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Currency Watch			
USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
89.84	104.92	120.87	0.57

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Textile and apparel imports of the U.S., Japan, Europe, U.K., and Australia (October 2025)

September–October is typically the peak import season for many countries. The United States continued to be affected by tariffs, with imports declining year on year. In October, EU imports also fell, with both month-on-month and year-on-year declines exceeding 10%. Looking at the full year, U.S. imports were broadly flat year on year, while imports in other countries recorded growth of around 3–5%. As China–U.S. negotiations gradually materialized by November, U.S. imports are expected to improve progressively.

According to the preliminary estimates released by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, real GDP in the third quarter of 2025 grew at an annualized rate of 4.3%, following 3.8% growth in the second quarter. The main contributors to GDP growth were increases in consumer spending, exports, and government spending, partially offset by a decline in investment.

	Sep	y-o-y	m-o-m	Jan-Sep,2025	y-o-y
United States (billion USD)	9.542	-9.37%	0.15%	80.486	0.07%

	Oct	y-o-y	m-o-m	Jan-Oct,2025	y-o-y
Japan(billion JPY)	477.893	3.86%	-0.56%	4060.705	3.45%
EU (billion Euro)	11.282	-14.95%	-12.28%	103.193	3.37%
United Kingdom (billion GBP)	2.016	-4.96%	6.68%	18.319	4.63%
Australia (billion AUD)	1.564	6.19%	4.84%	14.536	4.56%

United States: Imports down both MoM and YoY

In November 2025, total retail sales rose 0.12% month on month on a seasonally adjusted basis and increased 4.53% year on year. Core retail sales fell 0.04% month on month, while still posting 4.66% year-on-year growth. This year, Thanksgiving fell later than usual, pushing "Cyber Monday" into December, which weighed on part of November spending.

By category, only 4 out of 9 retail segments recorded month-on-month growth, with food and beverage stores posting the largest increase.

November retail performance by category (MoM and YoY, ranked by YoY)

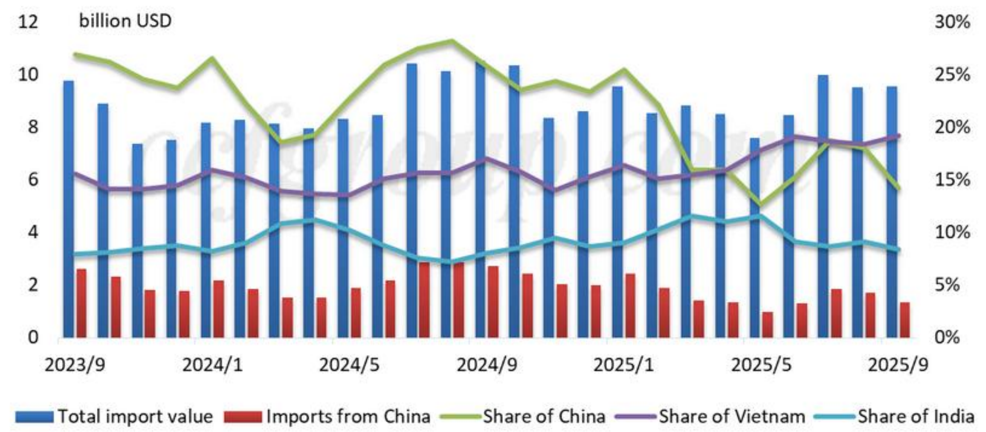
Category	MoM	YoY
Digital products	0.74%	3.89%
Sporting goods, hobby, music & book stores	0.28%	8.96%
General merchandise stores	0.04%	8.16%
Clothing & accessories stores	0.01%	0.53%
Food & beverage stores	-0.19%	1.31%
Health & personal carestores	-0.37%	14.81%
Electronics & appliance stores	-0.73%	3.10%
Furniture & home furnishings stores	-1.74%	-9.38%
Building materials & garden equipment stores	-2.94%	1.01%

From the import data, U.S. textile and apparel imports totaled USD 9.542 billion in September 2025, up 0.15% month on month but down 9.37% year on year. Import volumes fell 4.14% month on month and 9.97% year on year. Cumulative textile and apparel imports from January to September reached USD 80.486 billion, up 0.07% year on year. In September, the impact of tariffs was significant, and despite support from the peak season, import performance diverged across sourcing countries. Imports from China saw sharp declines both month on month and year on year, with the gap versus Vietnam widening further. India was also affected by tariffs to some extent, posting modest declines on both a monthly and annual basis. In contrast, imports from Bangladesh performed strongly, with both month-on-month and year-on-year growth exceeding 10%.

Textile and apparel imports of US in September

	Import value (billion USD)	y-o-y	m-o-m	Share
China	1.355	-50.28%	-21.28%	14.20%
Vietnam	1.836	2.62%	4.96%	19.24%
India	0.802	-5.67%	-7.79%	8.41%
Bangladesh	0.79	10.84%	18.13%	8.28%

Textile and apparel imports of US



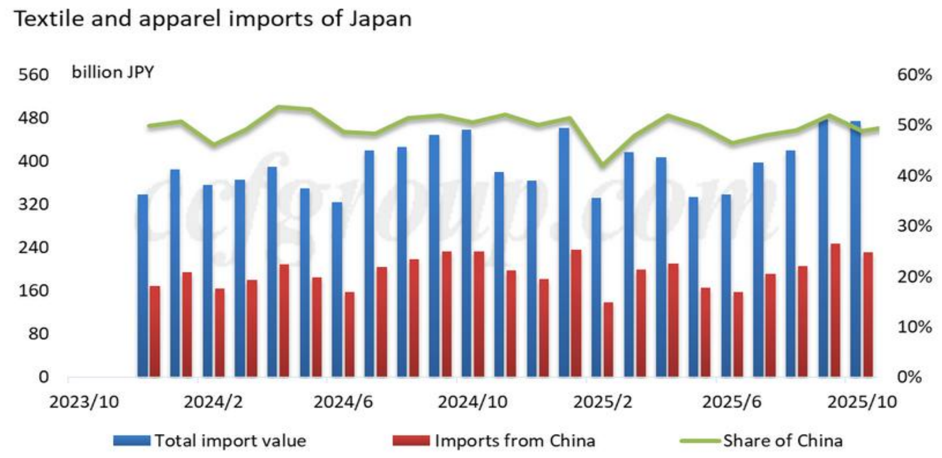
Japan: Imports down MoM and up YoY

According to data from Japan's Cabinet Office, after seasonal adjustment, Japan's GDP in Q3 2025 totaled JPY 665.01 trillion, down 0.05% quarter on quarter and up 4.05% year on year. Japan's November 2025 CPI stood at 113.2 (2020 = 100), up 0.35% month on month and 2.91% year on year. According to Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, after adjustment, total retail sales in October reached JPY 13.05 trillion, up 3.74% month on month but down 5.52% year on year. Textile and apparel retail sales amounted to JPY 0.632 trillion, up 25.9% month on month but down 17.39% year on year.

