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Currency Watch			
USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
85.61	92.36	110.78	0.57

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Tariff Ticker: April Duties Will Be 'More Lenient Than Reciprocal,' Trump Says

With one week to go before the administration's April 2 tariff deadline, President Donald Trump appears to be tempering expectations for America's "Liberation Day."

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick is scheduled to brief the president on a range of trade and tariff issues early next week, after which point Trump has said he will announce a plan to impose duties on nations across the globe.

While he's said that these duties will be equivalent to the tariffs they impose on U.S. goods, Trump told anchor Greg Kelly in an interview Tuesday with Newsmax, "I'll probably be more lenient than reciprocal, because if I was reciprocal, that would be very tough for people."

"I may give a lot of countries breaks," he added. This, following reports from the White House over the weekend that the duties will likely be more limited in scope than previously expected.

But when he was asked if there will be significant exceptions to the broad and wide-ranging duties, Trump answered in the negative. "No, I don't want to have too many exceptions. Look, we've been ripped off for 45 years by other countries," he said. "We always were soft and weak."

Trump claimed that the $36-trillion national debt has ballooned due to trade policy that has allowed the U.S. to be "ripped off" by its trading partners, including "so-called friends" like the European Union. The president also called out China in his remarks.

Duty deferrals on Mexican and Canadian products, at a rate of 25 percent, are expected to expire on Wednesday, meaning that those tariffs will take effect unless the president decides to further delay their implementation.

In the lead up to the Liberation tariff frenzy, certain U.S. trading partners are scrambling to appease the White House with promises to address trade imbalances.

Vietnam on Tuesday announced plans to slash duties on U.S.-made imports, including liquefied natural gas, automobiles and ethanol by about half of the current rate per category. In a statement on the Vietnam Finance Ministry's website, director Nguyen Quoc Hung wrote that the duty cuts were imposed with the goal of "improving trade balances with [Vietnam's] trade partners." Vietnam's trade surplus with the U.S. totaled $123 billion in 2024.

Meanwhile, the government of Bangladesh announced last week that it plans to import more cotton from U.S. farmers as a means of addressing a $6.2-billion trade imbalance. The country represents the fifth-largest export market for American-grown cotton, with export values topping $339 million in 2023, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Markets saw some decline Wednesday after rallying Monday following the news that Trump's April 2 tariff rollout might be less robust than previously thought. The S&P 500 fell 0.76 percent, about 41.3 points, while the Nasdaq Composite fell 1.58 percent, or 289 points. The Dow Jones Industrial average traded 0.017 percent higher, a gain of about 7 points.

Federal officials—some in Trump's own party—have been increasingly dubious about the White House's tariff strategy. Senator Rand Paul (R-Ken.) has been privately trying to galvanize Republican lawmakers against the proposed duties, according to a report from Time.

Meanwhile, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell last week said that tariffs—or the looming threat of tariffs—have contributed to a "good part" of price increases at retail. "It's the net effect of these policy changes that will matter for the economy and for the path of monetary policy," Powell said. "Uncertainty around the changes and their effects on the economic outlook is high."

The president has expressed his displeasure with the Fed's decision not to lower interest rates in March. "The Fed would be MUCH better off CUTTING RATES as U.S. Tariffs start to transition (ease!) their way into the economy," he wrote on Truth Social. "Do the right thing. April 2nd is Liberation Day in America!!!"

Source: sourcingjournal.com– Mar 26, 2025

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Port Fees on Chinese Ships Would 'Distort Competition,' But Who Benefits?

Proposed fees on Chinese-built ships calling at U.S. ports could potentially "distort competition" in container shipping as we know it, according to one industry consultancy.

Container shipping research firm Alphaliner named HMM (Hyundai Merchant Marine), Yang Ming and Evergreen as the big winners of a port fee-inclusive shipping environment ahead of the second day of Congressional hearings on the proposal Wednesday.

Evergreen made 53 calls at U.S. ports in February, but none of the ships from the Taiwan-based ocean carrier were built in mainland China. HMM made 15 port calls during the month, only using South Korea-built vessels.

Taiwan's other major carrier, Yang Ming, had just one port call with a Chinese-built ship, across the 23 stops it made in the U.S. that month.

As per the proposed fees, any vessel operator stopping at a U.S. port with a Chinese-built ship would have to pay up to $1.5 million per port call, depending on the percentage of Chinese-built vessels they have in their fleet.

Of the three carriers, only Yang Ming would have to pay the $1.5 million fee for its one stop it made at The Port of Tacoma with the 12,726-container capacity YM Truth vessels.

Two of the three carriers also have a major edge compared to their counterparts due to their current orderbook.

With the U.S. Trade Representative's (USTR) proposal, carriers would be charged up to $1 million per port call if more than 50 percent of their newbuilding orders are with Chinese shipyards. Lesser fines would be imposed depending on the percentage of incoming ships out of China.

According to data from freight benchmarking platform Xeneta, both Yang Ming and HMM have no orders coming out of China.

For Evergreen, the story gets slightly more complicated as 17 percent of its orderbook originates in China. That would subject the company to up to $500,000 per vessel entrance to a U.S. port, under the proposed actions.

But Evergreen's orderbook percentage remains far below the other major carriers who already making calls to U.S. ports with Chinese-built ships.

Alphaliner said the carriers with the most U.S. calls using Chinese-built vessels were Maersk (38 vessels out of a total of 214), ZIM (37 ships out of 73), CMA CGM (36 of 139), MSC (34 of 218) and China's Cosco Shipping (25 of 72).

"It is obvious that these carriers would like to replace those ships in US liner services if the fee proposal were implemented. This would create a problem for ZIM, as the 37 calls with vessels made in China represent just over half its total calls," said Alphaliner in its weekly newsletter.

ZIM would get a major reprieve in the long run since it currently has no Chinese vessels in its orderbook, according to Xeneta.

To assess the potential effect of this fee structure, Alphaliner analyzed the calls of all container ships carrying more than 1,000 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs) operated by the top 10 carriers at the 20 biggest U.S. ports in February.

Alphaliner counted 1,002 port calls, 190 of which were made by Chinese-built ships (19 percent). These calls were realized by 488 different vessels.

While the proposed fee structure would be imposed due to the USTR's finding of China's "unreasonable" dominance as a maritime, logistics and shipbuilding nation, most of the container ships entering U.S. ports in February were built in South Korea (54.5 percent), according to Alphaliner.

China comes in second place (20.9 percent), with Japan following in third (12.3 percent).

Although the $1.5 million fee has been the most widely reported of the penalties levied after the nine-month USTR investigation, much of the controversy surrounding the punitive measures surrounds the fact that many of these levies would add up significantly and pass on costs to importers and exporters alike.

Container shipping giants that build their ships in China like Cosco Shipping and its subsidiary Orient Overseas Container Line (OOCL) would be paying up to $3.5 million per port call under the circumstances currently laid out. This would cost a pretty penny for many importers, as 17 percent of U.S. inbound container cargo from the Far East comes on Chinese carriers, according to container shipping analysis firm Linerlytica.

After Wednesday's Congressional hearing, the USTR will review the testimonies and written submissions laid out by shipping firms, retailers, manufacturers, farmers and other importers and exporters "to determine the appropriateness and feasibility of the proposed actions."

Despite the calamity over the fees themselves, U.S. sentiment toward the actions against China are largely supported by citizens and lawmakers across parties—especially the latter, which have introducing bipartisan legislation to revitalize American shipbuilding.

Seventy-two percent of Americans agree that the U.S. cannot remain dependent on foreign manufacturers to build ships, according to a survey from the Alliance for American Manufacturing. The 2,200-respondent survey indicated that 68 percent agree that the nation's ability to build ships for both commercial and military needs is a matter of national security.

