



BANGLADESH

RMG exports jump 20% in July-October of 2018

Bangladesh's export earnings from the readymade garment sector, the lifeline of the economy, have seen a 20.08% rise to US\$ 11.33 billion in July-October period of the fiscal year 2018-19, which was the US \$9.43 billion in the same period last year, according to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data.

The sector has exceeded the export target set for the period. The earnings from the sector were 11.50% higher than the target of US\$ 10.16 billion set for the period.

Of the total amount, Knitwear products fetched US\$ 5.88 billion, which is 17.83% higher than the US\$ 4.98 billion in the same period a year ago. Woven products earned US\$ 5.45 billion, up by 22.61%, compared to US\$ 4.45 billion a year ago. Bangladeshi RMG manufacturers have improved the safety standard, which enhanced the buyer's confidence and they are now placing more work orders.



CHINA

Embroidery Art Biennale

The Chaozhou International Embroidery Art Biennale (Biennale for short) was held in Chaozhou on 20th December 2018. It was the first national embroidery art biennial in China and the first international embroidery art biennial in the world.

The Biennale featured three topics: Life & Fashion, Inheritance & Rejuvenation and Integration &



Transcendence exhibiting a total of 249 works from 13 countries and regions, including China, Japan, South Korea, Georgia, Poland, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Canada, and the United States. The works illustrated the theme of "Embroidery and Contemporary Life" showing the infinite charm of embroidery art with rich characteristics of the times, and exploring the ways and paths of traditional skills into contemporary life.

The exhibits were categorized into such three parts as embroidery artwork, embroidery daily necessities, and embroidered cultural products. The Biennale lasted till 5th January 2019.

Gao Yong, Party Secretary and Secretary General of CNTAC, delivered a speech at the opening ceremony. He pointed out that the Biennale is aimed to promote the entry of intangible cultural heritage into the contemporary mass life and the integration into the international fashion trend. Chaozhou was built into a platform to promote exchanges and cooperation between the embroidery industry at home and abroad, providing new thinking, new themes and new ideas for embroidery creation, enabling traditional skills to find new development opportunities and environments, making the creation of embroidery works more contemporary and artistic, and promoting

the application of embroidery art in household goods, daily necessities and creative cultural products.

The Biennale was proved a professional, large-scale and international exhibition, providing a stage for the related people who were dedicated to embroidery research, embroidery creation and embroidery art inheritance at home and abroad.



EGYPT

Plans to raise cotton production

Recently Egypt's cotton cultivation has decreased though cotton of Egypt has long been seen as the best in the market having durability, fineness and luxurious softness.

Once cotton was Egypt's main source of wealth in the 19th century when the Nile Delta, situated in northern Egypt, provided fertile grounds for the crop used to make the towels, sheets, and robes demanded by Europe's bourgeoisie class. But cotton land has fallen dramatically since the 1960s when Egypt produced cotton from up to 2.2 million feddans (924,000 hectares) helped by fixed state prices.

Recently the North African country's farmers are far from the market though cotton sourced from Egypt has long been seen as the best on the market having durability, fineness and luxurious softness. A trade war between the US and China has seen benchmark global cotton prices fall afresh, as traders take fright over Beijing imposing tariffs.

Egypt liberalized its cotton sector in 1994, exposing farmers to volatile global prices and rising fertilizer costs. Egyptian farmers who cultivate cotton in Nile Delta said that the cultivation is expensive,



while the price (of cotton) is very low. At the high-end of the value chain, designer Marie Louis Bishara runs one of the few Egyptian firms that produce high-quality finished products locally for the international market. Shirts, trousers, and jackets stamped "Made in Egypt" have gone from the design stage on her factory floor to grace shop shelves in France, Italy and her home country.



Country forms textile import management body

The government of Ghana recently constituted a textile import management body to oversee textile imports, according to Trade and Industry Minister Alan Kyerematen.

The vetting of designs, management of quantities will be the responsibilities of the body and it will also act as a single sourcing agency for all imports of wax prints.

It will be mandatory for all importers to place their orders through this agency, the Minister said at a Town Hall meeting with textile workers, who were sensitized on the implementation of the Textile Industry Reforms Programme.

A Textiles Anti-piracy Taskforce has been formed to monitor markets and ensure due diligence. The steps are intended to protect the Ghanaian industry from fake imports.

Some policies are also in the pipeline to enhance the competitiveness of the local textiles industry include the introduction of a tax stamp for locally-manufactured and genuinely-imported textiles and starting a designated entry corridor.