From the import data, Japan's textile and apparel imports totaled JPY 475.219 billion in October, down 0.56% month on month but up 3.86% year on year. In November, textile and apparel imports fell to JPY 395.141 billion, down 16.85% month on month while still up 3.86% year on year. Cumulative textile and apparel imports reached JPY 4,060.705 billion in January–October, up 3.45% year on year, and JPY 4,457.826 billion in January–November, up 3.53% year on year. Japan's major sources of textile and apparel imports include China, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Bangladesh. By country, imports from Cambodia recorded the strongest growth in October on both a month-on-month and year-on-year basis, followed by Vietnam, while imports from Bangladesh declined to some extent.

Textile and apparel imports of Japan in October

	Import value (billion JPY)	y-o-y	m-o-m	Share
China	232.185	-0.12%	-6.38%	48.86%
Vietnam	80.666	10.28%	3.89%	16.97%
Cambodia	22.782	17.78%	12.52%	4.79%
Bangladesh	20.774	-9.82%	-3.52%	4.37%



European Union: Imports down both MoM and YoY

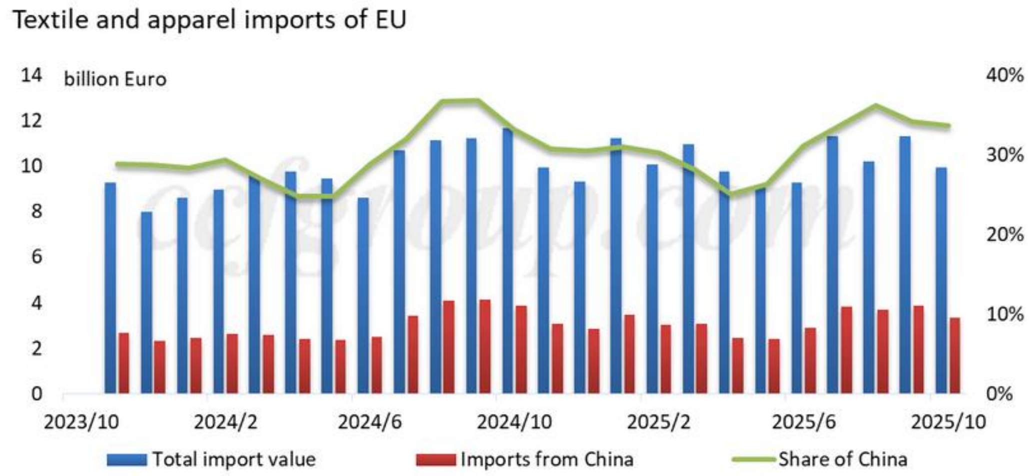
According to data from Eurostat, after seasonal adjustment, EU GDP in Q3 2025 amounted to EUR 4.69 trillion, up 0.96% quarter on quarter and 4.26% year on year. The EU CPI index for November 2025 (2015 = 100) stood at 134.19, down 0.22% month on month and up 2.44% year on year. The euro area CPI index (2015 = 100) was 129.33 in November, down 0.29% month on month and up 2.14% year on year.

After seasonal adjustment, the EU retail trade index (2021 = 100) was 122.1 in October, down 0.08% month on month and up 2.69% year on year. The euro area retail trade index stood at 119.8, down 0.17% month on month and up 2.48% year on year.

From the import data, EU textile and apparel imports totaled EUR 9.933 billion in October, down 12.28% month on month and 14.95% year on year. Cumulative textile and apparel imports for January–October reached EUR 103.193 billion, up 3.37% year on year. The EU's main sourcing countries were China, Bangladesh, and Turkey. Data show a notable pullback in October imports, with year-on-year declines recorded across all major suppliers. On a month-on-month basis, imports from Bangladesh fell the most, while on a year-on-year basis, imports from Turkey saw the largest decline.

Textile and apparel imports of EU in October

	Import value (billion Euro)	y-o-y	m-o-m	Share
China	3.339	-13.77%	-13.70%	33.61%
Bangladesh	1.442	-19.56%	-20.26%	14.52%
Turkey	1.022	-20.15%	-7.44%	10.29%



United Kingdom: Imports up MoM and down YoY

According to data from the UK Office for National Statistics, after seasonal adjustment, UK GDP in Q3 2025 amounted to GBP 764.348 billion, up 0.97% quarter on quarter and 4.82% year on year. The UK CPI in November 2025 stood at 139.5 (2015 = 100), down 0.21% month on month and up 3.26% year on year. In addition, over the twelve months to October 2025, core CPIH and CPI increased by 3.5% and 3.2%, respectively.

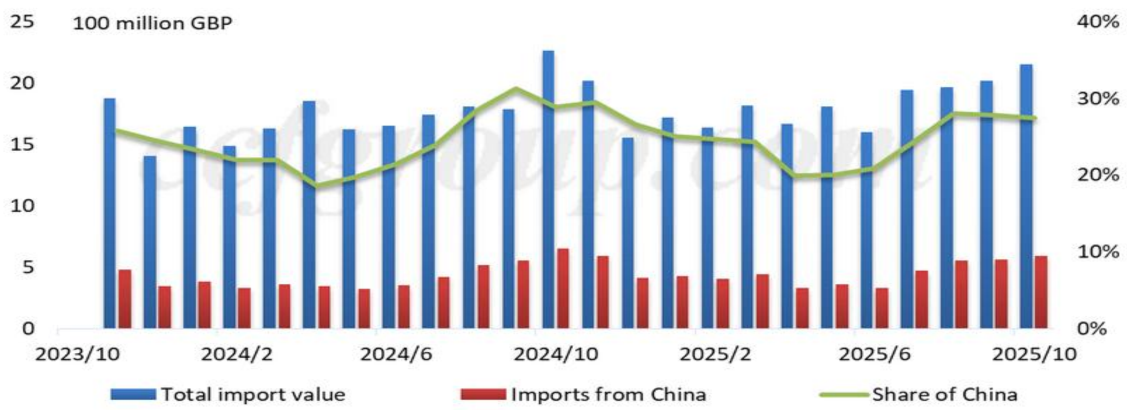
On the retail side, the UK retail sales volume index (2023 = 100) stood at 103 in October 2025, down 0.7% month on month but up 2.5% year on year. In November, the index remained at 103, unchanged month on month and up 2.2% year on year. The textile and apparel retail index (2023 = 100) was 102.7 in October, down 3.4% month on month and up 5.1% year on year. In November, the textile and apparel retail index rose to 104.1, up 1.4% month on month and 10.6% year on year.

From the import data, UK textile and apparel imports totaled GBP 2.151 billion in October, up 6.68% month on month but down 4.96% year on year. Cumulative textile and apparel imports for January–October reached GBP 18.319 billion, up 4.63% year on year. The UK's main sourcing countries were China, Bangladesh, and Turkey. Data show that imports from China remained at relatively high levels, imports from Bangladesh continued to rise, while imports from Turkey were broadly stable.

