

two-year period from 2008-09, Italy's textile machinery industry has seen a slowdown in new orders.

This downturn, already apparent in the year's second quarter, was stressed during the summer period from July to September, as illustrated by the economic survey conducted by Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers - ACIMIT's research department.

The overall index of orders for the year's third quarter shows a 45% decrease compared to the previous period, stopping at a value of 70.8 points. The greatest drop was recorded for exports, where the index registered 75.3 points (-46%). On the domestic market, orders fell by 39%, for a value of 60.4 points.

The economic context will remain uncertain over the coming months. Economic growth at a global level is slackening off, and this is also occurring in emerging markets with a greater demand for textile machinery. For both the domestic and export markets, the majority of manufacturers estimate that the fourth quarter of 2011 will, on the whole, bring in a stable flow of orders, compared to the three previous months.

However, regarding export markets, and in spite of the positive signs at the recent ITMA trade fair, the percentage of companies forecasting increased orders is greater than those which foresee increases in the domestic market (34% compared to 13%).

ACIMIT (the Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers) is a private non-profit making body and its main purpose consists in promoting the Italian textile machinery sector and in supporting its activity, mainly abroad, through the most updated and innovative promotional means, constantly improved during its more than 60 years of life.

CHINA TO IMPORT MORE COTTON FROM INDIA THIS YEAR

China is expected to import more cotton this year as the domestic production of the crop is likely to be less than that required for its local consumption.

During the current Chinese cotton year, calculated from August to July, cotton production in China is es-

timated to be around 7 million tons compared to its domestic requirement of 10 million tons, according to Terry Townsend, Executive Director at International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC).

Speaking on the sidelines of World Cotton Research Conference in Mumbai, Mr. Townsend said China is likely to import about 3.3 million tons of cotton this year compared to its import of 2.7 million tons last year, a rise of 22.22 percent year-on-year.

Since China is a major buyer of cotton from India, Indian cotton exports to China are also likely to see an increase this year.

SWEDISH TEXTILE COMPANIES VISITING ETHIOPIA

Swedish business delegation from four companies is visiting Ethiopia for three days to see textile factories in Addis Ababa and Tigray regional state beginning November 2, according to Capital news. According to Madeline Rosberg Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Responsify AB the organization that took care of the trade delegation's trip, the companies will visit the factories located in the two regions to find new suppliers for home textiles, garments and sewing with the aim to purchase cotton garments. 'Some of the companies are vertically integrated, which means they do everything from raw cotton stage to readymade garments, while others are CMT which means they buy fabric from someone else and also do the sewing,' she told Capital. She added that the business delegation chose Ethiopia because both countries have a long bilateral relationship including through Swedish International Development Agency, SIDA. The country's great potential, logistics and land area to produce cotton is also an attraction as well as being encouraged by the Ethiopian government's efforts to develop the industry. One of the companies that will come to Ethiopia is Kappahl which has a turnover capital of 5.1 billion Swedish Kroner. The company's plans include talks with government officials, visits to the Textile Industry Development Institute (TIDI) as well as the textile factories in the two regions where some of Ethiopia's biggest factories are located.

helped more than 100,000 customers to save £19 million by way of efficiency measures and saved 12,000 tonnes of CO₂.

NITRA UNVEILS FINDINGS ON VIABILITY OF BAMBOO FIBRE

Bamboo fibre is one of potential novelty fibres today. NITRA scientists are also working on this and a project "A Study to assess the properties of bamboo and bamboo/cotton blended fabrics." has already been presented in the 52nd Joint Technological Conference at ATIRA, Coimbatore.

Further systematic study has been conducted to verify the suitability of bamboo fiber for providing comfort and antibacterial property in the fabrics.

Cotton has been known from centuries for its softness and comfort properties. Cotton and its blended fabrics have acquired popularity among the people and is a widely used fiber due to its superior properties.

However, cotton fiber also has some limitations like short fiber length, harsh feel and less lustrous, when compared to viscose and other regenerated fibers.

With the growing demand for more comfortable, healthier and environmentally friendly products, new kind of regenerated fibers, which are an alternative to conventional fiber like cotton, have gained importance in apparel and home textile manufacturing.

One of the latest developments in new fiber researches is the use of bamboo fiber in various textile products.

The bamboo fiber has certain inherent properties, which are better than the cotton fiber. It has also been claimed by the manufactures, that fabrics made out of bamboo fiber have good moisture absorbency, excellent air permeability, high elasticity, soft feel, and better dye ability than cotton.

Further it is claimed that bacteriostatic agent present in bamboo plants called "bamboo Kun" keeps bacteria away from bamboo fabrics.

There are some studies which claim that bamboo

fiber possesses antibacterial properties. However, the recent reports have shown difference of opinion regarding the inherent antibacterial property of the bamboo fiber.

Therefore a systematic study has been conducted to verify the suitability of bamboo fiber for providing antibacterial property in the fabrics. Work has also been carried out to assess the comfort related properties of bamboo and bamboo/cotton blended fabrics.

Further investigations are carried out to assess the extent to which the bamboo fiber would show up an increase in comfort and other functional properties, when compared to cotton. The present work also highlights the additional cost incurred due to the use of bamboo fiber in place of cotton.

