

Ahead of its annual conference which is returning after three years as an in-person event and will be held in Davos, Switzerland, from September 18-20, the Zurich-based International Textile Machinery Federation (ITMF) has published its 44th annual International Textile Machinery Shipment Statistics.

This reveals a very buoyant market for sales of all textile machinery in 2021, after declines not just in Covid-19-impacted 2020, but also in 2019.

In 2021, global shipments of spinning, texturing, weaving, knitting and finishing machines increased sharply compared to 2020. Deliveries of new short-staple spindles, open-end rotors, and long-staple spindles climbed by +110%, +65%, and +44%, respectively.

The number of shipped draw-texturing spindles increased by +177% and deliveries of shuttle-less looms grew by +32%. Shipments of large circular machines improved by +30% and shipped flat knitting machines registered +109% growth. The sum of all deliveries in the finishing segment also rose by +52% on average.

The 2021 survey has been compiled in cooperation with more than 200 textile machinery manufacturers representing a comprehensive percentage of world production.

### **Spinning machinery**

The total number of shipped short-staple spindles increased by about 4 million units in 2021 to a level of 7.61 million. Most of the new short-staple spindles (90%) were shipped to Asia and Oceania, where delivery increased by +115%. While levels stayed relatively small, Europe saw shipments increasing by +41% (mainly in Turkey). The six largest investors in the short-staple segment were China, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Bangladesh.

Some 695,000 open-end rotors were shipped worldwide in 2021. This represents 273,000 additional units compared to 2020 and 83% of global shipments went to Asia and Oceania where deliveries increased by +65% to 580,000 rotors. China, Turkey and Pakistan were the world's three largest investors in open-end rotors and saw investments surging by +56%, +47% and +146% respectively. Only deliveries to Uzbekistan, the seventh largest investor in 2021, decreased compared to 2020 (-14% to 12,600 units).

Global shipments of long-staple (wool) spindles increased from about 22,000 in 2020 to nearly 31,600 in 2021 (+44%). This effect was mainly driven by a rise in deliveries to Asia with an increase in investment of +70%. In addition, 68% of total deliveries were shipped to Iran, Italy, and Turkey.

### **Texturing machinery**

Global shipments of single heater draw-texturing spindles (mainly used for polyamide filaments) increased by +365% from nearly 16,000 units in 2020 to 75,000 in 2021. With a share of 94%, Asia was the strongest destination for single heater draw-texturing spindles. China, Taiwan and Turkey were the main investors in this segment with a share of 90%, 2.3% and 1.5% of global deliveries respectively.

In the category of double heater draw-texturing spindles (mainly used for polyester filaments) global shipments increased by +167% to a level of 870,000 spindles. Asia's share of worldwide shipments increased to 95% and China remained the largest investor accounting for 92% of global shipments.

### **Weaving machines**

In 2021, worldwide shipments of shuttle-less looms increased by +32% to 148,000 units. Shipments in the categories "air-jet", "rapier and projectile", and "water-jet" rose by +56% to nearly 45,776 units, by +24% to 26,897, and by +23% to 75,797 units, respectively. The main destination for shuttle-less looms in 2021 was Asia with 95% of all worldwide deliveries and 94%, 84%, 98% of global air-jet, rapier/projectile and water-jet looms were shipped to that region. The main investor was China in all three sub-categories. Deliveries of weaving machines to this country cover 73% of total deliveries.

### **Knitting machines**

Global shipments of large circular knitting machines grew by +29% to 39,129 units in 2021 with Asia accounting for 83%. With 64% of all deliveries (21,833 units), China was the favoured destination. Turkey and India ranked second and third with 3,500 and 3,171 units respectively. In 2021, the segment of electronic flat knitting machines increased by +109% to around 95,000 machines with Asia accounting for 91% of them. China remained the world's largest investor with a 76%-share of total shipments and a +290%-increase in investments. Shipments to the country rose from about 17,000 units in 2020 to 67,600 units in 2021.

## **Finishing machinery**

In the “fabrics continuous” segment, shipments of relax dryers/tumblers grew by +183%. All other sub-segments rose by between 33%-88% except dyeing lines which shrank (-16% for CPB and -85% for hotflue). The global shipments of stenters is expected to have increased by +78% in 2021 to a total of 2,750 units.

In the “fabrics discontinuous” segment, the number of jigger dyeing/beam dyeing machines shipped rose by +105% to 1,081 units. Deliveries in the categories “air jet dyeing” and “overflow dyeing” increased by +24% in 2021 to 1,232 units and 1,647 units, respectively.

[www.itmf.org](http://www.itmf.org)