	*25.11*	**2,448.74**	**3,208.38**	*31.02*	**4,522.12**	**5,802.36**	*28.31*
% of Non-Traditional	*14.96*	*18.10*		*15.33*	*18.17*		*15.16*	*18.14*	
GRAND TOTAL	**13,856.76**	**14,332.79**	*3.44*	**15,968.37**	**17,660.73**	*10.60*	**29,825.13**	**31,993.51**	**7.27**

Source: EPB, Compiled by: RDTI Cell, BGMEA

CAI – Cotton Association of India

(No update)

CAN - Centro Algodonero Nacional

Better Cotton Launches Strategic Partnership in Spain:

- Better Cotton has forged partnerships with Espalgodon and the Regional Government of Andalucia to kickstart the production of Better Cotton-equivalent cotton in Spain.

- Better Cotton has worked with the Regional Government of Andalucia to align its Integrated Production System (IPS) with the Better Cotton Standard System (BCSS).

https://bettercotton.org/better-cotton-launches-strategic-partnership-in-spain/

CCA – China Cotton Association

According to statistics from China Cotton Association, In 2022/23, China's cotton production was 6.62 million tons, a year-on-year increase of 14.7%. Cotton consumption amounted to 7.6 million tons, reflecting a 4.1% year-on-year growth. Imports stood at 1.43 million tons, showing a 17.6% year-on-year decrease. Exports reached 18,000 tons, and the ending stock amounted to 8.75 million tons, marking a 5.2% year-on-year increase.

In 2023/24, the national cotton planting area is projected to be 2.77 million hectares, a 7.6% decrease. The estimated total production is 6.28 million tons, down by 5.2%. While individual yields in major cotton-growing regions have increased, the overall production decline is due to the significant reduction in planting area.

According to data from the General Administration of Customs, from January to August 2023, the cumulative export of textiles and garments was $197.21 billion, a 10% year-on-year decrease. Textile exports accounted for $90.32 billion, while garment exports were $106.89. From January to August 2023, China imported approximately 858,000 tons of cotton, marking a 37.1% year-on-year decrease. For 2022/23, China imported a total of approximately 1.42 million tons of cotton, showing a 17.6% year-on-year decrease.

GCA – Gdynia Cotton Association

The slowing down economic situation on the global market in 2023, including scarce demand for clothes and other textile products, which resulted in the drop of retail sales, and inflation as well as economic aftermath of the war unleashed by Russia, were the factor having an adverse impact on the production volume of textiles and clothes in Poland.

Within the period of January – August 2023, the **textile industry** noted drops in manufacture of the majority of the most important categories of textiles. Only manufactures of cotton fabrics and those made of synthetic fibres, fitted carpets, and carpets manufactures noted rise of the produced volumes.

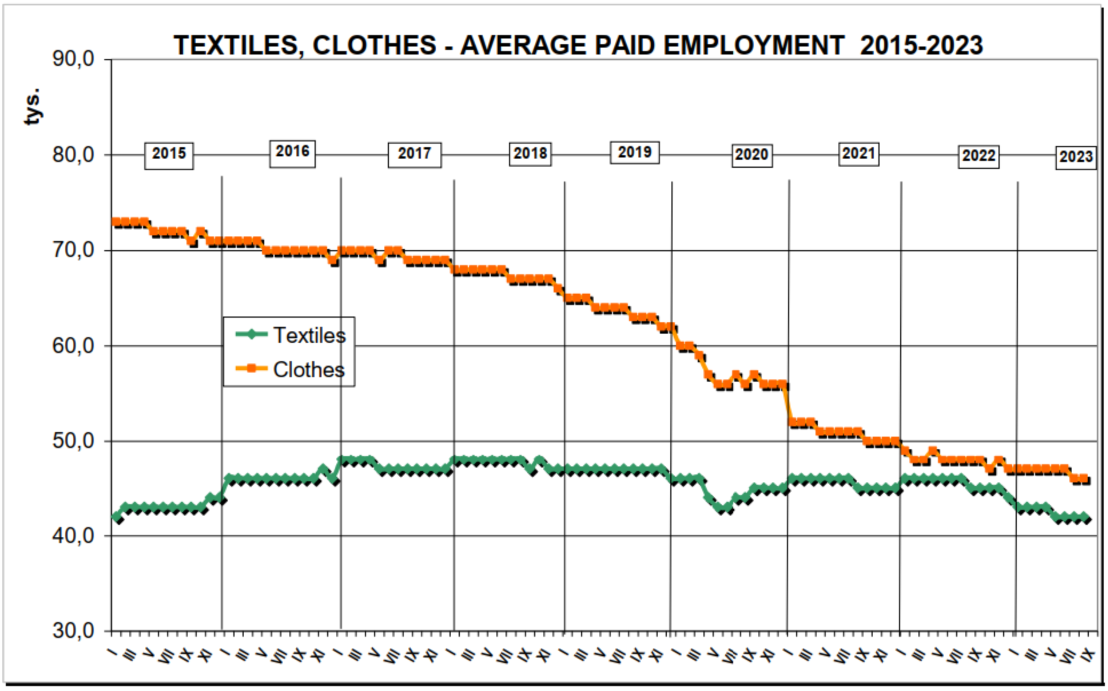
A better situation was in the clothing industry, where manufacturers of 7 categories out of the 13 most important ones increased their production volumes.

