



Cotton System Consumption and Stocks

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Highlights

October 2015 contained 31 days.

November 2015 contained 30 days.

December 2015 contained 31 days.

Extra long staple cotton consumed on the cotton system was 914 thousand pounds in December 2015, up 5 percent from November 2015 but down 12 percent from October 2015. December stocks on hand on the last Saturday of the month totaled 1.6 million pounds down 3 percent from November 2015 and down 14 percent from October 2015.

Total Manmade fiber consumed on the cotton system was 27.2 million pounds during December 2015, down 5 percent from November 2015 and down 16 percent from October 2015. Of the total manmade fiber consumed, 90 percent was polyester staple.

Total number of spindles on the cotton system was 1.13 million during December 2015. Active spindles consuming 100 percent cotton was 604 thousand in December 2015, unchanged from November 2015 but up 3 percent from October 2015.

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. The first annual summary will be published in March of 2016.

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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