Source: sourcingjournal.com– Mar 26, 2025

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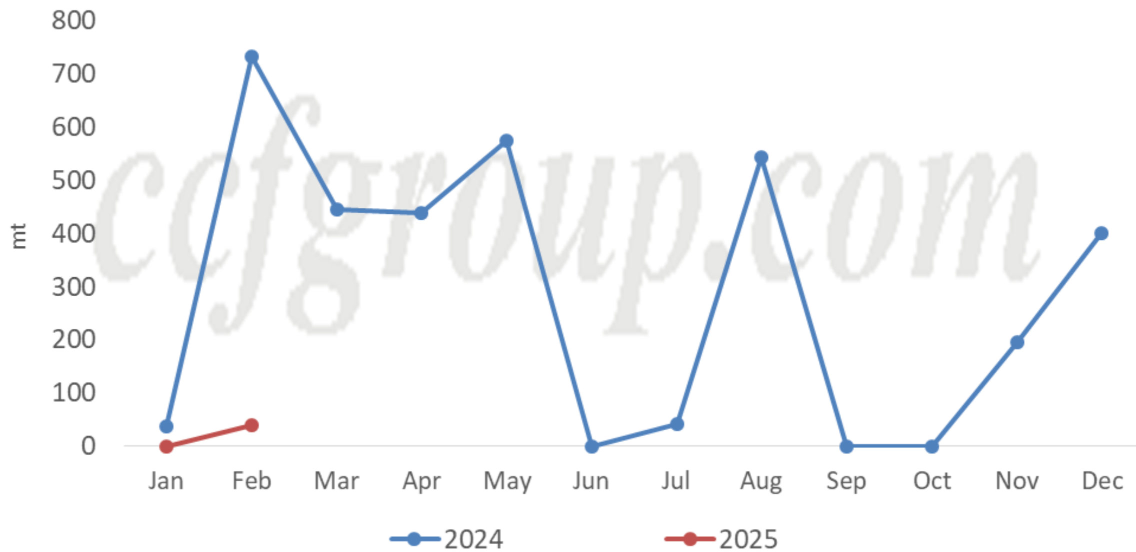
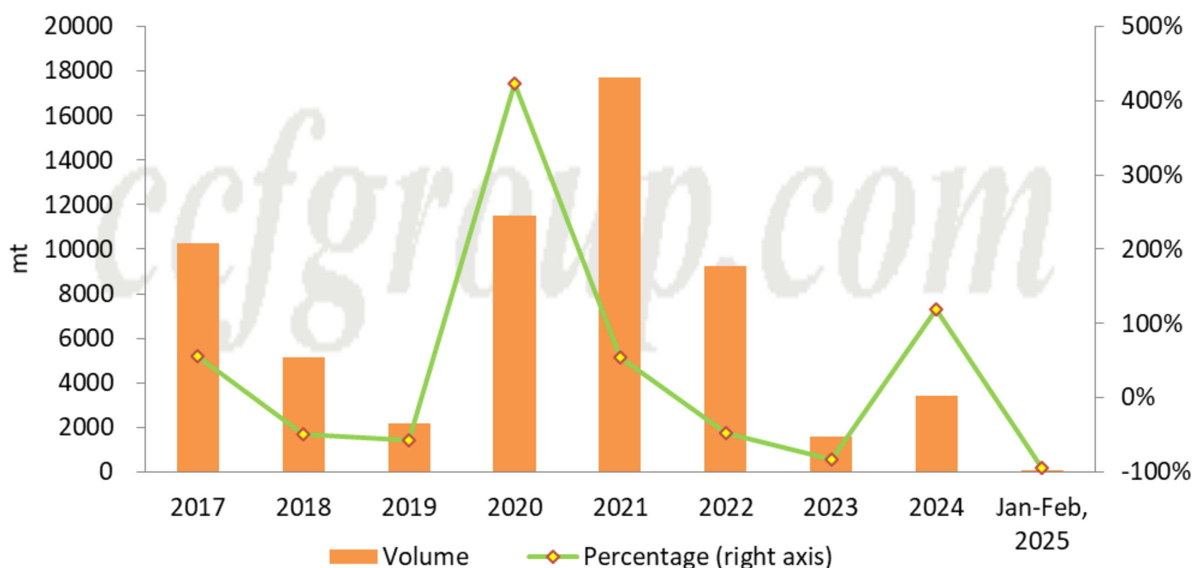
China: The import of U.S. cotton linter plummets with twists and turns in the Sino-US relations

Due to various factors, cotton linter import of China surged significantly in the first two months of this year, with a year-on-year increase of nearly 60%. However, imports from the U.S. saw a drastic decrease, plunging nearly 95% year-on-year, which was quite shocking.



Since President Donald Trump took the oath of office for a second time in Jan this year, the U.S. has continued wielding the big "tariff stick" against major trading partners, threatening high tariffs at the slightest disagreement.

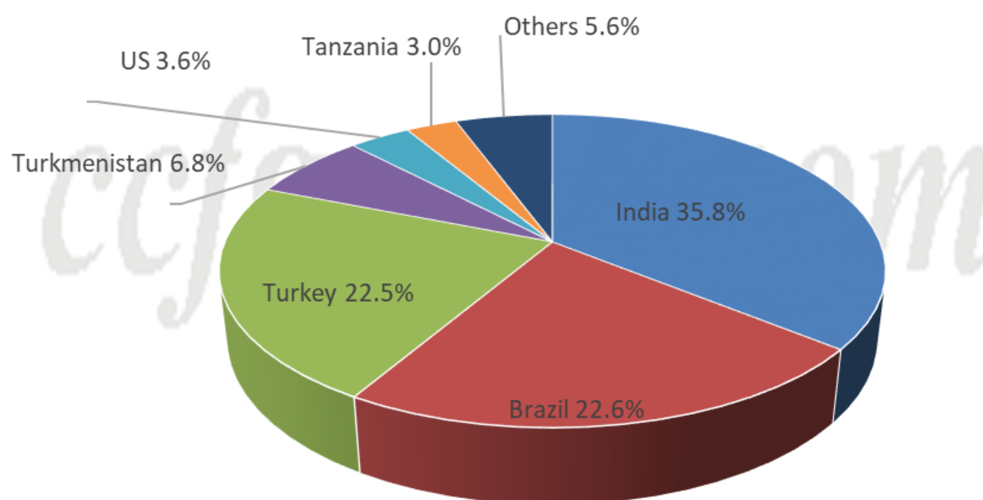


From the perspective of monthly data, imports of U.S. cotton linter faced a "cliff-like" decline this year. According to customs data, the import volume of U.S. cotton linter was zero in Jan, and 40.2 tons in Feb, a year-on-year drop of 94.5%.

According to cumulative data, the cotton linter import volume from the U.S. plummeted by about 50-60% during 2018-2019 due to the Sino-U.S. trade war and mutual tariffs.

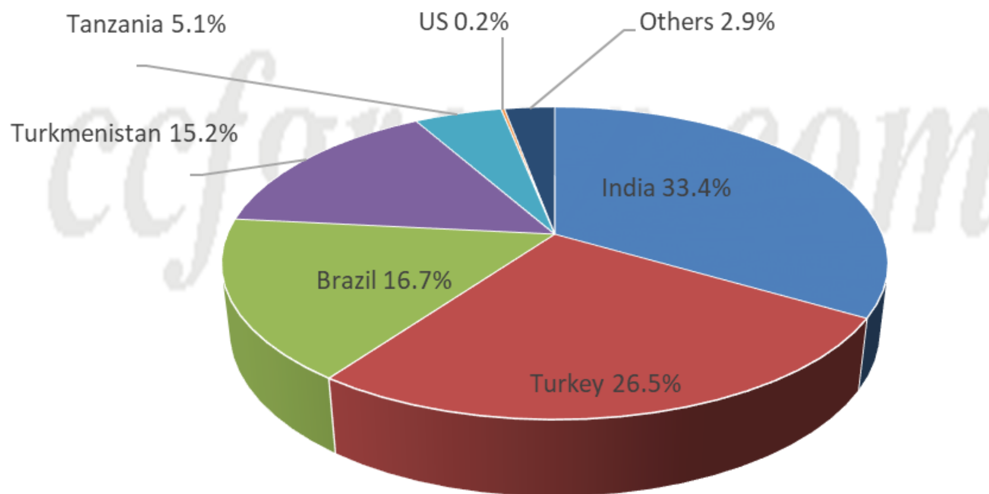
After that, as the situation eased, import volumes surged dramatically, reaching a recent high of about 17,687 tons in 2021.