Following are the findings:

- The fabrics made out of bamboo have better moisture absorption, air & water vapor permeability and soft feel than cotton fabrics and therefore comfort and functional properties of bamboo undergarments are better than cotton undergarments.
- The tensile & bursting strength and abrasion resistance of bamboo fabrics are lower than those of cotton fabrics; therefore one would expect shorter bamboo undergarment life when compared to cotton undergarments.
- The cost of bamboo knitted fabrics, are 5.0% to 8.0 % higher than the cotton knitted fabrics due to high bamboo fiber price.
- It has been concluded that chemically processed bamboo fiber does not have the inherent antibacterial and UV protection properties.
- Due to the better comfort properties of bamboo undergarments, they may be preferred by the middle & upper class of the society.

TEXTILE MACHINERY SECTOR FACES ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Following several quarters of sustained recovery compared to the minimum levels recorded during the



World Textile News

GROZ-BECKERT AT ITMA BARCELONA

Scotland's textile industry can save water through sustainable measures

The water consumption ratio of Scotland's textile industries is considerably high and hence there is much scope for the industry to pioneer in water conservation by adopting good water practices.

According to Business Stream, Scotland's leading non-domestic water supplier, domestic textile production units can annually conserve over 127,000 litres of water per ton of product by adapting to best practice usage.

It would not only help environmental conservation but would also help these units to save thousands of pounds as most of the Scottish textile firms pay for the water on the basis of their consumption. Thus, efficient use of water could help these firms to considerably cut down their water bills.

Business Stream conducted an analysis of average water used by the textile firms in course of manufacturing process and compared the same with the results of industry's best practice consumption.

As indicated by the analysis, around 145,000 litres of water went into production of one ton of product per year. However, this usage could be reduced by

up to 88 percent by simply adopting water efficiency measures.

The standard water consumption calculator developed by Business Stream allows enterprises to insert their water consumption figures and compare the same with the consumption of their industry counterparts.

Also, based on this information Business Stream could further provide suggestions for implementing water efficiency measures to reduce water consumption.

In 2008, when the non-domestic Scottish water market was exposed to competition, for the first time the enterprises got a chance to select their water suppliers. The competitive sphere was aimed at improving services, while helping the enterprises to cut down on their water costs and promoting innovation.

According to experts, presently most of the businesses are facing tough times and are exerting to reduce costs. But, most of the times they fail to consider water as an important factor that can actually help them improve their financial performances.

There are a number of cost-effective water efficiency measures which involve only small, economical changes within the unit and can prove advantageous for business, particularly in terms of financial gains and environmental sustainability.

Since its inception in 2008, Business Stream has

Iran Textile News

IRAN, CHINA AGREE ON JOINT ENERGY DEAL

Head of Iran's Oil Industry University says Iran and China are ready to conduct joint research and projects related to oil and gas industries.

Speaking on the sidelines of his visit to Beijing Oil Industry University, Gholamreza Rashed said the two countries will take practical steps to launch joint educational and industrial projects before October 2012.

He added that the two sides have agreed to carry out joint research on oil and gas industries and launch post-graduate (PhD) courses in relevant fields of study.

Rashed also signed an agreement with president of the Beijing Oil Industry University, Zhang Laibin who said Iran had as an important role in supplying energy to developing countries.

Iran's Oil Industry University is currently working with similar universities in France, Canada and Australia and holds joint educational courses with them.

Iran is OPEC's second largest oil producer and the fourth largest crude oil exporter.

The country holds the world's third-largest proven oil reserves and the second-largest natural gas reserves.

CHINA IMPORTS \$2.9B GOODS FROM IRAN WITHIN SIX MONTHS

China stood as the main importer of Iranian goods in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 21) with importing more than 12.8 million tons of goods, worth \$2.9 billion, from Iran in the mentioned period.

The China's imports from Iran have witnessed a 15 percent growth in regard to weight and 29 percent in regard to the value of imported goods in the first six months of current

Iranian calendar year in comparison to the same period of last year, ISNA news agency reported on Friday.

According to the report, China stood as the main target of Iran's exports in the first half of current year, which follows with UAE, Iraq, India, and Afghanistan.

The value of UAE, Iraq, India, and Afghanistan's imports from Iran has increased 30, 3, 59, and 25 percent respectively the first half of current year compared to the same period of last year.

China, UAE, Iraq, India, and Afghanistan, totally accounts for 60 percent of all exports of Iran in the past six month.

IRAN EXPORTS NEARLY \$24BLN WORTH OF NON-OIL PRODUCTS IN 7 MONTHS

Iran has exported almost \$24bln worth of non-oil products during the last seven months of the current Iranian year (March 21 - October 22), a senior Iranian customs official announced .

"The value of non-oil exports, including gas condensates, amounted to \$23.95 billion in the last seven months of the current year," Head of Iran's Customs Office Abbas Me'marnejad told FNA.

"Based on the statistical figures released by the Customs Office, exports of non-oil products have witnessed 39.5% of growth in the first 6 months and 35.5% in the last 7 months compared with the same period last year," Me'marnejad added.

Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in August that the oil-rich country is prepared to increase its non-oil exports to more than 45 billion dollars in the current Iranian year.

President Ahmadinejad went on to say that Iran's non-oil exports surpassed \$30billion in the past year.

Iran's non-oil export items mainly include gas condensates, mineral fuels, chemical products, plastics, fruits, nuts, fertilizers and carpets.