



# Cotton System Consumption and Stocks

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## Highlights

**March 2015** contained 31 days.

**February 2016** contained 29 days.

**March 2016** contained 31 days.

**Extra long staple cotton** consumed on the cotton system was 1,062 thousand pounds in March 2016, down 18 percent from February 2016 but up 6 percent from March 2015. March 2016 stocks on hand on the last Saturday of the month totaled 1.2 million pounds down 13 percent from February 2016 but up 3 percent from March 2015.

**Total Manmade fiber** consumed on the cotton system was 32.1 million pounds during March 2016, up 2 percent from February 2016 and up 1 percent from March 2015. Of the total manmade fiber consumed, 91 percent was polyester staple.

**Total number of spindles** on the cotton system was 1.20 million during March 2016. Active spindles consuming 100 percent cotton was 651 thousand in March 2016, down slightly from February 2016 but up 9 percent from March 2015.

## Consumption and Stocks – United States: March 2016 with Comparisons

Item	March 2015	February 2016	March 2016
<b>Extra long staple</b>			
Consumed			
Running bales .....	2,001	2,510	2,120
Weight .....	1,000	1,293	1,062
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month)			
Running bales .....	2,413	2,917	2,491
Weight .....	1,206	1,429	1,246
<b>Rayon and acetate staple</b>			
Consumed .....	758	887	1,317
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month) .....	575	(D)	971
<b>Polyester staple</b>			
Consumed .....	27,849	28,948	29,280
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month) .....	19,895	30,483	27,717
<b>Other manmade fiber staple</b>			
Consumed .....	3,281	1,642	1,548
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month) .....	2,798	2,461	1,935

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

## Spindles in Place, Active Spindles and Spindle Hours Operated – United States: March 2016 with Comparisons

Item	March 2015	February 2016	March 2016
<b>Cotton-system spindles in place</b>			
Ring spindles .....	736	813	813
Airjet spindles .....	30	30	30
Open-end spindles .....	340	357	357
<b>Cotton-system spindles active</b>			
Spindles consuming 100% cotton .....	597	653	651
..... million hours	415	425	420
Spindles consuming 100% manmade fiber .....	23	27	31
..... million hours	13	14	15
Spindles consuming mixtures or blends .....	469	481	480
..... million hours	314	309	316

## 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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

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