However, in recent years, due to the fluctuating Sino-U.S. relations and the tariff war, the import volume of U.S. cotton linter has once again experienced significant volatility. In the first two months of 2025, only 40.23 tons were imported, a year-on-year decline of 94.8%, marking a low level.



In recent years, due to the significant volatility in the U.S. cotton linter import market, its import share has experienced considerable fluctuations. During the impact of the Sino-U.S. trade war in 2018-2019, the import share of U.S. cotton linter fell from 10.1% in 2017 to 2.5% in 2019, rebounding rapidly afterwards. This year, influenced by trade frictions and changes in demand, the import volume has rapidly shrunk again, with a significant drop in its share, and the import volume in Jan-Feb was just over 40 tons, reducing its share to about 0.2%.

However, it is worth noting that this year, while the import volume of U.S. cotton linter has contracted, imports from Turkey and Brazil have skyrocketed. In Jan-Feb, Turkey's import volume reached 5,347.3 tons, a year-on-year increase of 1,682.6%, taking up about 26.5% of the total.



In summary, the U.S. cotton linter is one of the major sources of imports for China, with a normal annual share generally fluctuating around 10% and peaking at about 35kt, accounting for nearly 24%. However, due to the twists and turns in Sino-U.S. relations, the import volume and share have greatly fluctuated.

In the first two months of this year, the total import volume from around the world has reached 20,169 tons, a year-on-year increase of over 57%, with only about 40 tons coming from the U.S., down nearly 95%.

As one of the most important bilateral relations in the world, Sino-U.S. relations involve nearly a quarter of the world's population and more than a third of the global economy.

Whether the two countries cooperate or confront each other is crucial to global economic development and the future of humanity. Trump has used tariffs as a negotiating weapon, sparking waves of tariff storms in 2025, and this war without smoke seems far from over.

Source: ccfgroup.com– Mar 27, 2025

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Clothing, footwear, textile consumption in EU hits record high: EEA

Europeans are buying and discarding more clothing, footwear and other textiles than ever before, which is putting more pressure on climate and environment, according to a recent European Environment Agency (EEA) briefing.

The updated consumption data highlights the need for policymakers, industry and consumers to play their role in helping Europe shift away from the fast-fashion trend, to produce better, longer lasting quality textiles that are designed to last long, and can be reused, repaired and recycled.

The average European Union (EU) citizen bought 19 kg of clothing, footwear and household textiles in 2022—up from 17 kg in 2019, which is enough to fill a large suitcase per person each year, the briefing, titled, 'Circularity of the EU textiles value chain in numbers', noted.

The impact of the EU's current production and consumption of textiles system continues to cause high pressures on environment and climate, including through material use, water and land use, greenhouse gas emissions, chemical and microplastics.

While the EU textiles strategy is aimed at reducing these impacts and making textiles more circular and sustainable by design, for its success, a systemic shift in the textiles system is needed, moving to the production of more circular goods and higher quality goods that have longer use value, and can be more easily reused, repaired or recycled, the briefing observed.

The combination of increased online shopping, social media influencers and cheap production costs for synthetic textiles has been instrumental in the growth of fast fashion.

This has allowed retailers to offer consumers new styles at low prices. The EEA briefing notes that digital technologies like 3D printing can reduce waste in production and can be used to reduce the environmental and climate pressures from textiles by improving efficiency.

However, they also risk increasing consumption by enabling cheaper production costs and lower prices.

The environmental and climate pressures from EU textiles production and consumption remain high. Out of 12 categories of European household consumption—such as food, mobility, housing, health and education—textile consumption ranked, on an average, the fifth largest in terms of environmental and climate pressures.

The EEA measured these impacts across the metrics of raw material use, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and water and land use.

The average collection of textile waste in the EU has been slowly increasing, rising by 4.3 percentage points since 2016, but overall, the collection of this waste has been low.

The implementation of EU legislation on separate textile waste collection, starting in 2025, is expected to significantly increase the capture rates for textiles from households, the briefing notes.

While exports of used textiles from the EU are intended for reuse or recycling, studies show that EU textile exports enter a very complex pattern of trade, sorting, reuse, recycling and landfilling, and some is being burned or dumped in nature across mainly African and Asian countries, it added.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Mar 28, 2025

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Global department store sales dip 1.6% as post-COVID growth levels off

The global economy, including the retail sector, grappled with considerable market uncertainty, sluggish economic growth, and an unfavourable interest rate environment across regions in 2024, according to the International Association of Department Stores (IADS), headquartered in Paris. The surge experienced in the post-COVID years of 2021 and 2022 has since levelled off, with growth in the retail sector stabilising and department stores largely reflecting this trend, though with some regional variations.

The average global year-over-year (YoY) sales growth in fiscal 2023–2024 showed a slight decline of around –1.6 per cent, following two years of strong growth, as per the 2025 edition of Global Department Store Monitor released by IADS.

The share of department store sales in their parent companies' total retail sales is also stabilising and nearing pre-pandemic levels. This shift is partly attributed to a broader decline in global retail sales by parent companies after their 2021–2022 peak, driven by factors such as reduced consumer purchasing power, a slowdown in the luxury sector, heightened focus on environmental responsibility, and region-specific challenges.

Region-wise, the ripples of US-American economic actions will be felt worldwide, with the EU, China and Canada, among other countries, discussing retaliatory tariffs. The potential US TikTok ban pending its sale to a US owner adds to the uncertainty, given that it is an essential social media channel that drives trends and influences consumer behaviour in the fashion industry, IADS said in a press release.

Emerging Asian markets like Vietnam and India will significantly impact the global retail landscape. Galeries Lafayette's first Indian department store, in partnership with Aditya Birla Group, will open in Mumbai this year and a second one in Delhi in 2026.

In the EU, revised sustainability directives mandate comprehensive environmental reporting and due diligence from retailers by 2028. The global economic forecast for 2025 is uncertain and will digress sharply from 2024 results.

Looking ahead, IADS predicts that the appointment of President Donald Trump in the US and impending tariffs will restructure global retail supply chains. Though inflation across other economies has decreased, the US market fears stagflation despite Trump's pro-domestic growth agenda.

The 2025 edition of the IADS Global Department Store Monitor reviews 59 department stores with publicly available information to create a benchmark for industry stakeholders regarding the 2023-2024 period.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Mar 28, 2025

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US textile industry faces challenges, sets 2024-25 goals: NCTO

The National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO) Chairman Charles Heilig delivered the State of the Industry address at the association's 21st Annual Meeting on March 27 in Washington, D C.

Heilig, who is also the president of Parkdale Mills, a leading US yarn and cotton product manufacturer, highlighted the industry's key challenges and achievements over the past year. He presented economic and trade data related to the US textile supply chain and outlined NCTO's policy priorities for 2024 and 2025.

NCTO has been advocating for strong domestic manufacturing policies, fair trade practices, and supply chain resilience. Heilig emphasized the industry's efforts to navigate global trade shifts, rising costs, and competition while continuing to invest in innovation and sustainability.

His remarks, as prepared for delivery, along with an industry data infographic, have been made available by NCTO. The meeting, held at the Mayflower Hotel from March 24-27, brought together key textile industry stakeholders to discuss policies shaping the future of US textile manufacturing.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Mar 27, 2025

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Global luxury sector ends 2024 on strong note despite mixed results

A total of nine luxury companies announced their financial performance for the period ended December 2024. In addition to a solitary nine-month performance from American company Ralph Lauren, four European luxury companies reported growth in their annual sales and profits for 2024. With only one 'Moderate' and three 'Weak' performances reported, the net result reflected a 'Strong' luxury performance for 2024.

Strong: Growth In Both Sales & Profits

Brunello Cucinelli S.p.A. (BIT: BC)

The board of directors of the Italian company Brunello Cucinelli S.p.A. reviewed the preliminary topline figures for the full year FY24, spanning January to December, on January 13, 2025.