Textile and apparel imports of UK in October

	Import value (million GBP)	y-o-y	m-o-m	Share
China	590	-9.65%	5.18%	27.41%
Bangladesh	373	4.48%	5.91%	17.32%
Turkey	152	-14.49%	6.08%	7.07%

Textile and apparel imports of UK



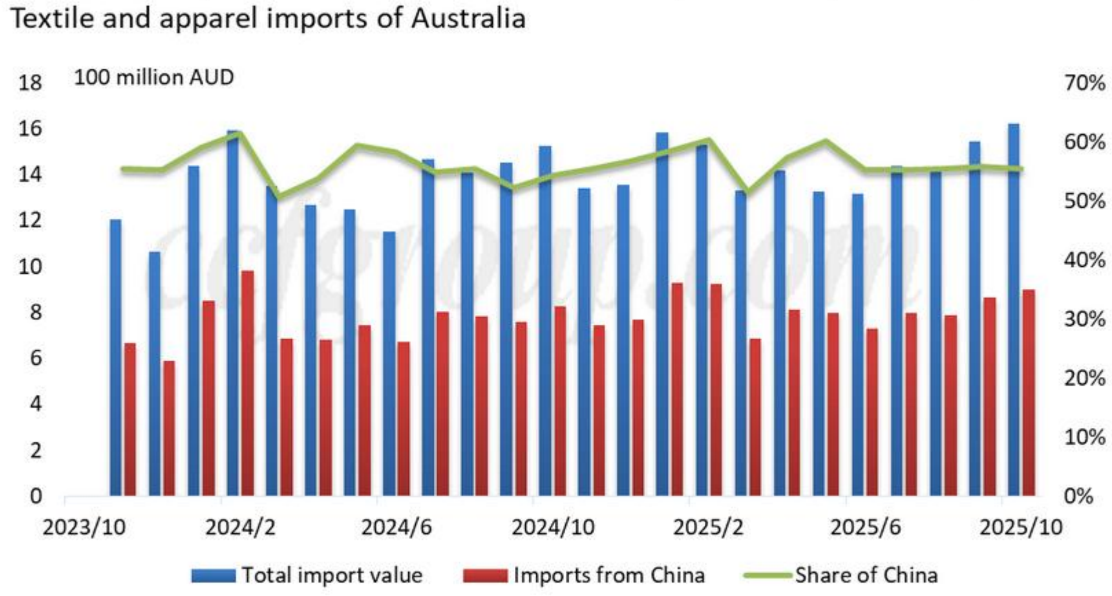
Australia: Imports up both MoM and YoY

According to data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australia's GDP in Q3 2025 rose 0.4% quarter on quarter and 2.1% year on year. GDP growth was mainly driven by domestic final demand, led by private investment and household consumption, while changes in inventories weighed on overall growth. Australia's October CPI increased 3.8% year on year, with the clothing and footwear CPI rising 5.4% year on year.

From the import data, Australia's textile and apparel imports totaled AUD 1.621 billion in October, up 4.84% month on month and 6.19% year on year. Cumulative textile and apparel imports for January–October reached AUD 14.536 billion, up 4.56% year on year. Australia's main sourcing countries were China, Vietnam, India, and Bangladesh. Data show that imports from Vietnam and India recorded stronger rebounds, while imports from Bangladesh declined to some extent.

Textile and apparel imports of Australia in October

	Import value (million AUD)	y-o-y	m-o-m	Share
China	898	8.46%	4.05%	55.40%
Vietnam	110	1.58%	11.78%	6.81%
India	134	10.08%	13.63%	8.29%
Bangladesh	129	-10.85%	-2.02%	7.99%



Source: ccfgroup.com– Jan 08, 2026

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Supreme Court Decision on Trump's Tariffs Could Come Friday

The Supreme Court could deliver a decision on the fate of President Donald Trump's "reciprocal" tariff scheme as soon as Friday at 10 a.m., according to new scheduling details released on its website Tuesday. The nation's highest court added Jan. 9 as a non-argument/conference date to its formal schedule—a sign that it may hand down its ruling on the legality of the Trump administration's International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) tariffs.

However, the Supreme Court doesn't announce which decisions it plans to release ahead of time, meaning that importers and other stakeholders eagerly awaiting the ruling may have to wait longer still to hear how whether the duty framework will remain in place—or whether they'll be owed tariff refunds from the federal government. The speedy timing of a ruling on IEEPA isn't out of the question, though. The Supreme Court agreed to the Trump administration's fervent September request to expedite its appeal of the lower courts' decision that the president overstepped his executive authority by imposing the tariffs using the IEEPA statute. The court heard oral arguments on Nov. 5 in an 80-minute session.

The nine justices heard from Solicitor General John D. Sauer, who argued that Trump was within the bounds of presidential power when he imposed the widespread duties on more than 100 American trading partners. They also heard from counsel representing the plaintiffs (a dozen state attorneys general, and a handful of American small businesses) who argued that IEEPA's verbiage does not explicitly grant the president the right to impose tariffs, and that that responsibility rests with Congress.

Conservative- and liberal-leaning justices alike scrutinized the administration's arguments in favor of the IEEPA tariffs. Chief Justice John Roberts said that while tariffs are indeed tools for dealing with foreign powers, "the vehicle is imposition of taxes on Americans, and that has always been the core power of Congress." Justice Amy Coney Barrett appeared dubious that the dozens of nations hit with double-digit duties represent "unusual" or "extraordinary" threats to national security or the U.S. economy.

Whether the Supreme Court rules for or against the tariff strategy, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said before the holidays that he was confident the justices would deliver their ruling "in early January."

During a Sourcing Journal webinar last month, Nicole Bivens Collinson, managing principal of the operating committee at Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, P.A.'s International Trade and Government Relations division, said Jan. 9 could indeed be a key date, given that it's the first day the high court is slated to begin to announce decisions on expedited cases heard last year. However, a ruling could still be deferred until later in 2026, which many Beltway insiders believe could be more realistic.

Washington's trade lawyers and talking heads largely also believe that the administration will ultimately lose its appeal, and that the Supreme Court will side with the judges at the New York-based Court of International Trade (CIT) and the Washington, D.C.-based Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC) that previously ruled against the tariffs. The president himself has, in recent weeks, appeared glum about his chances of winning the appeal and maintaining the IEEPA tariffs. Frequent posts to Truth Social have revealed an uneasy attitude about the pending ruling.

"We have taken in, and will soon be receiving, more than 600 Billion Dollars in Tariffs, but the Fake News Media refuses to talk about it because they hate and disrespect our Country, and want to interfere with the upcoming Tariff decision, one of the most important ever, of the United States Supreme Court," Trump Truthed on Monday.

On Tuesday, he asked followers to "PRAY THAT THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT ALLOWS OUR COUNTRY TO CONTINUE ITS UNPRECEDENTED MARCH TOWARD UNPARALLELED GREATNESS!" adding that economic and national security have never been stronger.

