



# Cotton System Consumption and Stocks

ISSN: 2378-2471

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Released May 1, 2018, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## Highlights

**February 2018** contained 28 days.

**March 2018** contained 31 days.

**Extra long staple cotton** consumed on the cotton system was 1.08 million pounds in March 2018, down 1 percent from February 2018 and down 9 percent from March 2017. March 2018 stocks on hand on the last Saturday of the month totaled 1.60 million pounds up 40 percent from February 2018 and up 27 percent from March 2017.

**Total Manmade fiber** consumed on the cotton system was 38.2 million pounds during March 2018, up 25 percent from February 2018 and up 15 percent from March 2017. Of the total manmade fiber consumed, 93 percent was polyester staple.

**Total number of spindles** on the cotton system was 1.30 million during March 2018. Active spindles consuming 100 percent cotton was 722 thousand in March 2018, unchanged from February 2018 but down 5 percent from March 2017.

## Consumption and Stocks – United States: March 2018 with Comparisons

Item	March 2017	February 2018	March 2018
<b>Extra long staple</b>			
Consumed			
Running bales ..... number	2,359	2,186	2,156
Weight ..... 1,000 pounds	1,179	1,085	1,077
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month)			
Running bales ..... number	2,501	2,282	3,200
Weight ..... 1,000 pounds	1,259	1,141	1,600
<b>Rayon and acetate staple</b>			
Consumed ..... 1,000 pounds	898	1,194	1,024
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month) ..... 1,000 pounds	1,278	927	551
<b>Polyester staple</b>			
Consumed ..... 1,000 pounds	30,503	26,962	35,598
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month) ..... 1,000 pounds	27,712	17,184	18,686
<b>Other manmade fiber staple</b>			
Consumed ..... 1,000 pounds	1,806	2,282	1,570
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month) ..... 1,000 pounds	2,234	2,441	2,905

## Spindles in Place, Active Spindles and Spindle Hours Operated – United States: March 2018 with Comparisons

Item	March 2017	February 2018	March 2018
<b>Cotton-system spindles in place</b>			
Ring spindles ..... 1,000	949	952	952
Airjet spindles ..... 1,000	33	33	33
Open-end spindles ..... 1,000	336	319	319
<b>Cotton-system spindles active</b>			
Spindles consuming 100% cotton ..... 1,000	763	722	722
million hours	506	474	506
Spindles consuming 100% manmade fiber ..... 1,000	29	45	41
million hours	17	22	23
Spindles consuming mixtures or blends ..... 1,000	520	518	518
million hours	335	324	348

## 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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