

Shipments of new textile machinery in 2016 vary between segments says ITMF

Shipments of long-staple spindles and open-end rotors were up, while those of short-staple spindles were down. Shipments of draw-texturing spindles and circular-knitting machines decreased, while those of shuttle-less looms and electronic flat knitting machines increased

Deliveries of new long-staple spindles and open-end rotors soared by nearly 111 % and 66 %, respectively from 2015 to 2016. The number of shipped short-staple spindles decreased in 2016 by 12% compared to the previous year. The number of shipped draw-texturing spindles fell by 14% and shipments for new circular knitting machines by 3 % year-on-year. In contrast, deliveries of electronic flat knitting machines soared by 99 % in 2016. In the segment of finishing machines (fabrics continuous), the number of stenters increased in 2016 year-on-year by 22 %.

These are the main results of the 39th annual International Textile Machinery Shipment Statistics (ITMSS) just released by the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF). The report covers six segments of textile machinery, namely spinning, draw-texturing, weaving, large circular knitting, flat knitting and finishing. The 2016 survey has been compiled in cooperation with more than 140 textile machinery manufacturers, representing a comprehensive measure of world production. This number does not include the numerous Chinese companies that are represented by the so called "District". Therefore, the amount of participating companies is likely to be around 200.

Spinning Machinery

Shipments of new short-staple spindles fell by nearly 12 % year-on-year in 2016, the third decrease in a row. The level of short staple spindles declined to about 7.9 million spindles, the lowest level since 2009. Most of the new short staple spindles (92 %) were shipped to Asia, whereby shipments fell by 12 % year-on-year. Thereby China, the world's largest investor of short-staple spindles, experienced an increase of 9%, whereas supplies to Bangladesh, Indonesia and Vietnam rose by 97 %, 4 % and 31 %, respectively. The six largest investors in short-staple spindles in 2016 where China followed by India, Bangladesh, Viet Nam, Turkey and Pakistan.

Global shipments of long-staple (wool) spindles soared by 111 % from around 54000 in 2015 to nearly 114000 in 2016. Deliveries to Turkey, one of the main investors in long-staple spindles in the last few years, jumped by 153 % from just around 11000 in 2015 to around 27800 spindles in 2016. The majority of long-staple spindles (60 %) were shipped to Europe (including Turkey). Nearly 39 % of long-staple spindles had Asia as destination.

Shipments of open-end rotors rose by 66 % to a level over 634000 rotors in 2016. About 92 % of worldwide shipments of open-end rotors were destined for Asia. Thereby, deliveries to Asia increased strongly by over 87 % to nearly 583000 rotors. Shipments to China, the world's largest investor in open-end rotors, increased its investments significantly by around 92 % in 2016. In contrast, regions such as North America and South America recorded annual percentage declines of 72 % and 53 %, respectively. The world's second and third largest investors in 2016 were India and Turkey.