

Economic improvements were expected by now due to the absence of an energy crisis in Europe and the lifting of the strict Corona measures in China. They have not materialised.

In January 23, the recovery was foreseen for July 2023. In May we learned that this recovery will be delayed to the end of 2023 / beginning of 2024. Despite this fact, the claim that improvement is expected is now better substantiated, as we better understand the reasons for the slow and delayed recovery. As described in the past few ITMF newsletters and reinstated in this edition, the duo “weakening demand” caused by “persistently elevated inflation rates” on the one hand and “increasing production costs” on the other created a perfect storm for textile manufacturers in uncertain times (“geopolitics”).

While consumption is predicted to hold - and potentially increase in some regions - the storm is unfortunately not over yet.



Mr. Olivier
Zieschank
director, ITMF

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

Business situation further deteriorated globally



The global business situation has been negative since June 2022 and still was. This is one of the main findings of the 20th Global Textile Industry Survey (GTIS) conducted in May 2023. The situation remained challenging in Asia and steadily dropped in the Americas. [> read more \(members only\)](#)

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Business expectations lost momentum



The 20th Global Textile Industry Survey conducted in May 2023 shows a decline in optimism about the business climate in 6-month time. The indicator is still positive in all regions and all segments, except spinners. The general sentiment is that brand and retailers should increase order in about 6 months.

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

Order intake might to bottom out in Asia and Europe



The indicator for order intake decreased on average from -29 percentage point (pp) in March 2023 to -37 pp in May 2023. Asia reports the lowest order intake despite the indicator flattening in South-East and South Asia. Order intake did not deteriorate in Europe (incl. Türkiye).

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

Order backlog-increase likely driven by textile machinery producers



Order backlog grew from 2.2 to 2.3 months in May 2023 and this is likely driven by textile machinery producers. This is one of the findings of the 20th ITMF Global Textile Industry Survey (GTIS) conducted in May 2023.

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

Capacity utilization rate hit a new low



Given the poor business situation and the poor order intake across the textile value chain (except for the textile machinery industry) the new low reached in global capacity utilization rate does not come as a surprise. The Global Textile Industry Survey conducted in May 2023 shows that it dropped to 70%.

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

Weakening demand and Inflation remain the main concerns worldwide



Weakening demand was the major concern mentioned by the respondents to the Global Textile Industry Survey in May 2023. Inflation is the second most notable issue in the industry followed by high raw material and energy prices. Geopolitics keeps gaining in importance.

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

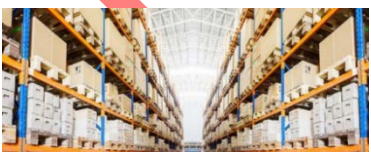
Order cancellation still relatively low



51% of respondents to the 20th Global Textile Industry Survey (GTIS) recorded no order cancellations during the last 4 months. The regions reporting the strongest order cancellations are Africa and East Asia.

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

Inventory levels deemed average



The inventory levels in the textile value chain have not changed much since March 2023. 74% of the respondents to the 20th Global Textile Industry Survey reported either low or average inventory levels.

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

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ITMF NEWS

ITMF Webinar Series: “Circular Textile Economy” Part 4: Recycling Strategies and Concepts 1



ITMF held the 4th webinar in the series “Circular Textile Industry” on Tuesday, May 9th, 2023. Mr. Schlichter and Mr. Cetin from **ITA Augsburg** presented background information on mechanical recycling. Ms. and Mr. Hutter from **Säntis Textiles** showed practical examples of yarns and fabrics production from pre- and post-consumer cotton and textile waste and leftovers from fabrics with 100% recycled cotton, cotton-polyester and other staple fibre blends. Mr. Sorroche from **CETI** presented the case for thermo-mechanical recycling from fibre to pellet and fibre to fibre. Mr. Schmitz from **BB Engineering** shared applications, opportunities, and limits of this technology.

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

ITMF Webinar Series: “Circular Textile Economy” Part 5: Recycling Strategies and Concepts 2



ITMF held the 5th webinar in the series “Circular Textile Industry” on Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023.

Mr. Gries from the **ITA Group** opened the event by providing the necessary background information on chemical recycling. Mr. Toby Moss from **Worn Again** showed how the company’s “Circular Textile System” allows the recycling of cotton/poly-blends that normally end up in landfills. And finally, Ms. Tricia Carey from **Renewcell** presented [Circulose](#), the company’s technology that transforms cotton rich textile waste into dry sheets of pulp ready for fibre production.

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

ITMF Webinar Series: “Circular Textile Economy” Part 6: Transforming to a Circular Economy



ITMF will hold the 6th webinar in the series “Circular Textile Industry” on Tuesday, July 11th, 2023, from 11:00-12:15 CET. This will be the last one prior to presenting the book about this webinar series at ITMF Annual Conference 2023 in Keqiao, Shaoxing, China (November 4-6, 2023).

This webinar will focus on emerging **business models** (such as rental systems, refunding, etc.) and their impact on sustainability. It will also look back at the **latest developments** presented at ITMA 2023 in Milan, Italy, in June 2023. “**Design 4 recycling**” and future **R&D needs** will also be discussed.

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

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

ITMF Webinar Series: “Digital Workflow” Part 3: Designovel



The 3rd webinar in ITMF’s webinar series “**Digital Workflow**” has featured the start-up company Designovel from Korea on May 16th, 2023. [Designovel](#) is one of the winners of the [ITMF Start-up Awards 2022](#).