EMPLOYMENT

The Central Statistical Office data for 8 months of 2023 show that employment in the textile industry, in enterprises employing 9 or more staff, has not changed and it was 42K people, but when compared to December 2022, it has been lower by 2K people.

In the **clothing industry**, within the period of July – August 2023, the average employment decreased by 1K persons – down to the level of **46K persons**, which is 1K less than in December 2022.

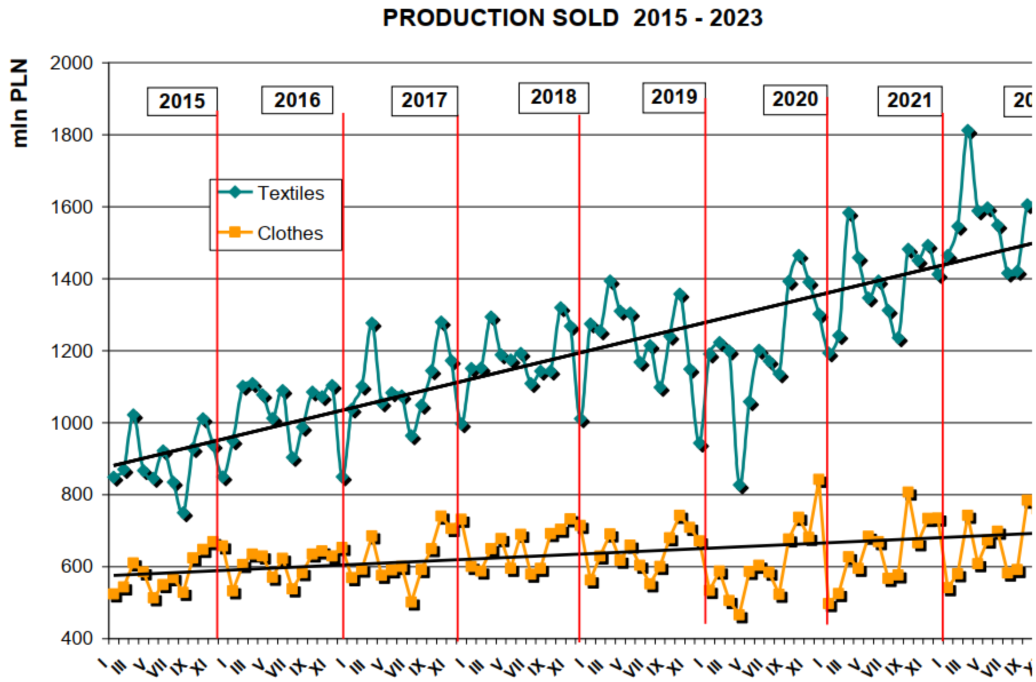
In total, in both these industries, in enterprises employing 9 or more employees, there were **88K persons** employed **in August 2023.**



PRODUCTION SOLD

The period of **January – August 2023**, irrespective of drops in production in a few clothing categories and smaller volume of retail sales, when compared with the same period of 2022,

brought the increase of the value of the production sold in the Polish **clothing industry by 13.6%** - mainly thanks to the increase of prices of ready-made goods. Within the period of January – August 2023, the value of the production sold in the Polish **textile industry**, after many moths of increase – lowered by **0.5%.**



INVESTMENT OUTLAYS

During 2020 – 2023, the Covid-19 pandemic, global recession, and the economic results of the Russian aggression could adversely influence companies' decisions regarding investments in the Polish textile sector. Yet, in the 1st half of 2023 – when compared to the 1st half of 2022, investments in the **textile industry increased as much as by 58.6%,** whereas in the **clothing industry** the investment outlays **also increased by the impressive 53.4%**.