Should Trump's tariff policy be invalidated, the fiscal consequences for the country could be severe. Trade lawyers are urging importers that have paid duties over the course of the past year to file lawsuits with the CIT in hopes of preemptively securing their rights to tariff refunds. According to data from Customs and Border Protection, $133.5 billion in IEEPA tariffs have been collected as of Dec. 14, and the government faces the possibility of having to pay back that substantial sum in the event of a Supreme Court loss.

Source: sourcingjournal.com– Jan 07, 2026

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China: Could cotton linter ride the tailwind of surging cotton price?

Recently, Chinese cotton market has been on a continuous upward trend with prices surging sharply, and ZCE cotton futures have broken through the 15,000-yuan mark. In contrast, cottonseed and cotton linter markets have seen significant divergence with widely varying prices, as cottonseed market has maintained firm pricing, while cotton linter market has been stuck in a stalemate with prices facing a dilemma between upward and downward movements.

Since mid-Nov, ZCE cotton futures have risen steadily with increasing gains. Particularly, on Dec 24, the Xinjiang Cotton Association issued a statement indicating that the cotton planting area in Xinjiang will witness structural reduction in 2026. Overnight, the previous market rumors about the decline in cotton planting area for the 2026/27crop year turned into reality.

Coupled with the continuous expansion of spinning capacity in Xinjiang, the pull from downstream restocking demand at the end of the year, and the backdrop of skyrocketing metal prices, cotton as a representative agricultural product, has been met with optimistic market expectations. Currently, capital willingness to go long remains strong. ZCE cotton futures have successfully broken through the 15,000-yuan threshold, and spot cotton prices are heading straight for 16,00yuan/mt, with an increase of over 1,500yuan/mt since mid-Nov.

Unlike the upward trend of cotton, cottonseed market has experienced little fluctuation since mid-Nov. Cottonseed oil and delinting mills have mainly replenished stocks based on rigid demand due to poor processing profits. However, as traders are bullish on the future market and have a strong willingness to maintain firm prices, the current price of cottonseed in Xinjiang mostly ranges within 2,350-2,400yuan/mt, while the price of Xinjiang-origin cottonseed in inland areas is around 2,850-2,900yuan/mt, with slight increases in some regions.

Although cotton and cotton by-product industrial chains fall under the category of agricultural products and share similar long-term price fluctuation trends, their short-term movements are not necessarily synchronized due to differences in supply and demand fundamentals, resulting in vastly divergent performance across various segments.

Specifically, cotton market has shown strong momentum and cottonseed market has kept prices firm, while downstream sectors have generally performed weakly. Especially under the low-price competition from dissolving wood pulp and paper pulp, the prices of cotton linter pulp and refined cotton have struggled to gain upward momentum. Hampered by this, cotton linter market has been caught in a stalemate. Therefore, against the intertwined impacts of escalating trade frictions, intensifying geopolitical conflicts, and relatively sufficient supply this year, the market prosperity of cotton linter pulp and refined cotton has been under pressure, making the upward path of cotton linter prices bumpy.

In summary, driven by intensifying geopolitical conflicts, growing concerns over supply shortages, and the volatile situation in Venezuela this year, the global scramble for critical minerals will accelerate. Recently, the markets of precious metals and non-ferrous metals such as gold, silver, copper and nickel have witnessed wave after wave of price surges, with some agricultural products also riding the wave to register substantial gains.

Due to differences in supply and demand fundamentals, cotton, cottonseed, and cotton linter markets have seen considerable price divergence. Against the backdrop of expectations for a reduction in cotton planting area in the new crop year, cotton prices may trend steadily with an upward bias in the medium to short term, cottonseed market will remain relatively firm, and cotton linter market will face a dilemma between upward and downward price movements.

Source: ccfgroup.com– Jan 08, 2026

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ICE cotton climbs on lower US acreage outlook, China price strength

ICE cotton futures extended gains yesterday, supported by expectations of lower planted acreage and rising Chinese raw cotton and yarn prices. Although fundamentals remain bearish, easing crude oil prices failed to dampen market sentiment.

The most active March 2026 cotton futures settled at 65.05 cents per pound, up 0.41 cent. The contract has gained 1.05 cents per pound over the past two days. The March 2026 contract touched an intraday high of 65.76 cents, the highest level in nearly two months.

Oil prices fell amid expectations of ample global supply and uncertainty surrounding Venezuelan crude.

Trading activity was very strong, with 90,224 contracts traded; 63,621 contracts were cleared from the previous session. ICE deliverable No. 2 cotton stocks stood at 11,510 bales as of January 5, unchanged day on day. Open interest ended at its highest level since November 3, 2023, indicating growing market participation.

Price support came from expectations of reduced US planting area and improving price signals from China. Despite the rally, the market continues to face weak global demand and higher production potential in other countries.

Some analysts highlighted bullish divergence and cotton being undervalued relative to gold, supporting a recovery narrative. Overall bullish sentiment had fallen to a 19-year low in mid-December, suggesting bearish exhaustion.

Speculators have been net buyers for most of the past 11 weeks, while still holding a net short position, which could fuel further short covering. Technically, March cotton held a double bottom at 6,297–6,311, signalling a possible medium-term bottom.

China's ZCE cotton futures have strengthened for seven consecutive weeks, with the active contract at its highest level since July 3, 2024.

Inquiries for US cotton have been active, with some fresh sales reported. Grower selling increased at higher prices, supported by government loan deficiency payments.

Market analysts said ICE prices are gradually aligning with higher Chinese cotton and yarn prices while factoring in lower US acreage.

The imbalance in unpriced old-crop cotton orders has largely been corrected, as buyers and sellers fixed prices.

Brazil cotton exports in December reached 452,491.44 tons, up 28 per cent year on year; average daily exports rose 22 per cent year on year to 20,567.79 tons.

US equities closed higher, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the S&P 500 hitting record highs, adding to broader risk-on sentiment.

This morning (Indian Standard Time), ICE cotton for March 2026 was trading at 65.33 cents per pound (up 0.27 cent), cash cotton at 62.81 cents (up 0.41 cent), the May 2026 contract at 66.67 cents (up 0.24 cent), the July 2026 contract at 67.95 cents (up 0.21 cent), the October 2026 contract at 67.75 cents (down 0.64 cent), and the December 2026 contract at 69.20 cents (up 0.14 cent). A few contracts remained at their previous closing levels, with no trading recorded so far today.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Jan 06, 2026

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Can Fashion See Beyond Its Extractive Model?

The fashion industry's extractive model, coupled with the throwaway attitudes it encourages, is driving the planet's resources to the brink while exacerbating global poverty by depriving poorer nations of the materials, energy, and labor they need to thrive, a new, no-holds-barred report claims.

With the world continuing to barrel toward irreversible climate breakdown, War on Want said it's time to come to terms with the fact that no amount of sustainability indexing or materials switching alone can address the "root cause" of the current crisis: that the industry is designed to accrue profits for big businesses in the global North at the expense of social and ecological concerns.

