



Textile manufacturers have been expecting a better business situation since January 2023, but it is not here yet. The primary reason for such an outlook was the hope that China's re-opening after its Zero-Covid-Policy would give the economy a well needed boost. We now know that it was true for the Chinese service industry, but not for its manufacturing industry, mostly because of a domestic housing bubble and a worldwide weakening demand.

ITMF's Global Textile Industry Survey (GTIS) sheds light on such developments and their specific impact on the textile industry. Articles 1 and 3 in the present newsletter describe improvements in the business situation and order intake, despite these indicators still being negative. Article 2 draws onto textile manufacturers' unfathered hope that change is around the corner and explains why it might be. The corollary of these reasons is described in Article 6 that tracks the evolution of the industry's main concerns from one survey to another.

ITMF strives to gather relevant information and share it with the textile industry in an informative and comprehensive way. We hope to have achieved this goal in this newsletter to appreciate during your summer vacations or a well-deserved break that you've hopefully caught in these challenging times.



Mr. Olivier Zieschank
director ITMF

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

Business situation improved but remains negative



The business situation improved visibly on average globally but remains in negative territory. An increasing number of companies have adapted or are seeing light at the end of the tunnel. The Asian regions are still struggling the most. South America is back in a positive situation.

[> read more \(members only\)](#)

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Business expectations dragging in positive territory



The global business expectations did not evolve since last May. The prospects of China's opening at the beginning of the year have not materialised yet. Nevertheless, except for East Asia all regions remain optimistic. Weavers / knitters and dyers / finishers / printers are two segments where the expectations have turned negative.

² [> read more \(members only\)](#)

Order intake improved slightly but remains negative



Despite a slight increase, order intake remains negative in all regions and in all segments. Garment, home textile and technical textile producers registered significant improvements, though the balance stayed negative. Optimistic business expectations support a positive evolution within 6 months.

[> read more \(members only\)](#)

Order backlog lower than ever



Order backlog fell to the lowest level. Only in South America and Africa an increase could be observed. Segment-wise only technical textiles saw a higher order backlog. Globally, companies are not expecting order intake to accelerate in such a manner that order backlog goes up significantly.

[> read more \(members only\)](#)

Capacity utilization rate remains low



The capacity utilization rate hit the lowest level since the start of this survey. It has steadily decreased in Asia and Europe since 2021 and dropped for home textile and technical textile producers lately. It will require a significant uptick in order intake to lift up the capacity utilisation rates across all regions and segments.

³ [> read more \(members only\)](#)

Weakening demand and inflation are still the main concerns



The major concern worldwide remains by far "Weakening demand" in July 2023. A second distant concern is "Inflation" closely followed by "Higher raw material prices", "Geopolitics", and "Higher energy prices". Some positive signs are that costs for logistics, energy and raw material have fallen in the past months and "Geopolitics" has not become a bigger concern.

⁴ [> read more \(members only\)](#)

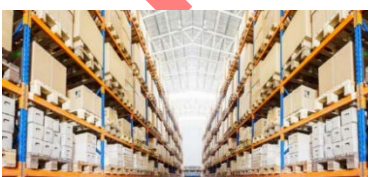
Order cancellation remains low



The number of cancelled orders remained relatively low. We observe that companies in the textile supply chain report average or low inventories levels which makes cancellations obsolete.

⁵ [> read more \(members only\)](#)

Inventory level still deemed average



Inventory levels are mostly deemed average and hardly changed since March 2023. Interestingly, 96% of garment manufacturers report average or low inventory levels. Spinners, weavers / knitters, and fibre producers report the highest inventories.

⁶ [> read more \(members only\)](#)

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ITMF NEWS

The 6th ITMF Webinar on “Circular Textile Economy” will focus on transformation



ITMF will hold the 6th webinar in its series “Circular Textile Industry” on Tuesday, **September 12th**, 2023, from 11:00-12:15 CET. It will be the last event before the presentation of the series’ finding at the ITMF Annual Conference 2023 in Keqiao, Shaoxing, China on November 4th-6th, 2023. The discussion will focus on emerging **business models** (such as rental systems, refunding, etc.) and their impact on sustainability. We will also look at the important trend of **Design 4 recycling** as well as **learnings from the EU regulations on waste collection** and major **industry-oriented innovation policies**.

[> read more on our virtual forum](#) (select Webinar Series + Circular Textile Economy)

Tuesday, September 12th, 2023, from 11:00-12:15 CET | Register [here](#)

The ITMF Annual Conference 2023 will focus on megatrends shaping the textile industry



The ITMF Annual Conference 2023 will be held in Keqiao, China, on November 4th-6th, 2023. During this 3-day event, distinguished speakers and panellists from the entire value chain and all over the world will explore the present and future of the textile industry under the theme “**Digitalization & Circularity – Megatrends Shaping the Textile Industry**”.