It is possible that this is the forecast of the increase in production of both these industries in the following months.

FORECAST - MARKET OF COTTON RAW MATERIALS IN POLAND IN 2023

In 2023 in total: 12 thousand tonnes of cotton raw materials imported to Poland, including:

- 7.000 tonnes of cotton (CN 5201)
- 5.000 tonnes of carded or combed cotton, including: combers (5203)

ICA – International Cotton Association

Trade Matters in China (June)

The ICA visited China in June to meet with the cotton community and deliver two training courses. Alex Hsu (ICA Past President) and Robert Jiang (ICA Business Operations & Development Manager) participated in the China International Cotton Conference held in Guilin and met with the China Cotton Association on matters of mutual interest. Two courses were organised in collaboration with China National Cotton Exchange (CNCE), Qingdao West Coast Cotton Association and Zhangjiagang Cotton Association. Robert Jiang, Kevin Xue (ICA Ambassador) and Du Feng Du Feng (ICA Arbitrator) presented to over 200 delegates in Qingdao. The training covered ICA Bylaws & Rules, contract making and performance, agent, quality and testing, standards and value differences, mediation, arbitration procedure, List of Unfulfilled Awards Parts 1 & 2 and ICA membership benefits.

Read the full story and view photos: https://ica-ltd.org/trade-matters-in-china/

Back in Brazil (July)

Tim North (ICA President) and Bill Kingdon (ICA Managing Director) made a recent visit to Brazil to visit regional producers, ginners and laboratories in Mato Grosso and Bahia and attend the Brazilian Cotton Exporters (ANEA) Conference. They met with many ICA members and future members. Tim and Bill delivered a keynote presentation on the ICA and International Safe Trading. Tim also participated in a Women in Cotton panel session which explored how the cotton community can better promote diversity in leadership positions. In Mato Grosso they were hosted by Fabiana Furlan (ICA Director for Brazil) from Scheffer Group, exploring improved production techniques and 'regenerative cotton'. In Bahia the harvest, and ginning, are already underway.

Read the full story and view photos: https://ica-ltd.org/back-in-brazil/

Arbitration

Arbitration application numbers are rise gently. In 2021and 2022 arbitration application numbers for the entire year did not exceed thirty-six by the end of the year. 2023 has seen forty-one applications up to the end of September.

There has been an increase in the number of small claims arbitrations too, with six applications for this category of arbitration having been made to the end of September 2023. It is usual for the ICA to receive only about two or three a year of this category of arbitration.

We have seven probationary arbitrators in training. One probationer comes from Bangladesh and another from Pakistan. Once qualified they will be the first arbitrators from those countries that the LCA or ICA have had.

Bylaws and Rules

A new Rulebook will be issued on 1st January 2024. The Rulebook will be published in several different languages, as usual.

ICAC – International Cotton Advisory Committee

The ICAC is planning its 81st **Plenary Meeting**, to be held on 2-5 December 2023 at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai, India with the theme of, 'Cotton Value Chain: Local Innovations for Global Prosperity'. After the conference, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a two-day technical tour of India's cotton and textile industry in the state of Gujarat.

The **Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC)** was formed in 2021 to replace its predecessor, the Private Sector Advisory Panel (PSAP). It consists of more than 65 national, regional, and international organisations, as well as some non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The PSAC is the first-ever structure that represents all sectors of the cotton textile supply chain, with members grouped into one of four Permanent Committees: - Permanent Committee on Producers and Ginners, on Merchants and Other Cotton-Related Activities, on Textiles and on Brands and Retailers. PSAC's Executive Committee consists of three nominated members from each Permanent Committee.

Membership of the PSAC is free and its mandate is to foster communication between the private sector and ICAC member governments to raise global industry concerns and promote global and regional initiatives that benefit the cotton industry.

ICAC has also launched its **data dashboard** that provides up-to-date ready to download information on cotton. The information covered includes cotton lint production, consumption, trade, trade by partners, stocks, area, and yield for all the cotton producing and consuming countries since 1940.