The Solomeo-headquartered and Italian Stock Exchange-listed luxury goods company achieved revenues of €1,278.4 million (~$1,318 million), growing by 12.2 per cent at current exchange rates and 12.4 per cent at constant exchange rates compared to FY23. Its American, European and Asian markets grew by 17.8 per cent, 6.6 per cent and 12.6 per cent respectively, while the retail channel increased by 14 per cent and the wholesale channel by 8.8 per cent. Fourth-quarter turnover was €358 million (~$369 million)—the highest ever in absolute terms, registering an 11.6 per cent year-on-year increase.

With the aim of further strengthening the exclusivity of the brand and securing production facilities to support the long-term growth plan, the company's investment in 2024 amounted to approximately €108 million, accounting for 8.5 per cent of turnover.

The company forecast healthy revenue growth of around 10 per cent, and healthy and balanced profits for the years 2025 and 2026.

The above figures were subsequently approved by the board of directors on March 13, 2025.

Ralph Lauren (NYSE: RL)

Ralph Lauren Corporation, a global leader in the design, marketing, and distribution of luxury lifestyle products, reported earnings per diluted share of $4.66, up 11 per cent from the prior year ($4.19) on a reported basis, and $4.82, up 16 per cent (vs $4.17) on an adjusted basis, excluding restructuring-related and other net charges, for the third quarter of FY25. Revenue for the reported quarter increased by 11 per cent to $2.1 billion on both a reported basis and at constant currency.

On a consolidated nine-month basis, revenues grew by 6.2 per cent; operating income increased from $648.6 million to $777.1 million in 2023.

In its outlook, the company expects constant currency revenues to grow by approximately 6 to 7 per cent in the fourth quarter, and the same for the full fiscal 2025. Based on current exchange rates, foreign currency is expected to negatively impact revenues by approximately 100 to 150 basis points in FY25. The company now expects its operating margin for the full year to expand by approximately 120 to 160 basis points in constant currency, up slightly from its prior outlook, driven by gross margin expansion of approximately 130 to 170 basis points.

Moncler S.p.A. (BIT: MONC)

The board of directors of Moncler S.p.A. reviewed and approved the draft financial statements of the company and the consolidated financial statements for FY24. Group consolidated revenues of €3,108.9 million (~$3,398 million) increased by 7 per cent at constant exchange rates and 4 per cent at current exchange rates compared with €2,984.2 million in 2023. This included an 8 per cent rise in Moncler revenues to €2,707.3 million and a 1 per cent drop in Stone Island revenues to €401.6 million, both at constant exchange rates.

Group EBIT stood at €916.3 million (~$1,001.53 million) (29.5 per cent of sales), compared with €893.8 million (30 per cent of sales) in the previous fiscal, showing resilience despite a more challenging trading environment. Group net income was €639.6 million (~$699.09 million), reflecting a 5 per cent increase over €611.9 million in 2023, with a margin of 20.6 per cent versus 20.5 per cent in 2023.

The Milan-based luxury group will continue to reinforce its three complementary brand dimensions—Moncler Grenoble, Moncler Collection and Moncler Genius—through distinctive events and tailored

marketing strategies focused on unlocking their respective potential across all regions in 2025.

No updates on first quarter or full-year 2025 guidance were announced.

Hermès International (EPA: RMS)

French luxury group Hermès International delivered a strong performance for FY24 ended December 2024. The mid-February announcement reported fourth-quarter sales of €4 billion (~$4.36 billion), reflecting an increase of 18 per cent at both constant and current exchange rates. The Group's consolidated revenue for FY24 amounted to €15.2 billion (~$16.57 billion), an increase of 15 per cent at constant exchange rates and 13 per cent at current exchange rates compared to 2023.

All geographical markets delivered solid growth: Asia excluding Japan grew by 7 per cent, Japan by 23 per cent, Europe excluding France by 19 per cent, France by 13 per cent and the Americas by 15 per cent. By sector, Leather Goods & Saddlery grew by 18 per cent, Ready-to-wear and Accessories by 15 per cent, and Silk and Textiles by 4 per cent, among others.

Stamping a positive profitability, recurring operating income reached €6.2 billion (~$6.76 billion), translating into a margin of 40.5 per cent of sales, and net profit (Group share) reached €4.6 billion (~$5.02 billion), representing 30.3 per cent of sales. At the end of December 2024, currency fluctuations had a negative impact of €235 million on revenue.

At the Group's General Meeting scheduled for April 30, 2025, a dividend of €16.00 per share will be proposed.

No financial figures relating to the 2025 outlook were announced.

Prada S.p.A. (HKG: 1913)

Hong Kong Stock Exchange-listed Prada S.p.A. reported a strong consolidated financial performance for FY24 ended December 31, 2024, as reviewed and approved by the board of directors on March 4, 2025.

Net revenues of €5.4 billion (~$5.89 billion) were up by 17 per cent from 2023 in constant currency, including retail sales of €4.8 billion (~$5.23

billion), up by 18 per cent, driven by like-for-like, full-price volumes. Prada's retail sales increased by 4 per cent, while Miu Miu's growth was a whopping 93 per cent. While Asia-Pacific, Europe, Japan and the Middle East registered double-digit growth, the Americas, showing sequential improvement, posted double-digit growth in H2.

EBIT margin expanded to 23.6 per cent of sales, amounting to €1.3 billion (~$1.42 billion); Group net income of €839 million was up by 25 per cent year-on-year.

The board of directors will also propose to the shareholders' General Meeting, to be held on April 30, 2025, a dividend distribution of €0.164 per share.

Moderate: Growth In Either Sales Or Profits

Hugo Boss AG (ETR: BOSS)

German luxury group Hugo Boss reported a currency-adjusted sales increase of 3 per cent amounting to €4.3 billion (~$4.7 billion) in 2024, fuelled by strong fourth-quarter growth of 6 per cent over the same quarter last year. Both quarterly and full-year sales growth in the Americas (13 per cent and 8 per cent respectively), and EMEA (6 per cent and 3 per cent respectively), contributed to the growth momentum. However, subdued demand in China led to a 2 per cent decline in sales in the Asia-Pacific region, both in the quarter and on a full-year comparison.

Although gross margin improved by 90 basis points in the reported quarter and by 30 basis points for 2024, driven by substantial efficiency gains in sourcing, total EBIT of €361 million (~$345.15 million) (8.4 per cent margin) was down from €410 million (9.8 per cent margin) in 2023. The decline was attributed to retail impairments. The Group proposed a dividend of €1.40 per share for 2024, reflecting confidence in its ongoing robust cash flow generation.

The Group outlook for 2025 includes a sales projection in line with the prior year, ranging between €4.2 billion and €4.4 billion, i.e. growth of (-)2 per cent to 2 per cent; EBIT is expected to increase between 5 to 22 per cent to €380 million to €440 million; and EBIT margin is expected to grow between 9 to 10 per cent, supported by further efficiency gains.

Weak: No Growth In Sales & Profits

LVMH (EPA: MC)

LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the world's leading luxury goods group, reported full-year revenues of €84.7 billion (~$88.29 billion), growing 1 per cent organically but down 2 per cent on a reported basis. Compared to the third quarter, the fourth quarter also grew by 1 per cent, as per the company's late January announcement.

Profit from recurring operations, amounting to €19.6 billion (~$20.43 billion) and representing an operating margin of 23.1 per cent, was down by 14 per cent compared to the previous year. Exchange rate fluctuations had a negative impact, particularly on Fashion & Leather Goods and Wines & Spirits, the company reported. Net profit attributable to the Group amounted to €12.6 billion, down by 17 per cent. However, free cash flow of €10.5 billion was up by 29 per cent.

Salvatore Ferragamo S.p.A. (EXM: SFER)

Salvatore Ferragamo Group's fourth-quarter and full-year 2024 preliminary consolidated revenue figures were released on January 30, 2025. Full-year revenues stood at €1,035 million (~$1,069.38 million), declining by 8.2 per cent and 10.5 per cent compared to FY23, at constant and current exchange rates respectively. For the quarter, consolidated revenues of €291 million (~$301 million) registered declines of 4 per cent (constant currency) and 6.7 per cent (current rates) on a quarter-to-quarter comparison with 2023.