The conference is designed to convey important information about the ongoing developments in the textile industry but also give delegates the best opportunities to meet friends and colleagues or create new connections. Many side events are offered with this in mind, such as our famous welcome and gala dinners or our awards ceremonies for start-ups and exceptional achievements in “Sustainability & Innovation” and “International Cooperation”. Particular to the 2023 edition of the ITMF Annual Conference is the plethora of textile related events organised by the city of Keqiao around our event: the **Belt and Road Textile Conference 2023** on November 3rd, the **World Textile Merchandising Conference 2023** on November 5th, and the **Asian Dialogues Conference 2023** on November 7th.

More information will be communicated shortly.

[> read more about the ITMF Annual Conference 2023](#)

ITMF looks into new textile machinery since 2000



Christian Schindler, general director of ITMF, looked at volumes and destinations of new textile machinery since the end of the quota system (late 2004) in an article for the magazine F2F. He also analyses how textile machinery companies have performed since May 2021 when the worst part of the COVID 19-pandemic was already overcome using ITMF’s Global Textile Industry Survey (GTIS).

[> read more](#)

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PARTNER NEWS

An Apparel Supplier's Guide: Key Sustainability Legislations in the EU, US, and UK



As the regulatory landscape continues to evolve, it's crucial for suppliers to stay ahead of the curve. The comprehensive resource written by the **Remedy Project** and developed in partnership with Epic Group, Norlanka, Shahi Exports, Simple Approach, and GIZ FABRIC provides **in-depth insights into 12 different legislative initiatives** across the EU, UK, and US that could impact the apparel value chain.

From increased reporting requirements to supply chain traceability, this report examines key focus areas, potential legal implications, and operational considerations for apparel suppliers & beyond.

Stay informed, adapt, and position your business for success in the new era of sustainable fashion. Download the resource [here](#)

Join the below webinar to learn about trends and highlights of the upcoming legislation and recommendations on how to best approach these new laws and regulations.

Webinar on Tuesday, August 1st, 2023, at 10am and 4pm CEST

North American & EU (Aug 1 @ 4pm CEST) Registration [here](#)

APAC (Aug 1 @ 10am CEST) Registration [here](#)

Jean-Paul Haessig is new president of the Bremen Cotton Exchange



Bremen, 29 June 2023: The Board of the Bremen Cotton Exchange elected Jean-Paul Haessig (61) President of the association for the next two years on the occasion of the General Assembly on 29 June. Haessig is a director of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and Singapore-based trading company Asian Cotton Traders PTE Ltd.

[> read more](#)

ICAC's 81st Plenary Meeting will be held in Mumbai on 2-5 December 2023



The 81st Plenary Meeting of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) will be held **2-5 December 2023** in Mumbai, India. It will be the first in-person Plenary Meeting since 2019 (due to Covid) and will be opened with a speech from India's Minister of Textiles followed by a two-day technical tour of India's cotton and textile industries.

[> read more](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

2023

[Be the Change Summit 2023](#)

August 1st, 2023
Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre,
Singapore

[12th Intex South Asia – Sri Lanka](#)

August 9-11, 2023
BMICH, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Webinar Series «Circular Textile Economy» - Strategies for Transforming to a Circular Economy

September 12, 2023
Zoom, 11:00-12:15 CET

[New York Home Fashions](#)

[Market Week](#)

September 11-14, 2023
New York, USA

[Dornbirn Global Fiber Congress 2023](#)

September 13-15, 2023
Dornbirn, Austria

[ICA Trade Event 2023](#)

October 11-12, 2023
Singapore

[Intertext Tunisia 2023](#)

October 19-21, 2023
Sousse, Tunisia

[IAF World Fashion Convention](#)

October 22-25, 2023
Philadelphia, USA

[Belt and Road Textile Conference 2023](#)

November 3rd, 2023
Keqiao, Shaoxing, China

[ITMF Annual Conference 2023](#)

November 4-6, 2023
Keqiao, Shaoxing, China

[6th World Textile Merchandising Conference 2023](#)

November 5, 2023
Keqiao, Shaoxing, China

[Asian Dialogue Conference 2023](#)

November 7, 2023
Keqiao, Shaoxing, China

[ITMA Asia + CITME 2023](#)

November 19-23, 2023
Shanghai, China

[Sustainability Talks Istanbul](#)

November 28, 2023
Istanbul, Türkiye

[Aachen-Dresden-Denkendorf International Textile Conference 2023](#)

Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2023
Dresden, Germany

[ITME Africa](#)

November 30-Dec 2, 2023
Nairobi, Kenya

[13th Intex South Asia – India](#)

December 7, 2023
IECC, New Delhi, India