The ICAC is actively participating in a collaborative initiative aimed at assessing the **role of women in the cotton** sector. Within this framework, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), and the International Cotton Association's "Women in Cotton Committee" are jointly conducting a "Global Survey of the Role of Women in the Cotton Sector." This initiative seeks to comprehensively measure the significant contributions of women, as well as the challenges and opportunities they encounter, within the cotton sector across countries involved in cotton production and consumption.

HYPERLINK https://icac.org/home/index/

The Task Force on **Commercial Standardisation of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC)** is currently undergoing a major revamp and, after the sad loss of Andrew Macdonald as its Chair, the Task Force elected Mr Rene van der Sluijs in his place.

The ICAC — one of the six original founders of **World Cotton Day** — serves as a primary driver of World Cotton Day globally. While the other founders such as Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the World Trade Organization (WTO) have arranged an event for each of the last five years, the ICAC focusses only on cotton and products and is responsible for encouraging the global industry to celebrate on 7 October all over the world. That push continues and we're doing everything we can to rally the industry to be visible and active on World Cotton Day 2023.

The ICAC is participating in two major events (please note that World Cotton Day falls on a Saturday in 2023):

1. A meeting of the founding organisations was held on 4 October at UNIDO headquarters in Vienna (7 October is a Saturday), and
2. An exhibition during the ICAC International Seminar will be held in Taipei 17-19 October during the TITAS event.

Multiple organisations around the world will be celebrating World Cotton Day, with some events held before, some on 7 October, and some after. In some ways, it is unfortunate that World Cotton Day falls on a Saturday, since there isn't a single, unifying day for the global industry to participate in. On the other hand, with events being held on so many different days, it's possibly giving cotton an even bigger boost than it would otherwise get.

In addition, there are several **ICAC publications** available including monthly publications like Cotton This Month to quarterly publications like The ICAC Recorder, the Review of the World Situation and a new publication on cotton textiles. The ICAC also has other annual publications such as the report on government assistance measures and the Cotton Data Book.

In 2023, ICAC also launched a new publication called the **Specialty Cotton Report** that reports demand-supply and trade information on Extra-long and long staple variety of cotton grown in the world and the production under various Identity Programs. The first edition is available for free on the ICAC website.

The ICAC Flagship publication is the **Cotton Data Book** which regroups the data and analyses of three major ICAC technical publications, previously released every three years. With this compilation, our subscribers will be updated yearly on the cost of production, the production practices and research in cotton with the addition of the sustainability aspect of the cotton industry. The new improved report contains data from more than 30 countries on the costs of all field operations — starting from pre-sowing to harvesting and ginning — as well as economic and fixed costs are determined and computed to calculate the cost of production of cotton per hectare and per kilogram.

The Data Book also includes data per country on varieties of cotton and their fibre characteristics, insects, diseases, weeds, and the methods used to control them; the use of fertilisers, farm size, rotations, harvesting and ginning. The research part of the publication focuses on research systems, variety approval processes, funding sources, input supplies (seed, fertiliser, and pesticides), technology transfer with cotton maps for various countries and a list research institutions/organization, farmers associations, ginners association and textile associations. This report is released annually during the last quarter of the year.

ICE – Izmir Commodity Exchange

Turkish cotton production, which will start to harvest was late compared to previous years, expects a yield of around 850 thousand tons this year. Textile production, which was high and unbalanced due to the increased demand after the pandemic, has shrunk significantly in the last 6 months. It is estimated that the shrinking textile market has reduced cotton consumption in the country from almost from 1,900 thousand tons to 1,400 thousand tons. With this reason, Turkish cotton stocks will enter to the new season with an ending stock of nearly 400 thousand tons, perhaps for the first time. This creating a pressure on the market. For these reasons, the Turkish cotton market enters to the new harvest with a price almost 20% below its world equivalents. Naturally, this will cause the producer to make a serious loss for this season. With all these negativities, it is predicted that Turkish cotton production will decrease significantly next year. Falling prices may also allow some exports.

ITMF – International Textile Manufacturers Federation

The pandemic has brought a lot of outdoor activities to an halt. This is also true for ITMF and its Committees, especially **ITMF's Spinners Committee**. It certainly did not help that the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Andrew Macdonald, had passed away in early 2022. The traditional visit of cotton growing regions has not yet resumed, though the idea is to start such activities again once the Spinners Committee has been re-established.

We were glad **ITMF's International Committee on Cotton testing Methods (ICCTM)** has met for the first time after the pandemic in Bremen, Germany on the sidelines of the Intl. Bremen Cotton Conference in September 2022.