During the year, the wholesale channel was down 21.3 per cent due to rationalisation, and the DTC channel was down 3.8 per cent despite positive results in Europe, the US, Japan and Latin America, which were offset by negative performance in the Asia-Pacific region. Sales in EMEA decreased by 7.8 per cent, North America by 2.6 per cent, and Asia-Pacific by 18.9 per cent, while sales growth in Japan and Central & South America remained positive.

Salvatore Ferragamo S.p.A. is the parent company of the Salvatore Ferragamo Group, a renowned name in the luxury industry whose origins date back to 1927. The brand is known for the creation, production, and global distribution of luxury collections of shoes, leather goods, apparel, silk products and other accessories for men and women, in addition to eyewear, watches and fragrances under licence.

KERING S.A. (EPA: KER)

Kering's annual revenue amounted to €17.2 billion (~$18.80 billion) in 2024, down 12 per cent both as reported and on a comparable basis. Fourth-quarter revenues were also down by the same percentage. Annual sales from the directly operated retail network, including e-commerce, fell by 13 per cent on a comparable basis, affected by lower store traffic in adverse market conditions. Wholesale revenue of the Houses (Group brands) was down 22 per cent, and at Group level, wholesale and other revenue was down 9 per cent, both on a comparable basis.

Kering, a global luxury group, manages the development of a series of renowned brands in fashion, leather goods and jewellery: Gucci, Saint Laurent, Bottega Veneta, Balenciaga, Alexander McQueen, Brioni, Boucheron, Pomellato, DoDo, Qeelin and Ginori 1735, as well as Kering Eyewear and Kering Beauté.

Compared to 2023, recurring operating income of €2.6 billion (~$2.84 billion) in 2024 was down 46 per cent, reflecting a recurring operating margin of 14.9 per cent in 2024 versus 24.3 per cent in 2023. Net income attributable to the Group amounted to €1.1 billion (~$1.20 billion), and recurring net income attributable to the Group stood at €1.3 billion.

As of 2024, Kering has 47,000 employees.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Mar 28, 2025

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Turkiye's apparel exports drop 6% to 2.67 bn in Jan-Feb 2025

Turkiye's apparel exports declined by 6.00 per cent year-on-year (YoY) during January-February 2025, totalling $2.679 billion compared to $2.850 billion in the same month of 2024, according to data from the Turkish Statistical Institute and the Ministry of Trade. The exports also slipped by 9.30 per cent in February 2025.

Exports of knitted and crocheted clothing and accessories (HS Chapter 61) decreased by 3.0 per cent to $1,498.099 million, down from $1,543.870 million in January-February 2024. Non-knitted apparel and accessories (HS Chapter 62) experienced a 9.6 per cent decline, falling to $1,181.423 million from $1,307.067 million during the same months of last year, as per the trade report on the top twenty chapters.

During February 2025, Turkiye's garment exports dipped by 9.30 per cent to $1,325.260 million. Exports of knitted and crocheted clothing and accessories decreased by 6.6 per cent to $727.088 million, compared to $778.437 million in February 2024. Non-knitted apparel and accessories saw a fall of 12.4 per cent, declining from $682.610 million in February 2024 to $598.172 million in February 2025.

Among the top 20 product chapters imported by Turkiye, no textiles-related chapter appeared in February 2025.

During 2024, Turkiye's apparel exports declined by 4.47 per cent to $17.494 billion, compared to $18.314 billion in 2023. Shipments of knitted and crocheted clothing and accessories (HS Chapter 61) dropped by 1.6 per cent to $10,109.110 million, down from $10,277.566 million in 2023. Non-knitted apparel and accessories (HS Chapter 62) experienced an 8.1 per cent decline, falling to $7,385.592 million from $8,037.378 million in 2023.

In 2023, Turkiye’s apparel exports fell by 5.86 per cent to $18.321 billion, compared to $19.463 billion in 2022, following $18.294 billion in 2021.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Mar 28, 2025

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Việt Nam's premier textile & garment industry expo to return to HCM City next month

This premier trade event will showcase the entire textile and garment industry, bringing together manufacturers, suppliers, and buyers from Việt Nam and across the globe.

Spanning approximately 34,000 square metres, SaigonTex - SaigonFabric 2025 will feature around 1,100 exhibitors, a 6 per cent increase from the event 2024.

The exhibitors come from around 25 countries and territories, including Bangladesh, Belgium, Cambodia, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Malaysia, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan (China), Thailand, Turkey, the Netherlands, the US, UK, and Việt Nam.

Notable participants in the textile and garment industry include A Nguyen, Asia Pacific Rayon (Indonesia), Baolun Computer, Brother, Canlar Mekatronik (Turkey), Celikhan Yikama (Turkey), China Texmatech, Phenitex (Thailand), Phon Thinh Tae Gwang, Phuc Hung, Thien Hong Phuc, Timtex, and Timing, among others.

In the fabric and garment accessories sector, famous brands such as Baihe, Brotex, Dalat Worsted Spinning, Daluen, DH Textile, Eastman, Jay Chemical (India), Junzu, Grand Textile, Hong Viet, Hwajong label, Hyosung, KCC, Morito, Moririn, Marushin, Nhat Quang label, Nice Trims, and Thinh Gia Huy will join in the show.

Key highlights of the event:

*The second Product Presentation Programme (PPP), which will showcase eight main themes through static product displays, live technology demonstrations, and a dynamic fashion parade featuring professional dancers donned in the latest styles made from exhibitors' materials.

*Official pavilions will feature dedicated spaces from Jiangsu Province and Nantong City in China, the Taiwan Textile Federation, and other official representations from Korea and India.

*Business matching section organised by the Vietnam Textile and Garment Association (VITAS) will foster crucial connections between exhibitors and potential buyers while providing visitors the opportunity to engage with leading international brands and explore the latest innovations and technologies in textile and garment production.

The exhibition is endorsed and co-organised by the Vietnam Textile and Garment Association (VITAS), the Vietnam National Textile & Garment Group (VINATEX), the HCM City Textile and Garment – Embroidery Knitting Association (AGTEK), the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), CP Exhibition Ltd (Hong Kong), and CP Vietnam Exhibition Organising Co., Ltd. It is sponsored by Cotton Council International (CCI).

SaigonTex - SaigonFabric has solidified its position as Việt Nam's leading textile and garment exhibition over its 35-year history.

Held two times annually in HCM City and Hà Nội, the exhibition features a comprehensive display of textile machinery, garment machinery, dyes, chemicals, fabrics, and garment accessories. With the backing of Việt Nam's key industry associations – VITAS, VINATEX, and AGTEK, SaigonTex - SaigonFabric is the ultimate must-attend event for professionals looking to stay ahead in the textile and garment sectors.

Source: vietnamnews.vn– Mar 28, 2025

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Pakistan: ‘Less cotton production affects textile sector’

The Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President of the Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, President of All Karachi Industrial Alliance, Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board, Mian Zahid Hussain said that the continuous decline in cotton production and the constant increase in business costs have affected the largest industrial sector.

He said that it has become difficult to continue business at the current electricity, gas, and tax rates. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the spinning units are closing down while Pakistan faces difficulties in the international market.

He said that apart from refunds and high interest rates, the textile sector is also facing problems like unilateral decisions and policy ambiguity, which is continuously decreasing investment in this sector.

He said that the weaving industry is currently more dependent on imported yarn, and misuse of the Export Facilitation Scheme is also on the rise.

He noted that the textile industry is far from value addition, while research and development are non-existent. Textile exports depend more on the European Union and American markets. Still, we are far behind in introducing new and improved products.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that due to the IMF targets, the FBR’s attitude is becoming harsher. As a result, the burden of various types of taxes on the export industry is increasing, and workers are being forced to work under severe pressure, which is creating problems.

The ongoing terrorism in the country is also hurting the overall situation, which has reduced the possibility of any improvement.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the fear of declining textile exports in the current financial year is growing, affecting the export targets. Due to the lack of a clear textile policy, this vital industry is losing its direction.

He said that if the focus is given to value addition, a significant increase in Pakistan's exports in the short term is possible, which can also increase employment. At present, most of the units are operating below their production capacity, which is mainly due to distrust and a lack of cooperation between the industry and the government.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the government has tried to reduce the problems faced by the industry to some extent by reducing the interest rate to 12 percent. However, the interest rate in Pakistan is still much higher than in other countries in the region.