It's a radical point of view, to be sure, but the U.K. charity's conclusions are data-driven, said Ruth Ogier, its head of international programs. Using numbers crunched from the global environmental database known as the Environmentally Extended Multi-Regional Input-Output database, or Exiobase for short, War on Want was able to quantify what it describes as the "mechanics of extraction," adding greater context to the potential 100 billion pieces of clothing and 24.4 billion pairs of shoes that are churned out every year.

In 2021, for instance, the amount of land used to create fashion for the European Union amounted to nearly 226,930 square kilometers across the globe, or the equivalent of "every inch" of Great Britain. In the United Kingdom, fashion consumption utilized 30,258 square kilometers of land, or roughly the same size as Belgium, in parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The same year, the EU consumed 5.45 billion cubic meters of freshwater worldwide to dress the world's largest single market, while fashion for the United Kingdom soaked up almost 817 million cubic meters.

Equally damning are the quantities of fossil fuels used to produce synthetic garments made from polyester, nylon or acrylic. In 2021, the report said, a total of 40,976 kilotons of fossil fuels went into fashion for EU consumption and 6,625 kilotons for that of the United Kingdom.

Ogier said that War on Want's findings dovetail with research by economist Jason Hickel, who in 2024 concluded that the global North net-appropriated 826 billion hours of embodied labor with a wage value of 16.9 trillion euros ($19.7 trillion) from the global South in 2021.

The top three sources of human labor for producing fashion consumed in the EU and United Kingdom, War on Want found, were China, India and what's listed as the "rest of Asia," with workers in these three regions contributing some 57 percent of the total labor embedded in the EU's fashion and 70.5 percent for the United Kingdom's.

"We wanted to basically have new credible data with which we can talk about fashion's footprint and make this connection that it's not just the scale, it's the origin," Ogier said. "And that takes us into the conversation that these countries are not poor in terms of resources, and how that wealth is moved out from the global South to the global North."

Hickel for the win, again: Using data from 2015, he estimated a $10.8 trillion annual drain from the global South to the global North, enough to end extreme poverty 70 times over.

In short, it's the capitalism, stupid.

"It's not really about the clothes," she said. "And because fashion production is about profit, it's, in our view, structurally incapable of providing a substantive, deep response to those environmental and social economic justice issues."

And not just production but overproduction, said War on Want, which worked with Research & Degrowth International, a think tank based in Barcelona, on the study. Degrowth may be a taboo word in the world of business, the report argued, but the principles of degrowth economics could fundamentally reshape the fashion industry by valuing quality and longevity over quantity and planned obsolescence.

As an example of a sector organized around what War on Want characterized as "socially unnecessary production," it's a prime candidate for an industry that can be degrown while still being able to meet the need for high-quality clothing that is "neither resource-intensive nor boring." It's also how a "just transition" for workers can truly manifest, Ogier added.

"We know that the term is difficult in that it presents the idea that we should just all shrink back; it's obviously a fundamental challenge to the idea that more and more profit is good," she said. Even so, there are other ways to "degrow" without sacrificing the bottom line: making fewer but higher-margin clothes, for example, or selling services such as rental, reuse and repair.

Ogier said that without being able to envision a different world, people will be unable to find pathways to achieving it. That's what the report is trying to accomplish.

"I don't think this is necessarily going to be taken up by fashion corporations, because it's a direct challenge to the model that they're in," she said. "But it's important to have that big picture about the type of paradigm shift in thinking about how we can connect solutions and raise the bar about what is going to be on that policy and decision-maker map in terms of standards."

Source: sourcingjournal.com– Jan 0, 2026

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Indonesia Rolls Out Policy to Protect Domestic Cotton Sector

The Indonesian government has adopted a new tariff policy aimed to safeguard domestic cotton woven fabric producers in the face of increased imports.

According to a report from the Jakarta Globe ID, the policy—which was signed on Dec. 22—follows an investigation from the Indonesian Trade Safeguard Committee, which suggested that an increase in cotton woven fabric imports have begun impacting the nation's domestic textile sector.

Known as the Bea Masuk Tindakan Pengmanan (BMTP) duty, the tariff will be applied on top of existing import duties, including preferred tariffs under international trade agreements and most-favored-nation rates. Imports from 122 World Trade Organization member developing countries such as Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, and nations in Africa and Latin America will be exempt from the duty.

The policy will be applied for three years with a declining tariff each year. During the first year, rates will range from Rp3,000 ($0.18) to Rp3,300 per meter, based on tariff classification. The rate drops to Rp2,800-Rp3,100 per meter during the second year, and in the final year it will be Rp2,600-Rp2,900.

The textile and apparel industry is one of Indonesia's largest manufacturing sectors, supported by a robust domestic market and a long-established value chain ranging from fiber production to finished garments.

According to the nonprofit Business Indonesia, Indonesia's textile and apparel gross domestic product grew 4.26 percent in 2024 after several years of volatility, with Purchasing Managers' Index indicators reaching its highest level in nearly a year in November 2025.

Indonesia is a player in the global textile market, ranking 13th among textile-exporting countries with a 1.66 percent share of global textile exports, valued at $13.4 billion in 2023 according to the Observatory of Economic Complexity.

Yet, the country's domestic demand for textiles continues to drive the industry, accounting for around 30 percent of production, according to Business Indonesia. The organization credits that demand to a combination of online retail, increased purchasing power in urban areas and Indonesia's rapid adoption of new fashion trends.

The country's large Muslim population—roughly 12 percent of the world's Muslims, or around 240 million people, live in Indonesia, according to the Pew Research Center—also has helped boost domestic textile demand. Around 80 percent of Muslim apparel production in Indonesia is for domestic consumption, according to Business Indonesia.

While Indonesia will allow some exemptions for importers, those entities must submit a certificate of origin for cotton woven fabric imports from eligible countries. If origin requirements aren't met, the imports will remain subject to the duty.

Source: sourcingjournal.com– Jan 07, 2026

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Global apparel strategy shifts as high cotton costs narrow synthetic price gap

The global textile and apparel industry is undergoing a structural realignment as New York cotton futures maintain an eight-week peak of 65.76 cents per pound as of early 2026. Fueled by supply constraints in the United States and Brazil, this upward trajectory is fundamentally altering procurement logic. Historically, apparel manufacturers migrated toward synthetic fibers to mitigate costs; however, current energy market volatility- linked to geopolitical instability in South America—has inflated polyester production expenses. Consequently, the price delta between natural and man-made fibers is contracting, prompting a strategic return to cotton-rich blends for high-volume retail lines.

Supply deficits drive strategic procurement

The MY 2025/26 is characterized by a 'flight to quality' amidst tightening availability. While global production is estimated at 119.8 million bales, the United States has seen harvested areas decline to nearly 1.45 million acre - a decade-level low - as growers prioritize higher-margin commodities like soybeans. This supply-side pressure is exacerbated by intensive short-covering in the futures market. Market analysts indicate that the current rally is less about a surge in consumer demand and more a result of institutional investors liquidating large short positions as they hedge against anticipated acreage reductions in key exporting regions.

