

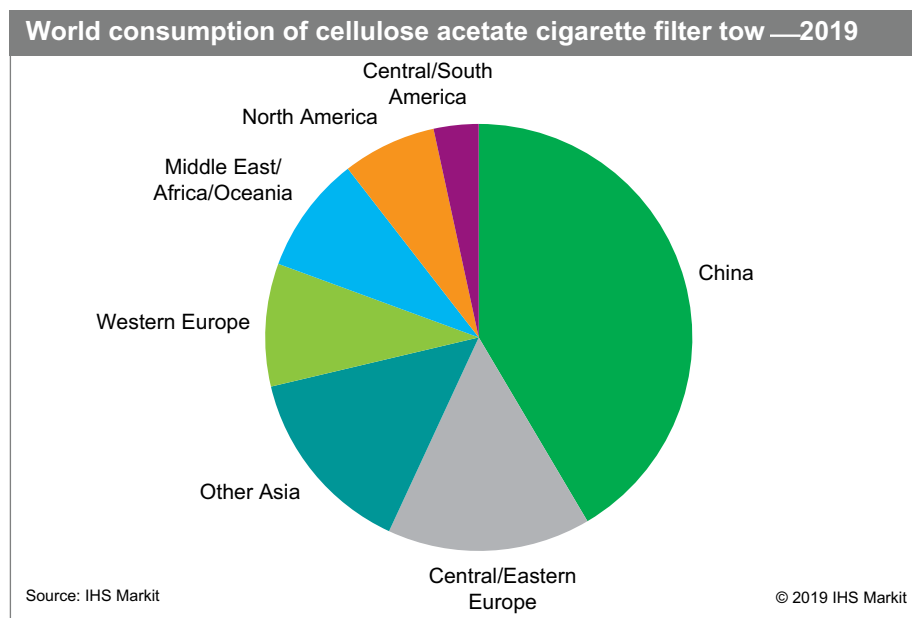
Cellulose Acetate Fibers

27 November 2019

Abstract

Cellulose acetate and triacetate fibers are derived from acetylated cellulose. Cellulose acetate is used primarily in the production of cigarette filter tow, which is used in the majority of cigarette filters worldwide. The filter tow helps remove tar and nicotine while maintaining favorable taste to the smoker. It also provides desired hardness/firmness filter mouth feel; a uniform, white appearance at the end of an unlighted cigarette; is readily processed; and is cost-effective. In cellulose acetate textile fibers, the fabrics made provide comfort along with a soft and good drape, and also have pleatability and ease-of-care characteristics.

The following pie chart shows world consumption of cellulose acetate cigarette filter tow:



Global acetate tow demand decreased from 2016 to 2019. The decrease is being driven by declining global cigarette use and a declining number of smokers. Health issues caused by smoking, government restrictions on public smoking, increasing taxation, competition from electronic cigarettes, and weaker economies have all contributed to this trend. Cigarette sales have dropped in the last several years in the United States, Western Europe, and Japan. Cigarette production facilities, for example, in Western Europe, have shut down or been relocated. In China, cigarette production has been declining since 2015; however, the government has also been promoting the improvement of the quality of cigarettes, leading to a slight increase in acetate tow consumption.

The overall cellulose acetate fibers market is expected to only slightly grow in the coming years. For cigarette filter tow, the market will remain relatively flat as China will experience only slight growth and declines in demand will continue in

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North America, Europe, and Japan. The global market has declined in the past few years, which has led to capacity shutdowns or reductions for acetate tow, as well as closures of cigarette production plants. Global cellulose acetate textile fibers demand will experience growth mainly supported by strong growth in China, but only flat or modest growth in most other parts of the world.

Growth for acetate textile fibers will be mainly in China, where new apparel applications and increased exports of finished clothing will lead to increased demand. There will be limited growth elsewhere.

Future filter tow demand growth may come from production of longer filters to reduce tar and increasing filter production in areas where they are currently not used, such as parts of Asia; there is also the possibility of growing existing markets such as targeting female smokers in certain countries. However, acetate filter tow use could be limited with increasing smoking regulations, increased social pressures concerning smoking, as well as increasing competition from electronic cigarettes. For cellulose acetate textile fibers, developing new markets other than apparel or home furnishings could lead to growth opportunities.

For more detailed information, see the table of contents, shown below.

IHS Markit's Chemical Economics Handbook – Cellulose Acetate Fibers is the comprehensive and trusted guide for anyone seeking information on this industry. This latest report details global and regional information, including



Global summary;
regional coverage



Producers with
annual capacities
and plant sites



Production figures
and trends



Consumption and
forecasts by end use
application



Manufacturing
processes and
environmental issues



Trade – imports
and exports

Key Benefits

IHS Markit's Chemical Economics Handbook – Cellulose Acetate Fibers has been compiled using primary interviews with key suppliers, organizations and leading representatives from the industry in combination with IHS Markit's unparalleled access to upstream and downstream market intelligence, expert insights into industry dynamics, trade and economics.

This report can help you:

- Identify trends and driving forces influencing chemical markets
- Forecast and plan for future demand
- Understand the impact of competing materials
- Identify and evaluate potential customers and competitors
- Evaluate producers
- Track changing prices and trade movements
- Analyze the impact of feedstocks, regulations, and other factors on chemical profitability

Contents

Executive summary	5
Summary	6
Introduction	13
Manufacturing processes	14
Cellulose acetylation	14
Acetate spinning	14
Triacetate spinning	15
Other aspects of manufacturing	15
Environmental issues	16
Supply and demand by region	17
United States	17
– Producing companies	17
– Salient statistics	17
– Cigarette filter tow	17
– Textile fibers	18
– Consumption	19
– Cigarette filter tow	19
– Textile fibers	20
– Apparel and linings	21
– Home furnishings	21
– Medical tape and other	22
– Price	22
– Trade	22
– Imports	22
– Exports	23
Canada	23
– Salient statistics	23
– Consumption	25
Mexico	25
– Producing companies	25
– Salient statistics	25
– Consumption	27
– Trade	27
Central and South America	28
– Producing companies	28
– Salient statistics	28
– Production	30
– Consumption	31
Western Europe	32
– Producing companies	32

– Salient statistics	33
– Consumption	34
– Cigarette filter tow	34
– Textile fibers	35
– Price	35
– Trade	36
Central and Eastern Europe	37
– Producing companies	37
– Salient statistics	38
– Production	39
– Consumption	40
Middle East and Africa	41
– Salient statistics	41
– Consumption	43
China	44
– Producing companies	44
– Salient statistics	45
– Consumption	46
– Cigarette filter tow	47
– Textile fibers	48
Japan	48
– Producing companies	48
– Salient statistics	49
– Production	50
– Consumption	51
– Cigarette filter tow	51
– Textile fibers	52
– Price	52
– Trade	53
Other Asia	55
– Producing companies	55
– Salient statistics	56
– Production	57
– Consumption	58
Oceania	58
Additional resources	60
Revisions	61

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