Therefore, he said, the industry's capital shortage will not be eliminated unless the interest rate is reduced from ten percent to single digits.

Mian Zahid Hussain said the textile industry urgently needs to resolve its refund issues, ensure its supply of electricity and gas at competitive rates, and increase cotton production.

Without these basic steps, increasing Pakistan's exports in the global market is impossible. He warned that our industry will continue to decline unless the issues are resolved in consultation with industry representatives.

Source: brecorder.com– Mar 28, 2025

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NATIONAL NEWS

India-US trade agreement talks progressing well; will be for good of both nations: Piyush Goyal

The ongoing talks between India and the US for the proposed trade agreement between India and the US are progressing "well" and will be for the "good" of both nations while protecting India's interests, Commerce and industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday. Goyal also said that he is in regular and constant dialogue with the industry from different sectors including agriculture, engineering, electronics, textiles, and various interest groups.

All are "very" excited about a potential bilateral trade agreement with the US, he said, adding, "The discussions are ongoing. They are progressing well and will be for the good of both the United States and India".

He was speaking at the Times Now Summit here.

When asked whether Indian industry should tighten its seat belt and whether there will be any turbulence on April 2, the commerce minister said the India growth story will be intact and the country will continue to power the global economy.

"India, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will continue to steer its economy with our motto of India first. And we are very, very committed and confident that we will take India in the Amrit Kaal to become a global superpower.

"Turbulence may come on the flight, but the pilot and the commander has complete control of the situation, and the flight will not only land safely, but will have many, many more journeys of successful growth of successful flights and we will reach our destination of Viksit Bharat 2047," he added.

These remarks assume significance as US President Donald Trump has announced imposing reciprocal tariffs in April on America's key trading partners including India. He has on multiple forums stated that India imposes high tariffs on US goods. The US has already imposed duties on China.

Besides, higher import duties of 25 per cent are imposed on steel and aluminium from March 12. On March 26, Trump announced a sweeping 25 per cent tariff on completely built vehicles (CBUs) and auto parts, a move set to take effect on April 3.

Tariffs are import duties imposed and collected by the government and paid by the companies to bring foreign goods into a country.

A team of US officials, headed by Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Brendan Lynch, is here for negotiations on the proposed bilateral trade agreement. The three-day talks will end on Friday.

India and the US are aiming to conclude the first phase or tranche of the agreement by the fall of 2025 (September-October). They have also set a target to more than double the bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030 from the current over USD 190 billion.

While the US has demanded greater market access in sectors like certain industrial goods, automobiles, wines, petrochemical products and some agriculture items, India may look at duty cuts for labour intensive sectors like textiles.

In 2024, India's main exports to the US included drug formulations, biological (USD 8.1 billion), telecom instruments (USD 6.5 billion), precious and semi-precious stones (USD 5.3 billion), petroleum products (USD 4.1 billion), gold and other precious metal jewellery (USD 3.2 billion), ready-made garments of cotton including accessories (USD 2.8 billion), and products of iron and steel (USD 2.7 billion).

Imports included crude oil (USD 4.5 billion), petroleum products (USD 3.6 billion), coal, coke (USD 3.4 billion), cut and polished diamonds (USD 2.6 billion), electric machinery (USD 1.4 billion), aircraft, space crafts and parts (USD 1.3 billion), and gold (USD 1.3 billion).

Indian industry and exporters are seeking exemption from the reciprocal tariffs stating that the duties would hurt them severely. According to them, the uncertainty over the tariffs would hurt businesses.

Amid pressure from the US, India in February reduced import duties on bourbon whiskey from 150 per cent to 100 per cent and lowered tariffs on certain varieties of wines. The duty on wines made from fresh grapes,

vermouth, certain other fermented beverages, and unadulterated ethyl alcohol with 80 per cent strength has been reduced to 100 per cent.

The customs duty reduction announced in the Budget on products such as motorcycles and synthetic flavouring essences would also benefit American exports. India has also recently announced the scrapping of the equalisation levy on tech giants like Google.

The US is pushing India to negotiate a large and grand bilateral trade agreement while seeking to open the agriculture sector for American businesses.

The US agri exports to India was USD 1.6 billion in 2024. Key exports include almonds (in shell - USD 868 million); pistachios (USD 121 million), apples (USD 21 million), ethanol (ethyl alcohol - USD 266 million).

Source: economictimes.indiatimes.com– Mar 27, 2025

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Government extended the date for submission of data for the review of Rebate of States and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) Rate upto 15.04.2025

The RoSCTL Committee, Department of Revenue has extended the last date for the submission of data for review of Rebate of States and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) on Export of Garments and Made-Ups rate from 31.03.2025 to 15.04.2025.

RoSCTL Committee, chaired by Shri G.K. Pillai, Secretary (retd.), Government of India has been constituted for updating the recommended ceiling rates schedules under Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (i.e., RoSCTL) Scheme.

The Committee is entrusted with the responsibility to interact with the administrative Ministries, Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards, Trade Bodies and other stakeholders so as to elicit relevant data, to work out the modalities for calculation of duties/ taxes/ levies at the Central, State and Local level, borne on the exported product covered under the RoSCTL Scheme and collectively review the set of previously recommended ceiling rates schedules covering exports of goods under the RoSCTL Scheme.

The committee is scheduled to submit its report in May 2025. The Committee requested Export Promotion Councils (EPCs)/Trade & Industry Associations for submitting the data in prescribed format by 31.03.2025.

On the request of EPCs and Exporters, the timeline for submission of data has been extended upto 15th April, 2025. Extension of the date for the submission of data for review of rate under scheme will provide a chance to exporter/industry members for submitting the data.

Industry representatives, Exporters and EPCs may submit the relevant data before the Committee.

Source: pib.gov.in– Mar 27, 2025

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India's Industrial and Logistics sector set for strong growth in 2025 driven by e-commerce demand: CBRE

India's industrial and logistics (I&L) sector is expected to witness strong growth in 2025, driven by increasing demand for warehousing, particularly from e-commerce companies, according to a report by CBRE.

The report highlighted that the sector's positive momentum, which picked up in the latter half of 2024, will likely continue in the coming year. It said, "This activity is expected to be driven by the influx of investment-grade supply, the finalisation of pending transactions, and the growth in warehousing demand by e-commerce players".

The report attributed this growth to multiple factors, including the availability of high-quality supply, the completion of pending transactions, and rising demand from e-commerce players. The third-party logistics (3PL) sector is expected to remain the largest occupier group, alongside continued leasing demand from the engineering & manufacturing (E&M), e-commerce, and fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sectors.

The report also noted that the institutional investors are expected to play a crucial role in this expansion, with many backing developers to construct modern, sustainable warehouses.

These developments will help meet the increasing need for advanced warehousing solutions. Major cities such as Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai are already seeing significant warehouse construction activity, ensuring a strong supply pipeline in 2025.

However, the report also pointed out that some challenges could impact project completion timelines. Factors such as rising land acquisition costs, extended acquisition processes, complicated land ownership structures, and ongoing legal proceedings may delay developments. To counter these hurdles, developers are likely to explore new locations, particularly in peripheral areas and along key infrastructure corridors.

Investment in India's I&L sector has seen steady growth, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 20 per cent from 2019 to 2024. Foreign investors have been the main contributors, accounting for about 68 per cent of the total investment during this period.

In 2025, investor sentiment is expected to remain positive, though there may be a more detailed approach to deal execution and due diligence.

With strong demand from e-commerce, growing investor confidence, and an increasing supply of modern warehouses, India's I&L sector is set to maintain its upward trajectory in 2025.

Source: pib.gov.in– Mar 27, 2025

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India's FY26 GDP growth projected at 6.5%: ICRA

India’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth for fiscal 2025-26 (FY26) is projected at 6.5 per cent supported by domestic drivers, even as risks linger around US tariffs, according to ICRA.

The domestic rating agency projects consumer price index (CPI)-based inflation to rise to 3.9-4 per cent in March this year, implying an average of 3.9 per cent in the fourth quarter (Q4) of FY25, versus the central bank’s projection of 4.4 per cent for that quarter.