Manufacturing localization and sector impact

For the $1.91 trillion global apparel market, these fluctuating input costs necessitate more resilient supply chains. Projected to reach $17.52 billion by 2033, the Indian sportswear segment serves as a primary example of this shift toward vertical integration. Brands are increasingly adopting localized manufacturing models to insulate themselves from currency fluctuations and logistical bottlenecks. This move towards 'near-shoring' is paired with a growing investment in regenerative agriculture, as retailers seek to secure long-term raw material supplies while meeting stringent global sustainability mandates.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Jan 07, 2026

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Outdoor sports apparel market to rise to $25.9 billion by 2026-end

The global outdoor sports apparel market is undergoing a fundamental transformation as it reaches a projected valuation of $25.9 billion by the end of 2026. Maintaining a steady compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.8 per cent, this growth is no longer merely a byproduct of increased fitness awareness. Instead, it is being propelled by a sophisticated convergence of textile engineering and digital health. Industry data indicates that the adoption of advanced fabric technologies has increased by 15 per cent Y-o-Y, as consumers increasingly demand garments that offer more than basic weather protection.

Smart textiles and thermal regulation systems

A primary catalyst for this expansion is the integration of 'intelligent' fibers capable of autonomous thermal regulation. Leading manufacturers are now deploying moisture-wicking microfibers and UV-protective finishes as standard features. Recent market intelligence reveals a 20 per cent increase in demand for sustainable performance wear, forcing brands to optimize their supply chains for recycled polyester and bio-based synthetics. This shift is particularly evident in the 'Everyday Adventure' category, where technical apparel is engineered for both high-intensity mountaineering and urban environments, effectively blurring the lines between functional gear and daily fashion.

Regional growth and strategic localization

The Asia-Pacific region is emerging as the fastest-growing geographical segment, fueled by rising middle-class disposable incomes and a 171 per cent increase in hiking participation since 2020. To mitigate global logistical risks, major players are shifting toward localized manufacturing hubs. For instance, contract manufacturers are expanding BIS-certified facilities to serve athletic giants like Adidas and Puma domestically.

Despite challenges such as raw material price volatility for nylon and spandex, the sector's focus on high-margin, multi-functional products - such as 2-in-1 hybrid leggings and convertible modular jackets—continues to secure robust financial performance across global retail channels.

The outdoor performance apparel industry specializes in technical clothing for hiking, cycling, and adventure sports. Focused on North American and Asia-Pacific markets, the sector is currently scaling smart-textile integration and sustainable production lines.

Following a record 25 per cent growth in e-commerce sales, the industry outlook remains bullish, supported by a century-long evolution from basic wool layers to high-tech, GPS-integrated wearables.

Source: fashionatingworld.com– Jan 07, 2026

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Turkish firm to invest $5.6 mn in setting up garment unit in Egypt

Egypt's Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone) recently signed a $5.6-million agreement with Turkish garment manufacturer Eroglu Moda Tekstil to set up a readymade garments unit in the Qantara West Industrial Zone.

The fully self-financed project is expected to create about 700 direct jobs. The factory will have an annual capacity of up to a million pieces. Around 95 per cent of its output will be exported, while the remaining will be supplied to the domestic market, according to the SCZone authority.

SCZone chairman Waleid Gamal Eldien said the number of contracted projects in Qantara West has reached 50, covering a total area of about 3.46 million square metres, with cumulative investments estimated at $1.35 billion and more than 70,000 direct jobs, according to domestic media reports.

The statistics include projects developed with the Main Development Company (MDC), SCZone's development arm, which builds ready-to-operate factories and industrial facilities for investors.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Jan 08, 2026

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Bangladesh Bank introduces new e-document framework for exporters

Bangladesh Bank recently issued guidelines to enable electronic submission and processing of export documents. A bank circular said authorised dealers are now permitted to process export documents through bank-to-bank electronic means.

The new policy applies to documentary collection arrangements under both documents against payment (DP) and documents against acceptance (DA) modes. The initiative aims at aligning the country's export procedures with global digitalisation standards, specifically following the Uniform Rules for Collections (URC 522) Supplement for Electronic Presentation (eURC).

Under the new instructions, ADs must ensure a prior mutual agreement exists with their overseas counterparts, such as collecting or presenting banks. This agreement must specify the format for electronic records and the designated place of presentation. Furthermore, all sales contracts must explicitly indicate that documentary collection will be handled electronically under eURC guidelines.

Where local laws permit electronic transferable rRecords (ETRs), ADs may present all documents—including those related to cargo title—electronically, provided their legal attributes remain fully preserved. If local laws do not permit ETRs, documents involving title to goods or transferability must still be sent physically. Other supporting documents may continue to be sent electronically.

If a collecting bank requires physical documents despite electronic presentation, ADs may provide authenticated electronic copies marked 'electronically received-authenticated copy'. The central bank has authorised several secure endorsement methods to maintain the integrity of the process. Banks are required to maintain a complete audit trail of all electronic submissions and store these records securely in compliance with existing regulations.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Jan 07, 2026

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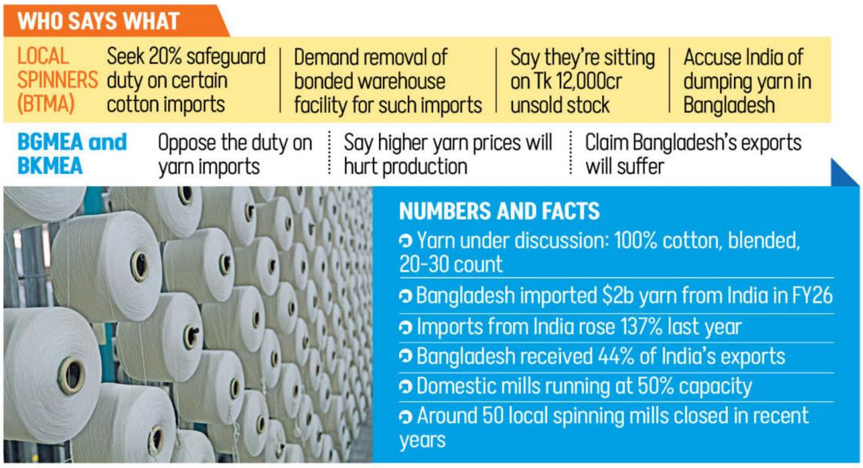
Bangladesh: Spinners, apparel exporters differ over extra duty on yarn imports

Apparel and knitwear manufacturers have opposed a proposed 20 percent safeguard tariff after local spinners asked the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission to recommend it on imports of 100 percent cotton and blended yarns in the 20-30 count range.



The manufacturers said such a tariff would force them to buy local yarn at higher prices, hurt production, and ultimately affect exports.

