# Textile Briefs
## International

- China's State Council has decided to increase the export tax rebate of textile, garment, light industry and other sectors from April 1, 2009 onwards. The Ministry of Finance issued a circular announcing that export tax rebate rate on textiles, clothing, light industry and other sectors will be raised to 17% from 16% from April 1, 2009.
- China's textile machinery industry saw a continued decline in output and sales and a hefty slump in imports and exports in the first two months this year, according to data collected from 1009 textile machinery manufacturers surveyed by China Textile Machinery Association (CTMA).
- The German market continued attracting about 23% of total EU clothing imports in the last year. Shipments began sliding to the U.K. while they strongly rose to Italy in value terms and fell in volume terms. Spain remained the most dynamic import market amid largest European destinations.
- Belgium textiles and clothing (Textile ETP) announced that it is planning to seek about 100 million in further funding to build the world's most advanced automated sustainable garment production line under its European Technology Platform.
- China's prices were raised by 7% in the US apparel import market this year while prices were down 3.5% from rest of the world, according to the latest US data. Chinese prices generally fell in just liberalized categories but significantly rose in other categories, especially in the cotton apparel market.
- Global trade in textiles and clothing increased to $580-billion in 2008 from $480-billion in 2005. Global trade is expected to grow to $650-billion by 2010 at a CAGR of 5.8%. India exported $10-billion worth clothing, $2.30-billion of home textiles and $10.70 billion of other textile products in 2008.
- Two Chinese firms have invested $52 million which will see them building a textile industrial park in Botswana. They are Daheng Holdings Group and Touch International Holdings Group. According to report, the project is expected to generate $280 million in foreign exchange.
- EU bed linen imports stabilized in the last year, reflecting the slowdown in European retail sales. China took advantage of the removal of textile quotas while Bangladesh gained significant market shares on the lower-priced segment. The UK market increasingly imported non-printed bed linen while Germany further concentrated on more expensive printed products.
- China's apparel exports rebounded in March, in sharp contrast with a dramatic fall in the previous month. The removal of textile quotas boosted shipments to the United States while a lower euro inflated data in US$ terms. China's textile and clothing industries remain however confronted with a serious lack of demand, reflecting poor clothing retail sales on US and EU markets.
- EU clothing imports did not yet fall in March this year on average, according to official data. The German market began however seriously shrinking. Import prices significantly rose in euro terms while slightly down in US$ terms. Indian suppliers have cut their prices while shipments from China surged from a relatively low level.
- In order to give impetus to the technical textiles industry in India, a government-commissioned study by a management consultancy firm has recommended inclusion of eight more focus areas, like products used in packaging, building and construction sectors, in the policy for the sector.
- The textile branch of Turkey's Confederation of Revolutionary Workers' Union said the sector is facing a catastrophic situation and urged the government to implement immediate incentives to revitalize the industry.
- Japan's clothing imports strongly fell in the first three months of the current year, reflecting a decline in domestic retail sales. China continues dominating the market but shipments from ASEAN countries are being boosted by their duty-free access at Japanese borders. Shipments in US$ terms continued rising in January-March, due to the fall of the Japanese yen.
- U.S. apparel imports from Central America suffered from rising competition from China in the past four years. A series of niche markets were however preserved, due to the protection offered by the U.S. With these quotas now lifted and the economic recession depressing the market, shipments from CAFTA countries are shrinking across the board.
- Wool prices rose for the fourth consecutive week in Australia, in US$ terms. A stronger Aussie dollar did not curb demand from China as a sign that the situation is possibly improving there. The current lack of supply could continue supporting the market in the near future.
- Mr David Birnbaum, a clothing industry expert associated with the World Bank, United Nations and the WTO has advised the Thailand textile and garment sector to adopt and create an integrated supply chain management system to survive the crisis as well as face the onslaught from cost competitiveness global markets amidst slowdown in export sales.
- Polyester prices more clearly rose in the last two weeks in China with filament yarns gaining up to 400 yuan in a single week. Higher raw material costs and a stronger demand are behind the rebound in prices. Orders from foreign apparel buyers may increase for the next season after wages and prices were cut.
- Cotton prices again failed in really rebounding on the international market after a new rally was last week of April. Although demand remains strong for US cotton, other origins are still waiting for buyers. There are rising uncertainties about the level in cotton acreage for the next season. The international yarn market is shrinking but China's yarn output continues steadily rising. ◆