This webinar, which was moderated by Mr. Loek de Vries, ITMF Board Member, provided a deep dive into ways AI can help the textile and fashion value chain to become more efficient and more sustainable. Under the title “*How to use AI technology for textile design and production*”, Ki-young Shin explained how Designovel uses AI to provide data and market trends for

the textile and fashion industry. He also showed that AI technology can enable more efficient production of designs as well as reduce lead times and minimize waste. The company’s AI solution also provides features such as competitor comparison and tailor-made sales forecasting. Their platform allows textile manufacturers to navigate collect and predict trends and propose competitive

designs. The solution has already helped multiple manufacturers expand their business and launch their own fashion brand and increase speed for product planning and regional market entry through real-time trend monitoring and collection.

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

PARTNER NEWS

International Cotton Conference Bremen 2024 – Call for Papers



The 37th International Cotton Conference Bremen will take place from **20 to 22 March 2024** in Bremen, Germany. The event will be surrounded by a complete Bremen Cotton Week with several additional cotton and textile related meetings and workshops. The conference will be held on site in Bremen, Germany, and will also include online presentations as well as an online audience. People are invited to submit proposals for topics and speakers through a Call for Papers.

[> read more](#)

RAP Webinar Series: Use of biomass energy in Pakistan



United Nations
Climate Change

The next webinar organized by the FICCA support team in the RAP series is titled “**Channelling Biomass Energy for Industrial Processes in Pakistan’s Fashion & Textile Sector**”. I will focus on Net Zero Pakistan’s plan to launch a national level biomass supply chain to replace energy from carbon intensive fossil fuels used within industrial processes with energy from cleaner and more reliable supply of biomass. The webinar will discuss the potential impact of the project based on initial results from feasibility study.

Wednesday, July 12th, 2023, from 15:00-16:00 CET | Registration later in June

Destination Africa 2023: A pan-African B2B sourcing event



Destination Africa is an annual international pan-African B2B sourcing event for the textile industries of Africa. It will be held from November 14-15, 2023, in Cairo, Egypt. The show brings together the African textile, apparel, and home textiles producers in one place with the international buyers. It aims at strengthening the business opportunities and trade activities on a global level.

[> read more](#)

Dornbirn GFC 2023: Preliminary program is out



The 62nd Dornbirn Global Fiber Convention (GFC) will take place from September 13-15, 2023 at the Kulturhaus, Dornbirn, Austria. 120 international speakers from industry and research will present on 4 stages the latest innovations in the fiber and textile industry.

[> read more](#)

RAP Webinar Series: Sourcing renewable heat as-a-service



United Nations
Climate Change

The Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action (FICCA) has the vision to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 in the textile and fashion industry. The FICCA support team organises a series of webinars on important related topics called the RAP series. The lastest webinar was given by Adam Karlsson, CFO of the H&M Group who presented H&M's **roadmap to fund decarbonization**.

[> view all videos and presentations in the RAP series here](#)

VDMA: Way2ITMA – Recycling technologies



In the run-up to ITMA, VDMA is presenting an overview of the textile recycling technologies offered by member companies exhibiting at ITMA. VDMA and its members are committed to a responsible use of all resources used in textile production. VDMA members create the technical prerequisites for the efficient reuse and recycling of textile raw materials.

[> read more](#)

Texcoms: Textile Technical Handbook at ITMA23



Texcoms Textile Solutions organises a launch event on June 10th at ITMA in Milan for the 2nd edition of the Textile Technical Handbook. This document is a handy reference book with standard information, benchmarks and "Rules of thumb" for the textile industry. Mr. Christian Schindler, ITMF general director, and Mr. K.V. Srinivasan, ITMF Vice President, will be special guests.

[> see invitations](#)

Uzbek Textile Week May 2023: Strong attendance



From May 29th to June 2nd, the Tashkent Textile Week took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The week comprised the 6th edition of the International Exhibition of Textile and Fashion Industry (Uztextile Expo 2023), a conference, and various visits to Uzbek companies and training sessions for companies on fashion and retail.



f.l.t.r.: Mr. Akhrarov (Samarkand Apparel), Mr. Pares (Textile Santanderina, Mr. Khaydarov (Uztextileprom), Ms. Pares, Mr. Schindler (ITMF)

Mr. Christian Schindler, Director General of ITMF, delivered a presentation during the opening session of the conference. Together with Mr. Juan Pares, CEO of Textil Santanderina and ITMF Vice President, he visited the exhibition where not only Uzbek companies but also exhibitors from China, Pakistan, Türkiye, and other countries were present. German companies jointly showcased their products and services in a German pavilion. They also met with Mr. Ilkhom Khaydarov, Chairman of Uztextileprom, the Uzbek Textile and Apparel Industry Association, to discuss the current state of the global textile industry and especially the progress made by the Uzbek textile and apparel industry in the past eight years. While most of the Uzbek cotton production was exported in the past, the country now consumes practically all cotton itself and even imports cotton. In very little time, the country has developed a vibrant textile and apparel value chain where the cotton is transformed to ready-made garments and home textile products.

Next event: [UzTextileExpo Autumn 2023](#), on October 18-20, 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

2023

[ITMA 2023](#)

June 8-14, 2023
Milan, Italy

[11th Intex South Asia – Bangladesh](#)

June 22-24, 2023
ICCB, Dhaka, Bangladesh

[Première Vision Paris](#)

July 4-6, 2023
Parc des Expositions, Paris Nord
Villepinte, France

[Webinar Series «Circular Textile Economy» - Strategies for Transforming to a Circular Economy](#)

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

[Ready To Show](#)

July 11-13, 2023
Milan, Italy

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

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

[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

[ITMF Annual Conference 2023](#)

November 4-6, 2023
Keqiao, Shaoxing, China

[ITMA Asia + CITME 2023](#)

November 19-23, 2023
Shanghai, China

[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