Textile exports exceed expectations

Indonesian exports of textile and textile products have already reached the value of US\$12.4 billion in 2017 exceeding the Indonesian Textile Association (API)'s target of US\$11.8 billion.

Indonesia's textile exports rose around 5% on a year-on-year basis in 2017. This is a great performance because the country's textile exports had been rather stagnant in the 2012-2016 period, and secondly global textile demand actually declined this year.

According to data from API, Indonesian textile exports to both the United States and Japan declined by 2% percent in 2017.

Meanwhile, demand from the European Union fell 3% and yet this decrease was offset by rising textile demand in Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

Another important factor is that, generally, Indonesia's competitiveness has improved in the textile industry; hence it can offer its textile products at more attractive prices on

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the world market. Several years ago various textile factories were moved from West Java and Banten to Central Java because minimum wages rose too steeply in West Java and Banten. The Central Java, on the other hand, still offers a relatively cheap production environment.

Meanwhile, the stable economy of Indonesia has attracted more investment in Indonesia's textile sector. According to data from Indonesia's Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM), a total of IDR 10.24 trillion (approx. US\$ \$759 million) was invested in Indonesia's textile industry in the January-September 2017 period, much higher than the IDR 7.54 trillion that was invested in the same period one year earlier.

Although demand from the United States fell, the world's top economy remains the biggest market for Indonesian textiles. About 36% of Indonesian textile shipments go to the United States. On second place comes the Middle East (23%), followed by the European Union (13%).

A concern for Indonesia's textile industry is that competition from Vietnam is rising. Problematically, and unlike Vietnam, Indonesia does not have a free trade agreement with the European Union. Therefore, Indonesian textile exports to Europe are subject to import duties in the range of 5%-20%, while Vietnam can export its textile products to this region without import duties. This makes Vietnam's products more competitive and attractive for EU buyers.



RUSSIA

Nonwovens growth leads to consolidation

The Russian nonwovens are on the verge of consolidation, mainly due to the recent acquisition of Regent NM, one of Russia's major nonwovens producers, by its rival Moscow-based Netkanika Company. The deal, worth US\$ 25 million, is one of the largest to be concluded in the industry in recent years.

To date, Regent NM was operated by Russian billionaires the Ananiev brothers, through their subsidiary Promsvyazbank. As a result of the deal, Netkanika aims to control up to 20% of the Russian market for nonwoven materials.

The majority of the company's products are supplied to the Russian agricultural industry, hygiene, disposable and medical clothing, mattresses, and protective membranes. In total, the company's production capacity is around 8,000 tonnes per year. Regent NM also operates production facilities with the capacity to produce up to 20,000 tonnes per year.

After integration of the newly acquired asset, Netkanika plans to invest around US\$ 10 million in modernization

and increase its capacity by 40%. This should help the company achieve its recently announced plans to capture 20% of the nonwovens market in Russia.

Overall, the domestic nonwovens industry is steadily growing this year, amid the on-going recovery of the national economy from the financial crisis. According to Denis Manturov, Russia's Minister of Industry and Trade, since the beginning of the current year, the industry has already grown by 35% to US\$ 600 million in value terms, compared to the same period of last year, a record high in the last 36 months.

According to the Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade, if the same growth rates are achieved in the second half of the current year, the total value of the market could reach US\$ 1.2 billion, a historical record for the nonwovens industry in Russia.



SWEDEN

ITC to support textile industries of four Arab nations

The government of Sweden has collaborated with the International Trade Centre (ITC) with a new program aiming to strengthen the international competitiveness of textiles and clothing producers in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia.

According to ITC, the three-year program targets boosting exports, creating jobs and raising incomes across the Middle East and North Africa region.

The project 'Strengthening the International Competitiveness of the Textile and Clothing Sector in selected Middle East and North African Countries' (MENATEX), is funded with SEK 42 million (US\$ 4.63 million) from the Swedish government and will be implemented by the Geneva-based ITC in close collaboration with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).



The global trade in textiles and clothing stood at US\$ 751 billion in 2017, of which the four target countries of the program accounted for \$10.8 billion. With \$3.7 billion in exports, Morocco leads the four, followed by Egypt (\$2.8 billion), Tunisia (\$2.6 billion) and Jordan (\$1.7 billion).