The CPI inflation receded sharply to a seven-month low of 3.6 per cent in February 2025 from 4.3 per cent in January.

ICRA expects the wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation to remain steady at close to 2.4 per cent in March 2025 despite the expected fall in the WPI-food inflation and softening in crude oil prices.

Overall, ICRA forecasts the headline WPI to average at 2.3 per cent in FY25 and further at nearly 2.7 per cent in FY26.

The WPI inflation rose slightly to 2.4 per cent in February this year from 2.3 per cent in January, largely driven by manufactured non-food items and fuel and power.

ICRA expects rural demand to remain upbeat, aided by the farm cash flows on account of the rabi harvest starting from March 2025. Besides, higher-than-normal reservoir levels would provide some insurance against a delayed start or inadequate rainfall in the early part of the monsoon season.

The available data for Q4 FY25 shows that the trend across non-agri indicators is fairly mixed, with half of the 18 indicators witnessing improvement in January-February 2025 over the growth rates seen in Q3 FY25, and the other nine indicators recording a deceleration in this period.

The February 2025 CPI inflation print falling well below 4 per cent has cemented the expectation of a back-to-back 25 bps rate cut in the April 2025 monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting of the central bank, ICRA noted in a release.

This may be followed by another 25 bps repo rate cut either in June or August meetings this year, depending on the next GDP growth print for Q4 FY25, which will be available at end-May 2025.

ICRA also remains apprehensive that tight liquidity conditions may delay transmission of rate cuts to bank deposit and lending rates, with the same largely taking place in the latter part of Q1 FY26.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Mar 27, 2025

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Parliament Question: Ministry Of Textiles

- PARLIAMENT QUESTION: PROGRAMMES FOR TEXTILES WORKERS
- PARLIAMENT QUESTION: IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS UNDER SAMARTH
- PARLIAMENT QUESTION: INDIAN EXPORTERS IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS
- PARLIAMENT QUESTION: EXPORT OF SAMBALPURI SAREES
- PARLIAMENT QUESTION: ALLOCATIONS OF FUNDS TO R&D ACTIVITIES
- PARLIAMENT QUESTION: PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS FROM INDIA
- PARLIAMENT QUESTION: SCHEME FOR TRADITIONAL WEAVERS
- PARLIAMENT QUESTION: QUANTITY OF TEXTILE EXPORTS
- PARLIAMENT QUESTION: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER NHDP
- PARLIAMENT QUESTION: PEHCHAN CARDS TO HANDLOOM WORKERS
- PARLIAMENT QUESTION: MONITORING OF EXPORT PERFORMANCE OF TEXTILES
- PARLIAMENT QUESTION: PROMOTION OF TRADITIONAL HANDLOOM PRODUCTS
- PARLIAMENT QUESTION: POLICY TO REVIVE SILK INDUSTRY
- PARLIAMENT QUESTION: RICH TEXTILE HERITAGE
- PARLIAMENT QUESTION: TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR TEXTILE WORKERS
- PARLIAMENT QUESTION: RESTART NATIONAL TEXTILE CORPORATION MILLS

Source: pib.gov.in– Mar 26, 2025

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Indian industry seeks shield from US tariff, pushes for trade pact

Ahead of the implementation of reciprocal tariffs by the US on April 2, the Indian industry has urged the government to protect it from the impact of such levies, according to sources.

The industry is worried about the impact of the reciprocal tariffs and how they will adversely affect jobs. As a result, it wants a trade agreement with the US as soon as possible to mitigate the impact of these tariffs, sources said.

The US administration has said it will impose reciprocal tariffs from April 2 to match the tariff and non-tariff barriers on imports from America.

While US President Trump has repeatedly said that India, with its high tariff structure, will not be granted special treatment, he has softened his stance over the past few days. Without naming any country, he said that many countries would be given a break on April 2.

Currently, India and the US are holding intense discussions on the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA) to finalise the contours of the deal. Assistant US Trade Representative (USTR) for South and Central Asia, Brendan Lynch, along with a team of US government officials, is on a five-day visit to India starting March 25 for meetings with the Indian side. Trade talks on the BTA kicked off on Tuesday.

Source: business-standard.com– Mar 27, 2025

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Data localisation norms a key sticking point in India-US BTA talks

The ongoing talks related to the first phase of the India-US bilateral trade agreement (BTA) are seeing intense discussions on liberalisation of India's digital services, apart from reduction of tariff on goods, people aware of the matter said.

A team of US officials, headed by Assistant US Trade Representative (USTR) Brendan Lynch, is in the national capital and has been holding three-day intense discussions with commerce department representatives starting Wednesday. The idea is to finalise the contours of the proposed trade deal by month-end since both sides have set an ambitious deadline to close it by the fall of this year.

Among digital services, one of the contentious issues on the table is India's data localisation norms — cross-border flow of data — that have been a concern for American companies, one of the persons cited above told Business Standard.

Under the recently released draft rules of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, the government has proposed that data mandatorily be stored in India, as per the recommendations of a government-appointed committee. This proposal has been objected to by American companies as according to them, it could create business uncertainty.

The US Chamber of Commerce (USCC) has also shared its concerns with the USTR over strict local content requirements in India and has asked for "competitive neutrality" in key sectors.

America is also pushing for a permanent moratorium on e-commerce to restrict India from applying customs duties on electronic transmissions. While this issue of moratorium on e-commerce is one of the key agendas at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial, the US may seek commitment from India on this on a bilateral basis.

Under a WTO moratorium, countries do not impose customs duties on cross-border e-commerce transactions. For close to two decades now, WTO member nations have periodically agreed to extend the moratorium and also have been divided on the issue. Developing countries, such as

India, have been battling for policy space to impose customs duties on electronic transmissions, holding that the moratorium has adversely impacted their revenue collections.

In these talks, India's priority is to ensure swift movement of skilled professionals to the US. One of New Delhi's key asks has been to put a cap on the number of H1B visa holders from India, thereby reducing uncertainty for such a category of visa-holders.

That apart, earlier this week, the Centre scrapped the 6 per cent equalisation levy on online advertising services provided by non-resident entities. The move is set to benefit companies such as Google, Meta, and X. The move is seen as a way to ease the concerns of the US. The development also came ahead of the implementation of reciprocal tariffs on countries by the US.

The US has been vocal about its demand regarding tariff cuts on sectors such as agriculture, automobiles, and alcohol. India, on the other hand, is bargaining for lower tariffs for its labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, and leather.

TALKING TRADE

- Team led by Assistant USTR in talks with commerce dept
- Planning to finalise the trade deal contours by month-end
- Data localisation norms, which have been a key concern for US companies, on the discussion table
- US Chamber of Commerce asks for 'competitive neutrality' in key sectors
- India's priority is to ensure swift movement of skilled professionals to the US

Source: business-standard.com– Mar 27, 2025

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Industry bodies commit to preventing child and forced labor

At the 12th Asian Textile Conference (ATEXCON 2025), organized by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), industry leaders reinforced their commitment to ethical labor practices by implementing a stringent Code of Conduct to prevent child and forced labor. This initiative ensures compliance with national and international labor laws, safeguarding workers' rights across the supply chain.

Signatory factories must not engage in bonded or forced labor and must ensure all work is performed voluntarily without coercion. The code mandates that no child under 14 years is employed in factories or supply chains, aligning with both Indian regulations and international labor standards. If a higher minimum age is required by law, factories must comply with that threshold. Additionally, young workers aged 14 to 18 are prohibited from hazardous tasks, night shifts, and exposure to harmful substances.

To prevent child labor, factories must have strict recruitment policies, verify proof of age through official documents, and conduct regular audits to ensure compliance. If child labor is detected, companies are responsible for rehabilitation and remediation. Suppliers and subcontractors must also adhere to these standards. To combat forced labor, factories must implement policies prohibiting bonded labor and human trafficking. Workers must be informed of their rights in a language they understand and provided with written employment contracts. Employers are prohibited from retaining workers' identification documents, and all employment must be free from coercion or threats.

