
WORLD COTTON

World Cotton

The 2005/06 crop year produces another tremendous world cotton crop. This year's production reaches an impressive 24.8 mmt, second only to last year's 26.2 mmt. The fall in production from last year is the result of a decline in both area and yields. World area falls from last year's 35.8 mha to 34.9 mha this year. Yields also fall from 732 kg/ha in 2004/05 to 711 kg/ha in 2005/06, the two highest yields on record. Mill use is expected to exceed production in 2005/06, reaching 25.3 mmt, minimally reducing world stock levels. Consequently, despite two successive years of strong production, the anticipated 2005/06 A-index price of \$1,288 per mt is above last year's level of \$1,180 per mt.

Chinese cotton production in 2005/06 retreats sharply from the prior year's record, falling to 5.7 mmt because of a contraction in Chinese cotton area. The reduction in domestic production does not slow Chinese mill use, which is expected to reach 9.5 mmt in 2005/06. Chinese consumption of fibers has moved sharply higher in the last several years, with the phasing out of textile quotas under WTO agreements. Consumption is expected to expand to 12.7 mmt by the end of the projection period, representing over 43% of total world consumption. Chinese area is constrained and thus grows to just over 5.8 mha by 2015/16, with yields slowly advancing to 1,188 kg per ha over the same period. The shortfall is met by net imports of 3.6 mmt in 2005/06. With mill use expanding faster than production, net imports are expected to expand to 5.5 mmt in 2015/16, making China the dominant destination for cotton trade.

The increase in demand by China is met in part by increased area in Brazil. Estimated at 0.9 mha in 2005/06, area in Brazil is expected to expand to 1.6 mha by 2015/16. Yields in Brazil are also above the world average, at 1,149 kg per ha in 2005/06, and are expected to expand to 1,234 kg per ha by 2015/16. The additional area, coupled with impressive yields, results in production of 2.0 mmt and net exports of 1.1 mmt by the end of the forecast period, more than two and a half times the volume in 2005/06.

World mill use is expected to concentrate further in a handful of countries. China, India, Pakistan, and Turkey account for 68% of world mill use in 2005/06, and their share expands to 76% of world mill use by 2015/16. Other developing countries see their growth in mill use slow or even decline, while developed countries worldwide see continued decline in their consumption of raw cotton. The share of consumption going to India and Pakistan may fluctuate, as these countries may specialize in the production of semi-manufactured products to feed China's final assembly sector.

U.S. cotton producers are having another exceptional year in 2005/06, producing a record 5.2 mmt with an average yield of 932 kg per ha, the second-best yield on record. Area is anticipated to decline modestly throughout the forecast period, falling to 5.2 mha by 2015/16. Cotton mill use in the U.S., estimated at 1.3 mmt in 2005/06, has been falling for several years. With the elimination of textile quotas and the importation of large quantities of foreign-produced apparel and home furnishings, domestic producers are expected to experience additional competitive pressures. U.S. mill use thus falls to 1.0 mmt by the end of the projection period. With the loss of domestic consumers for their production, U.S. cotton farmers increasingly rely on world markets to sell their cotton. Therefore, exports are expected to become the dominant force in U.S. cotton demand, with net exports reaching 3.9 mmt by 2015/16.

Cotton Trade

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16
Net Exporters	(Thousand Metric Tons)										
Argentina	0	13	23	29	33	37	39	42	44	47	50
Australia	643	631	662	695	721	741	756	769	781	793	804
Brazil	408	421	513	620	716	796	857	911	964	1,018	1,069
Other Africa	1,392	1,405	1,463	1,500	1,519	1,552	1,567	1,592	1,625	1,657	1,688
Other CIS	434	536	578	599	604	605	607	614	623	631	632
Other Middle East	180	191	207	216	226	235	243	252	261	269	277
United States	3,578	3,508	3,463	3,468	3,535	3,610	3,692	3,736	3,772	3,838	3,927
Uzbekistan	986	976	970	966	964	961	959	957	956	955	954
Total Net Exports *	7,893	7,875	8,060	8,293	8,540	8,778	8,970	9,125	9,286	9,470	9,665
Net Importers											
Canada	69	68	65	64	64	63	62	60	58	57	55
China	3,559	3,387	3,719	4,045	4,330	4,611	4,780	4,951	5,126	5,322	5,536
European Union	140	191	169	138	110	92	82	66	46	29	12
India	-272	-195	-182	-199	-221	-242	-250	-253	-258	-262	-265
Indonesia	491	503	508	514	519	521	524	527	530	532	534
Japan	156	154	114	102	103	95	95	94	92	89	88
Mexico	257	245	225	209	198	189	181	174	166	160	156
Other Asia	1,285	1,230	1,208	1,207	1,214	1,217	1,231	1,243	1,251	1,260	1,269
Other Europe	38	53	37	32	30	29	30	28	26	25	23
Other Latin America	75	82	60	57	53	44	44	36	31	25	21
Pakistan	243	389	432	439	449	460	486	508	539	574	593
Russia	317	315	311	309	307	307	305	303	302	301	302
South Africa	25	23	24	23	22	22	21	21	21	20	19
South Korea	264	234	211	200	193	184	179	169	157	146	137
Taiwan	265	265	253	237	232	230	229	223	221	216	213
Turkey	710	735	722	716	719	714	722	723	719	714	706
Residual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Net Imports	7,893	7,875	8,060	8,293	8,540	8,778	8,970	9,125	9,286	9,470	9,665
Prices	(U.S. Dollars per Metric Ton)										
Cotlook A Index **	1,288	1,349	1,410	1,413	1,411	1,413	1,436	1,471	1,508	1,530	1,555
CIF Northern Europe											
U.S. Farm Price	1,061	1,065	1,127	1,135	1,132	1,134	1,151	1,183	1,221	1,245	1,270

Source: Cotlook, Ltd., Liverpool, England.

* Total net exports are the sum of all positive net exports and negative net imports.

** The "A" index is the average of the five lowest CIF Northern European quotes of the following descriptions (Middling 1-3/32"): Memphis; Calif./Ariz.; Mexican; Central American; Paraguayan; Turkish Izmir/Antalya; Central Asian; Pakistani 1503; Indian H-4; Chinese 329; African 'Franc Zone'; Tanzanian; Greek; and Australian.