The ICCTM continues its work on identifying cotton methods measuring various cotton specifications. Furthermore, it will also have a closer look at traceability methods and as well as at recycled fibers.

At the **ITMF Annual Conference 2022** in Davos, Switzerland, cotton related topics were discussed in the tradition Fiber Session. Another important topic discussed at the conference was circularity and recycling technologies. The question was discussed what does recycling of cotton fibers mean for the cotton value chain.

Also at the **ITMF Annual Conference 2023** in Keqiao, China, circularity will be prominently discussed both in the Fiber Session and in other Sessions.

JCTA – Japan Cotton Traders' Association

(No update)

KCA – Karachi Cotton Association

Better Cotton Initiative BCI, hold a briefing Session on "The Next Traceability Step: Preparing to Source Physical Better Cotton" in Karachi on 18th September, 2023.

Mr. Muhammad Atif Dada, Director BCI and Chairman, the Karachi Cotton Association gave briefing on the Importance & Emerging Need of Traceability in today's Cotton, Textile and Allied Industries in Pakistan.

Ms. Jacky Broomhead, Better Cotton's Senior Traceability Manager BCI, Head Office gave comprehensive briefing on different aspect and Model for Traceability that best suit for the Textile Industry.

Ms. Hina Fouzia , Country Director – BCI, Pakistan were also present and discussed salient features of Traceability Model. on the Occasion.

A large number of representative of the Textile Industry attended the Session.

Mr. Frederick Duffield, Head of Corporate Affairs and Communications along with Mr. Josh Biss, Business Development Manager, ORITAIN, London visited the Karachi Cotton Association on 19.09.2023 and met Mr. Muhammad Atif Dada, Chairman, KCA.

Mr. Muhammad Atif Dada briefed about the historical Cotton Exchange Building and Aims, Objects and Functions of The Karachi Cotton Association to worthy officials of the M/s. ORITAIN, London.

USDA – United States Department of Agriculture

USDA Classification and Expectations for 2023-24 of the Domestic Crop

Classification of the 2023-24 cotton crop is underway. As of September 26th, approximately 800,000 bales have been classed, mostly from the regions in South Texas. On September 12, 2023, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reported that all cotton planted area for 2023 totaled 10.2 million acres according to their survey-based estimates. This is down by 22 percent from last year. All cotton harvested is forecast at 8.02 million acres. Currently NASS is forecasting U.S. Upland production at 12.8 million 480-pound bales which is down 9 percent from 2022. Pima cotton production has been forecast at 356,000 bales which is down 26 percent from last year.

In continued efforts to address labor shortage issues and increase efficiency, planning is underway for the installation of two automated classing systems in the Macon, Georgia Classing facility. Plans are to begin installation in May 2024 after the 2023-24 cotton crop has been classed.

Universal Cotton Standards

The Program conducted the 2023 Universal Upland Matching meeting on June 21, 2023, in Memphis, Tennessee with representatives from the U.S. cotton segments and the International Cotton Association in attendance. All practical forms were reviewed and approved by the industry segments. Likewise, the practical forms of the American Pima Standards were reviewed and approved by Pima industry representatives at the matching meeting held at the Visalia, California Classing Office on July 19, 2023. The new Universal Upland Grade Standards and American Pima Grade Standards are now available for distribution.

Plans are underway to conduct a Universal Cotton Standards Conference in Memphis, Tennessee in June 2024. In preparation for the conference, USDA re-established the Advisory Committee on Universal Cotton Standards on June 1, 2023, and is now in the process of selecting the Committee's members. Additional information regarding the upcoming conference will be forthcoming.
USDA has begun its recognition and celebration of 100 years of the Universal Cotton Standards Agreement which was signed by the first of nine European cotton associations on August 8, 1923. This agreement and the standards it encompasses have been monumental to U.S. and international cotton grading and classification. USDA is grateful to the U.S. and international cotton industry segments for their continued dedication in assuring these standards are maintained and remain relevant for the global marketing of cotton.

Update on USDA Leadership

The process for selecting the successor for the Deputy Administrator of the USDA, AMS Cotton and Tobacco Program is well underway. The vacancy was announced in June 2023, and multiple candidates are being considered. The Program's two Associate Deputy

Administrators, Ms. Monica Alexander, and Mr. Ronald Robbins will continue to serve as the Acting Deputy Administrator on a rotational basis until a successor is named.