The code aligns with Indian labor laws, including the Factories Act, Minimum Wages Act, and Child Labor Prohibition Act, as well as ILO conventions on forced and child labor. By enforcing these guidelines, the Indian textile industry aims to promote ethical sourcing, enhance brand reputation, and eliminate exploitative labor practices, reinforcing its commitment to social responsibility and fair labor standards.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Mar 27, 2025

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Indian garments may face up to 30% tariff under US reciprocal regime

India is stepping up efforts to avert a proposed reciprocal tariff hike by the United States that could significantly impact its apparel exports. The proposed move, championed by US President Donald Trump, is slated to take effect from 2 April and may subject Indian garments to duties of at least 30 per cent at US ports.

Currently, the US levies import duties ranging from 7 per cent to 16.5 per cent on various garment categories under specific HSN codes. In comparison, India imposes a 20 per cent basic customs duty and a 10 per cent social welfare surcharge on imported garments.

India's Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) is working closely with the government to prepare a strategy for the country's apparel exports to the US. A detailed analysis has been presented by the export promotion organisation to the government to explain the disparity between the tariffs imposed by both countries. A letter was sent to the Ministry of Textiles by AEPC at the beginning of this month.

The export promotion council and other industry bodies have been advocating for a 'zero for zero' duty policy on textiles and apparel. The industry has argued that the government should reduce duties on textile products to zero per cent, which would prompt the US to apply the same tariff rate on Indian exports. The industry is confident that such strategies will help gain a larger market share in the world's largest economy.

US Assistant Trade Representative Brendan Lynch and India's Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Commerce, Rajesh Agrawal, are conducting detailed discussions in New Delhi to develop a mutually agreed plan for tariff adjustments. The US is urging India to reduce high tariff barriers on all American goods, while expressing willingness to consider mechanisms such as quota restrictions to address India's concerns regarding farmers and small industries.

It is hoped that both countries will reach a consensus on a trade agreement. However, if not, the US may increase tariffs to match India's rates. India currently imposes a 20 per cent customs duty and a 10 per cent social welfare surcharge. AEPC has also noted that the IGST should be considered part of the overall tariff charged by India. If included, the

total tariff could range from 35 per cent to 42 per cent, as 5 per cent IGST is levied on garments valued below ₹1,000 per piece. For garments valued above this threshold, the IGST rate is 12 per cent.

The US imposes tariffs as a percentage of value under its most favoured nation (MFN) rates. For example, the country imposes tariffs between 5.5 per cent and 11.80 per cent on women's cotton dresses (HSN code 620442). Indian exports face an average MFN tariff of 8.57 per cent for this item. In the US, some states impose local sales taxes according to their respective tax and economic policies, while others do not have any such sales tax or GST. It is hoped that reciprocity will apply only to duties payable at ports.

AEPC Chairman Sudhir Sekhri has urged the government to convert this imminent threat into an opportunity by negotiating zero tariffs for apparel exports.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Mar 27, 2025

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India's textile industry charts five-point growth agenda

The 12th Asian Textile Conference (ATEXCON 2025), organized by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), highlighted a strategic roadmap for India's textile and apparel (T&A) sector. India's T&A exports reached 33.2 billion US dollars during April 2024-February 2025, registering a 7.2 per cent increase over the previous year. However, with exports still near the 2015 level, the industry must achieve 18 percent annual growth to reach the 100 billion US dollar target by 2030.

Government initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, PM MITRA parks, and ongoing trade negotiations with the European Union and the United States are expected to drive expansion. However, addressing key challenges is essential. Based on deliberations at the National Committee on Textiles and Clothing (NCTC), ATEXCON 2025 outlined five priority areas:

Raw Material Availability - Removing import restrictions on cotton, man-made fiber, and specialized yarns to ensure competitive pricing.

Cotton Import Duty - Eliminating the 10 percent duty on cotton fiber to bridge the supply-demand gap of 3.8 million bales and enhance cost competitiveness.

Investment Incentives - Launching a scheme combining capital subsidies and performance-based incentives, with a special focus on textile processing.

PM MITRA Parks - Accelerating the implementation of integrated textile parks to strengthen the value chain.

Trade Agreements - Fast-tracking free trade agreements (FTAs) with the EU and the US to ensure a level playing field for Indian exporters.

Industry leaders at ATEXCON 2025 also emphasized that GST on ready-made garments should not be increased. Addressing these key areas will enable India's T&A industry to capitalize on emerging global opportunities and drive sustainable growth.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Mar 27, 2025

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India tops yarn supply to Bangladesh in 2024, but ban threat looms

Bangladesh is planning to ban yarn imports via land routes in an effort to curb supplies from neighbouring textile giant India. The country is considering this ban to protect its local textile industry. However, the garment industry is not in favour of such a restriction.

The latest trade data indicates that India was the largest yarn supplier to Bangladesh in 2024, accounting for 53.66 per cent of the country's total yarn imports. India surpassed China to become the top yarn supplier following COVID-related disruptions, after which the Bangladeshi government opened land routes for yarn imports to ease the availability of raw materials for the domestic industry. These land routes were opened in 2021.

Bangladesh imported yarn worth $3.264 billion in 2024, of which $1.751 billion came from India—amounting to 53.66 per cent of the total imports. India was the largest yarn supplier to Bangladesh, according to Fibre2Fashion's market insight tool TexPro. Before COVID-19, China was the largest yarn supplier to Bangladesh. In 2019, the country's total yarn imports stood at $2.048 billion. Of this, India was the second-largest supplier, contributing $664.730 million, or 32.46 per cent, while China held the top position with a 52.17 per cent share.

India's share of yarn imports rose to 41.70 per cent in 2020 and further to 52.17 per cent in 2021. However, it fell to 44.88 per cent in 2022 before increasing again to 49.19 per cent. Meanwhile, China's share declined from 52.17 per cent in 2019 to 44.93 per cent in 2020 and 34.84 per cent in 2021. It stood at 40.45 per cent in 2022 and 40.52 per cent in 2023.

Bangladesh's total yarn imports were valued at $2.048 billion in 2019, with imports from India amounting to $664.730 million. The total imports were $1.854 billion in 2020, $3.893 billion in 2021, $3.517 billion in 2022, and $2.686 billion in 2023. Imports from India were recorded at $664.730 million in 2019, $773.555 million in 2020, $1.968 billion in 2021, $1.578 billion in 2022, and $1.320 billion in 2023, as per TexPro.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Mar 27, 2025

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RBI's revised PSL guidelines to boost economy, benefit MSMEs: SBI

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent amendments to the priority sector lending (PSL) guidelines are expected to accelerate economic growth and strengthen key sectors like micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), agriculture and allied industries and exports, according to a recent report by State Bank of India (SBI) Research. The new guidelines, which take effect from April 1, expand the scope of priority sector loans by enhancing loan limits for various categories, and broaden the criteria under which loans can be classified as 'renewable energy' for PSL purposes, which has led to a rise in non-conventional energy credit as a share of total energy credit, further encouraging investments in the sector, the report noted.

"As large banks continue to face challenges in meeting PSL targets, it would be a prudent move to classify all infrastructure loans—covering road projects, ports, railways, airports, highways, and the energy sector—either under priority sector status or as exemptions from ANBC calculations for PSL achievement. This would align with the treatment of infrastructure bonds raised for funding infrastructure and affordable housing," the report suggested. India has set ambitious targets for renewable energy, aiming for a non-fossil fuel installed capacity of 500 GW by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions by 2070.

On July 1, 2015, the RBI expanded the PSL framework to include loans of up to ₹150 million for borrowers engaged in solar power generation, biomass-based power generation, micro-hydel plants, and other non-conventional energy projects. This limit was increased to ₹300 million per borrower on September 4, 2020. In the latest revision, the limit has been raised to ₹350 million per borrower, while the loan limit for individual households remains unchanged at ₹1 million per borrower. "Although the ₹5 crore increase may seem modest compared to the last revision in 2020 (after five years), even small policy interventions can have a significant impact in the long run. These measures will support the NCE sector in achieving the dual objectives of clean energy expansion and increased PSL lending," the SBI report added.

Source: economictimes.com– Mar 25, 2025

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