The vast majority of products from Morocco and Tunisia go to the European Union, while Egypt and Jordan's top export destination is the United States. Four Arab countries accounted for US\$ 10.8 billion in global trade in textiles and clothing in 2017.

 **TURKEY**

Turkish clothing, textile sector eyes \$29B in exports

Turkish textile and ready-wear exporters aim to hit 10% year-on-year growth in export revenues this year.

According to an Anadolu Agency analysis of the Turkish Exporters Assembly (TIM) data, textile and ready-wear sector exports rose 3.8 percent in 2018 to reach \$26.1 billion.

Ismail Gulle, TIM's chairman, told reporters that the figure fell short of the sector's potential. "Turkey's textile and apparel sector will turn our currency advantage to an opportunity in 2019 and work through their target thanks to Turkish brands, instead of relying on contract manufacturing.

Gulle added that 500 shops featuring Turkish brands are set to open abroad this year. He said that this year the textile and apparel sector aims to boost exports by around 10% to some \$29 billion.

Ahmet Oksuz, head of the Istanbul Textile and Raw Materials Exporters Association (ITHIB), underlined that exporters are prioritizing for a larger slice of the global market.

"One of our biggest targets is to make this sector, among the world's top five exporters by raising its share to 5 percent of the global market, which is currently the seventh-biggest exporter globally. Textile sector exports to Africa and the Americas picked up last year, along with the EU, Turkey's main trading partner," Oksuz pointed out.

 **VIETNAM**

Textile and garment exports continue to grow

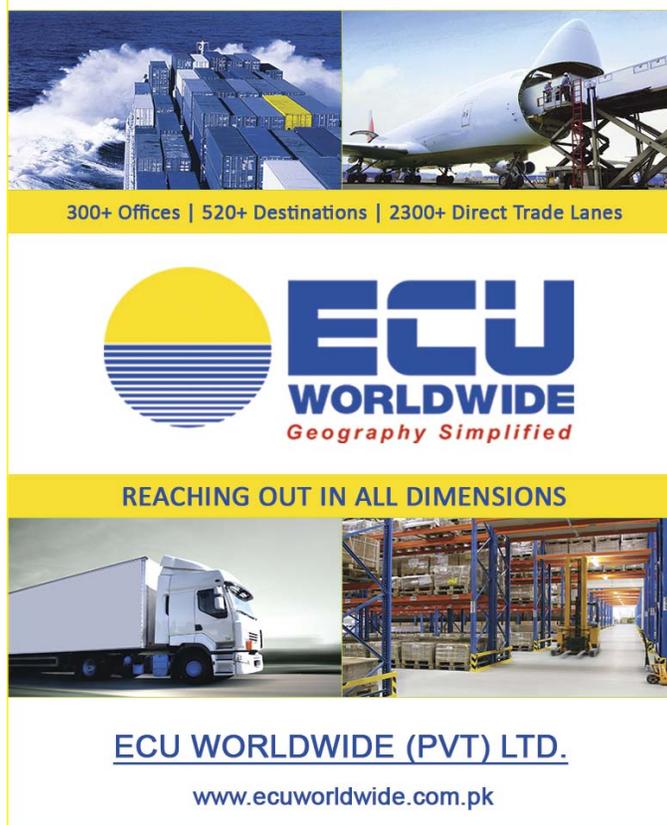
The exports of Vietnam textile and garment sector increased by 17% in the

first nine months of this year, reported by Vietnam's National Textile & Garment Group (Vinatex).

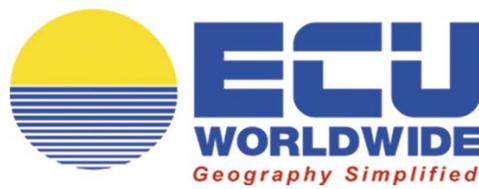
According to the data from Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade, textile and garment exports were valued at US\$ 22.56 billion in the period, representing growth of over 17% on last year. The main export markets are the US, the EU, Korea, China and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for TPP (CPTPP) – or TPP-11-countries.

In 2017, Vietnam's textile and garment industry earned US\$ 31 billion from exports, a year-on-year increase of over 10%. This growth momentum will continue in the next few years, with exports predicted to reach US\$ 34-35 billion this year, and US\$50 billion by 2020. Garment manufacturing accounts for the majority of businesses, at 70%.

Vietnam is the world's third largest clothing exporter and has benefited as producers and buyers diversify their supply chains, helped by its low labor costs and industry focus on specialization, modernization, and increasing value addition. ♦



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