Local spinners, however, argued that the safeguard duty is necessary to protect the domestic industry. In the last week of December, they accused India of dumping cheap yarn in Bangladesh and said they were sitting on Tk 12,000 crore of unsold stock.

Domestic spinners claim they can meet the entire national demand for 100 percent cotton and blended yarns, including PC, CVC, PV, and grey melange.

In addition to the tariff, the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) requested the cancellation of the bonded warehouse facility for these yarns, according to multiple sources familiar with the matter.

Against this backdrop, the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission, the statutory body responsible for preventing dumping of foreign goods, convened a meeting with spinners, garment makers and knitwear manufacturers today.

The commission had already held a session earlier this week on the proposed safeguard measure.

The proposal has drawn opposition from the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA).

In separate letters to the commission, both trade bodies said imposing a 20 percent safeguard duty on yarn imports would put the export-oriented garment sector in serious trouble.

They said the sector will lose its global competitiveness if yarn prices rise as a result of the safeguard duty. They called on the government to improve gas and power supply to industrial units so mills can produce sufficient yarn, and requested incentives to make the domestic mills more competitive.

In the last week of December, Showkat Aziz Russell, president of the BTMA, said at a press conference in Dhaka that local spinning mills were left with Tk 12,000 crore of unsold yarn as cheap imports from India flooded the market.

He said that yarn imports from India rose 137 percent last year, being sold below domestic prices, and that nearly 50 local spinning mills have closed in recent years after failing to survive the competition.

While apparel makers and knitwear manufacturers in their letters said that the government cannot impose such a measure on any particular country under World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, Russell also said the BTMA does not want a 20 percent safeguard duty targeting any single country.

"It is not possible to impose such a tariff on a particular country under the WTO rules," he said. Instead, he called for subsidies on the use of local yarn to make the sector more competitive.

He told The Daily Star yesterday that the amount of stockpiled yarn has decreased somewhat as spinning mills have reduced production due to low demand.

Local spinners are operating at around 50 percent capacity because of low gas pressure, he added.

According to Russell, the total investment in the garment and primary textile sectors is more than $75 billion, including $23 billion in the primary textile sector. Combined, the two sectors contribute $40 billion in exports.

BTMA leaders said Bangladesh imported $2 billion worth of yarn from India in fiscal year 2025-26, with local mills consuming 1,600 tonnes daily. From April to October 2025, imports reached $950 million.

They said Bangladesh has become the largest destination for Indian yarn exports, receiving 44 percent of the total, while Cambodia ranks second at 21 percent.

Source: thedailystar.net– Jan 08, 2026

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BGMEA, Savor sign MoU for Bangladesh–China Green Textile Expo 2026

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed for the organisation of the second edition of the Bangladesh–China Green Textile Expo (BCGTX 2026), aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation between Bangladesh and China in the garments and textile sector with a focus on sustainability and green innovation.

The expo is being organised by Savor International Limited in joint collaboration with the Chinese Enterprises Association in Bangladesh (CEAB), with support from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Bangladesh.

The MoU signing ceremony was held on Wednesday, 7 January 2026, at the office of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) in Uttara, Dhaka.

The agreement was signed by Sajed Karim, chairman of the standing committee on trade fair and events of BGMEA; Md Faizul Alam, managing director of Savor International Limited; and Zhou Meimei, executive secretary of CEAB.

Senior officials from BGMEA, CEAB and Savor International Limited were also present at the ceremony.

Under the MoU, BGMEA will actively support the promotion and development of the Bangladesh–China Green Textile Expo as the event's knowledge partner, contributing to knowledge-sharing, industry engagement and sectoral collaboration.

The Bangladesh–China Green Textile Expo 2026 is scheduled to be held from 14 to 16 May 2026 at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB).

The expo aims to showcase green technologies, sustainable manufacturing practices and innovation in the textile and apparel value chain, while creating a platform for industry stakeholders from both countries to explore collaboration, investment and business opportunities.

Through BCGTX 2026, the organisers aim to promote environmentally responsible growth in the garments and textile sector and further strengthen industry-level cooperation between Bangladesh and China.

Source: tbsnews.net– Jan 07, 2026

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Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal visits Liechtenstein, reviews India–EFTA TEPA implementation and pitches for investments

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal undertook an official visit to Liechtenstein on 7 January 2026. During the visit, the Minister paid a courtesy call on H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois von und zu Liechtenstein at Vaduz Castle, called on H.E. Ms Brigitte Haas, Prime Minister, held a meeting with H.E. Ms Sabine Monauni, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Environment and Culture, participated in an interview with ORF, attended a luncheon hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister; visited Hilti AG for an interaction with its leadership.

The first ministerial visit of 2026 reflects India's commitment to accelerate the implementation of the India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) and translate it into sustained trade, investment, and manufacturing partnerships.

The Minister also recalled the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's emphasis on India's constructive role and optimism in the global economy. Prime Minister Modi has said: "The world is seeing India with a ray of hope amidst uncertainty" The Minister noted that this sentiment resonates with India's approach to partnerships that create real outcomes for businesses, MSMEs, farmers, fishermen and communities.

TEPA is India's first free trade agreement with a developed group of EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland). It signals the improving quality of Indian products, the expanding and diversified range of Indian exports, and a steady strengthening of India's manufacturing capabilities that support "Make in India" and "Make for the World".

The Minister underlined that TEPA represents a shift to a higher-quality economic relationship. India's manufacturing ecosystem is increasingly combining scale, competitiveness, and reliability for global markets.

In meetings with the Liechtenstein leadership and business community, the Minister set out India's growth story as a stable and scalable base for long-term partnership.

India is today the fourth largest economy, with an estimated GDP of USD 4.13 trillion in 2025. India offers both scale and reform momentum, a large and expanding consumer market, a deepening industrial base, and a sustained focus on ease of doing business, digitisation, and infrastructure-led competitiveness.

Both sides also exchanged views on the global business environment. With supply chains facing disruptions, uncertainties, and sharper volatility, India and Liechtenstein can combine strengths to offer stability and predictability to investors and enterprises.

India's scale, talent, and manufacturing depth can complement Liechtenstein's specialised industrial capabilities, high-value innovation, and financial expertise. Together, these can create resilient value chains and a reliable investment bridge, sending a signal of confidence and hope in an increasingly unsettled world.

At Hilti AG, the Minister encouraged stronger industry-to-industry partnerships, higher value addition, supplier linkages including MSMEs, and an expanded role for India-based production in global operations.

He invited Liechtenstein companies to use TEPA as a platform to grow their India presence, build manufacturing and innovation partnerships, and participate in India's expanding opportunities across sectors.

The visit concluded with a call to intensify India–Liechtenstein and wider India–EFTA engagement in the months ahead. The Minister encouraged greater participation of EFTA companies in key trade and investment events in India and invited closer collaboration through business dialogues and delegations.

