

# Fibers Overview

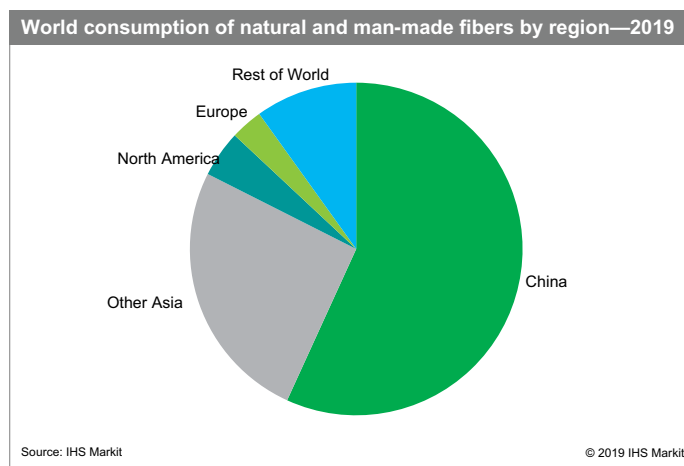
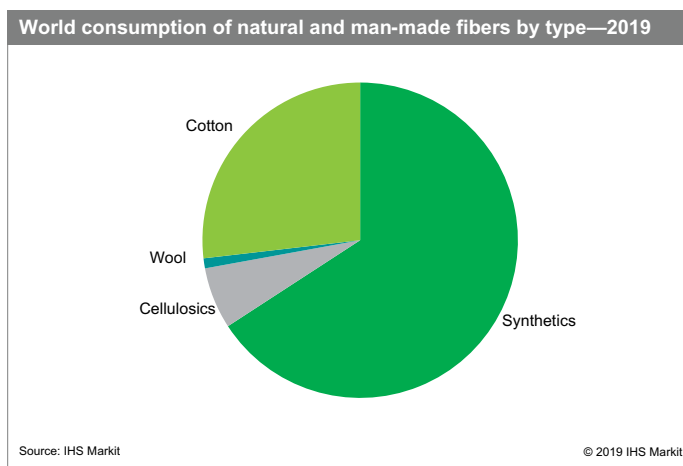
15 November 2019

## Abstract

This report presents an overview of the global supply and demand for natural fibers (cotton and wool) and man-made fibers (synthetic fibers and cellulosic fibers), broken out by major world regions. Because of regional differences in data collection methods, certain fiber data (polyolefin fibers, as well as lyocell fibers) are not included in the world totals but can be found in the respective regional sections of the report.

In 2019, China is still the largest synthetic fiber producer, followed Other Asia (including Oceania) and India. Together, these regions account for about 95% of the total global capacity, production, and consumption of synthetic fibers, to support the region's extensive textile and garment manufacturing industries. Asia's fiber and textile industry remains export-driven, and domestic demand for textile products in the region is growing. Eight of the top-10 synthetic fiber producers operate solely in China. In 2019, the top-10 fiber producers account for about one-fourth of the total global man-made fiber capacity.

The following pie charts show world consumption of natural and man-made fibers by type and by region:



Polyester fibers dominate synthetic fiber consumption. Cotton is the second-largest-volume textile fiber. Cotton production has increased significantly in the past five years, especially in the United States, India, Central Asia, China, and Turkey. Wool production is under pressure because of only modest increases in flock numbers. As a result, wool production continues to decline.

By 2024, with the additional capacity estimated to be brought onstream, China will still have the majority of synthetic fibers capacity, but India will surpass Other Asia/Oceania to become the second-largest synthetic fiber producer. A weakening Chinese economy and softening demand will contribute to a slower annual growth rate of natural and man-made fibers consumption in the next five years.

## Contacts

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

**IHS Markit's Chemical Economics Handbook – *Fibers Overview*** 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 – *Fibers Overview*** has been compiled using primary interviews with key suppliers and organizations, and leading representatives from the industry in combination with IHS Markit's unparalleled access to upstream and downstream market intelligence and 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

<b>Executive summary</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>10</b>
Natural and man-made fiber classification	10
Manufacturing processes for synthetic fibers	11
The textile industry	13
– From fiber to finished goods	13
– Fabric manufacturing processes	13
– Inventory status along the supply chain	14
<b>Supply and demand by region</b>	<b>16</b>
World	16
– Overview	16
– Producers	17
– Production	18
– Natural and man-made fibers by fiber type	18
– Textile fibers by major region	21
– Cotton by major region	24
– Wool by major region	27
– Synthetic fibers by major region	30
– Cellulosic fibers by major region	32
– Consumption of textile fibers by major region	35
United States	37
– Producing companies	37
– Salient statistics	41
– Consumption	46
Europe	48
– Producing companies	48
– Production	53
– Consumption	54
China	56
– Producing companies	56
– Production	60
– Consumption	62
Japan	63
– Producing companies	63
– Production	65
– Consumption	67
Other Asia and Oceania	69
– Producing countries	70
– Production	70

– Consumption	72
<b>Appendix</b>	<b>74</b>
Fiber types	74
– Natural fibers	74
– Man-made fibers	74
Textile terms	77
<b>Additional resources</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Revisions</b>	<b>82</b>

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