



Cotton System Consumption and Stocks

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Highlights

November 2017 contained 30 days.

December 2017 contained 31 days.

Extra long staple cotton consumed on the cotton system was 0.86 million pounds in December 2017, down 23 percent from November 2017 and down 36 percent from December 2016. December 2017 stocks on hand on the last Saturday of the month totaled 1.41 million pounds down 14 percent from November 2017 but up 22 percent from December 2016.

Total Manmade fiber consumed on the cotton system was 27.8 million pounds during December 2017, down 11 percent from November 2017 but up 11 percent from December 2016. Of the total manmade fiber consumed, 93 percent was polyester staple.

Total number of spindles on the cotton system was 1.30 million during December 2017. Active spindles consuming 100 percent cotton was 728 thousand in December 2017, up 1 percent from November 2017 but down 3 percent from December 2016.

Consumption and Stocks – United States: December 2017 with Comparisons

Item	December 2016	November 2017	December 2017
Extra long staple			
Consumed			
Running bales number	2,794	2,231	1,715
Weight 1,000 pounds	1,340	1,116	858
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month)			
Running bales number	2,271	3,287	2,832
Weight 1,000 pounds	1,160	1,648	1,410
Rayon and acetate staple			
Consumed 1,000 pounds	798	638	733
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month) 1,000 pounds	2,325	1,591	921
Polyester staple			
Consumed 1,000 pounds	22,935	28,970	25,932
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month) 1,000 pounds	24,097	21,735	21,379
Other manmade fiber staple			
Consumed 1,000 pounds	1,373	1,626	1,125
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month) 1,000 pounds	2,140	2,261	2,315

Spindles in Place, Active Spindles and Spindle Hours Operated – United States: December 2017 with Comparisons

Item	December 2016	November 2017	December 2017
Cotton-system spindles in place			
Ring spindles 1,000	892	949	949
Airjet spindles 1,000	32	33	33
Open-end spindles 1,000	344	315	315
Cotton-system spindles active			
Spindles consuming 100% cotton 1,000	751	722	728
million hours	390	477	416
Spindles consuming 100% manmade fiber 1,000	30	49	38
million hours	11	24	15
Spindles consuming mixtures or blends 1,000	458	505	509
million hours	234	315	295

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: *Cotton System Consumption and Stocks* is part of the Current Agricultural Industrial Reports (CAIR) program. CAIR reports are administered under NASS's Census of Agriculture program. Response to CAIR surveys are required by law (Title 7, U.S. Code). Data are collected from all known mills that consume cotton.

The census universe was determined during operation profile interviews which were completed for each potential facility to identify the presence of cotton consumption and spindle activity in 2014.

In the Cotton and Manmade Fiber Staple survey questionnaires, mills are asked for previous calendar month data on cotton and manmade fiber consumed, stocks and spindle activity. Mills are mailed questionnaires with the options of completing the survey by mail or by Electronic Data Reporting (EDR). For surveys not received in a reasonable amount of time, telephone follow-up is conducted.

Estimating Procedures: Imputation is done for operations with non-response by using historical data and current data relationships. Data for reporting firms are added to estimates for non-reporting firms to obtain National totals.

Revision Policy: Data are revised the following month based on late reports or corrected data. Final figures are published in the annual summary of the following year.

Reliability: Approximately 50 reports are received each month which represent about 95 percent of total spindles. Monthly data can vary due to different firms reporting month to month. Survey data are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions and mistakes in reporting and in processing the data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized by carefully reviewing all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Environmental, Economics, and Demographics Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov.

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For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

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