TEPA carries an agreed ambition to facilitate USD 100 billion in investments into India and support the creation of one million direct jobs. The EFTA's market access offer under TEPA covers 100% of non-agri products and tariff concession on Processed Agricultural Products (PAP).

Sensitivity related to PLI in sectors such as pharma, medical devices & processed food etc. have been taken while extending offers. India's offer to EFTA covers 82.7% of tariff lines, accounting for 95.3% of EFTA exports. Over 80% of these imports are Gold, with no change in effective duty on Gold.

Sensitive sectors protected, including pharma, medical devices, processed food, dairy, soya, coal, and sensitive agricultural products.

India looks forward to welcoming more Liechtenstein and EFTA enterprises to India, translating TEPA into stronger investments, deeper technology partnerships, and a larger Indian footprint in global trade and investment flows.

Source: pib.gov.in– Jan 07, 2026

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Union Budget 2026 to be presented on February 1, Sunday

Union Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27 will be presented on Sunday, February 1, as the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs (CCPA), under the chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, finalised the dates for the budget session.

According to sources, the session will begin on January 28, with President Droupadi Murmu addressing a joint sitting of the Parliament. Next day, i.e. January 29, the Economic Survey will be laid on the tables of both the houses and in two days the Union Budget will be presented. This is the first time in recent years where the Budget will be presented on a Sunday.

With this, government maintains the convention of presenting Budget on first day of February since 2017-18. There have been three instances (2015-16 and 2016-17 and 2025-26) when the Budget has been presented on Saturday. Stock exchanges have already indicated that, if the Budget is to be presented on Sunday, there could be a special trading session.

FY27 Budget will be the ninth successive one presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. She has already achieved the record of presenting the maximum number of successive Budgets after C D Deshmukh (7 budgets).

If she presents the Budget for FY28 also, she will equal the record of late Morarji Desai, who presented a total of 10 Budgets across two stints — six between 1959 and 1964, and four between 1967 and 1969.

Among other recent finance ministers, P Chidambaram had presented nine Budgets, while Pranab Mukherjee presented eight Budgets during their respective tenures under different prime ministers.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Jan 08, 2026

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Economic growth in FY26 estimated at 7.4%

Fuelled by strong performance of services sector and manufacturing, real Gross Domestic Products (GDP) growth for Indian economy is estimated at 7.4 per cent for current fiscal year as compared to 6.5 per cent of the last fiscal, Statistics Ministry reported on Wednesday. Although nominal growth is at 8 per cent, lower than the budget estimates, economists believe it will not impact fiscal deficit for the current fiscal.

The latest figures mark the final release of the 2011–12 series. As these numbers are extrapolated from high-frequency economic indicators available through November, they may be subject to revision in upcoming reports. Notably, a new growth data series with a 2022–23 base year is scheduled for release on February 27. This update will include the Second Advance Estimates for the current fiscal year, along with revised annual and quarterly GDP estimates for the past three years, all aligned with the new base year.

According to data released by National Statistics Office (NSO), services sector estimated to grow by 9.1 per cent in FY26, compared to last year growth of 7.2 per cent. Manufacturing growth is expected to touch 7 per cent as compared to 4.5 per cent. Per capita national income, is expected to increase by Rs 16,025 yearly to Rs 2,47,487.

"With favourable factors like GST rationalisation, lower income tax burden, low inflation, cut in interest rates and strong rural demand, the growth momentum was expected to be healthy. However, we need to be wary of the heightened global uncertainties and trade barriers imposed by the US and the impact of that on our exports and capital flows," said Rajni Sinha, Chief Economist of CareEdge.

While the estimated nominal growth rate of 8 per cent falls significantly short of the 10.1 per cent budget target, the fiscal deficit outlook remains stable. According to D.K. Srivastava, Chief Policy Advisor, EY India, the first advance estimate places the nominal GDP at Rs 357.1 lakh crore. A 4.4 per cent deficit against this figure remains on track because the base GDP for 2024-25 was revised upward to Rs 330.7 lakh crore from the budgeted Rs 324.1 lakh crore. Essentially, a higher starting base has offset the slower-than-expected growth.

“The lower nominal GDP growth has, however, implications for GoI’s gross tax revenues. In the first eight months of the current fiscal year, the realised growth of GTR (Gross tax Revenue) was 3.34 per cent. The relatively lower nominal growth combined with a relatively lower than budgeted buoyancy of 1.07 over the revised estimates of 2024-25 may result in lower RE numbers for GoI’s GTR in 2025-26 as compared to the budget estimates,” he said.

Meanwhile, PM Narendra Modi posted on X: “India’s Reform Express continues to gain momentum. This is powered by the NDA Government’s comprehensive investment push and demand-led policies. Be it infrastructure, manufacturing incentives, digital public goods or ‘Ease of Doing Business’, we are working to realise our dream of a prosperous India.”

Source: thehindubusinessline.com– Jan 07, 2026

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500% tariff on India? Trump 'okays' Bill targeting purchase of Russian oil

US President Donald Trump has purportedly backed a Bill that threatens to raise tariffs on countries buying energy products, including oil, from Russia, to at least 500 per cent. If approved, the Bill will add pressure on countries like India, China and Brazil which continue to purchase Russian oil despite US sanctions.

According to US Senator Lindsey Graham, among Trump's closest congressional allies in the Senate, the US President has approved a bipartisan Bill titled the 'Sanctioning of Russia Act 2025'. Although the Bill has not yet been passed, Graham said it could be brought up for a bipartisan vote as early as next week.

In a post on X, Graham said he met Trump at the White House earlier on Wednesday, where the President gave his approval to the Bill that he had been working on for months with Senator Blumenthal and many others

"This Bill will allow President Trump to punish those countries who buy cheap Russian oil fuelling Putin's war machine," Graham said, adding that it would give Trump "tremendous leverage" over India, China and Brazil.
What is the 'Sanctioning of Russia Act 2025'?

According to the US Congress website, the legislation, titled the "Sanctioning of Russia Act 2025", proposes wide-ranging penalties on individuals and entities connected to Russia. One major provision includes increasing duties on all goods and services imported from Russia into the US to at least 500 per cent of their value.

Another provision calls for a 500 per cent duty on goods and services imported from countries that "knowingly engage in the exchange of Russian-origin uranium and petroleum products".

How much Russian oil India buys?

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, India increased its purchases of Russian crude oil due to steep discounts offered by Moscow in view of Western sanctions. Russia became India's largest crude supplier, with Russian oil at times accounting for about 35-40 per cent of India's total crude imports, up from roughly 0.2 per cent before the war.

Following Trump's return to the presidency in January 2025, Washington intensified pressure on countries continuing to buy Russian oil. In August 2025, the Trump administration imposed an additional 25 per cent tariff on Indian exports for purchasing Russian crude, taking the overall tariff burden to 50 per cent.

After tougher sanctions on Russian oil majors such as Rosneft and Lukoil came into effect in late November 2025, India's imports of Russian crude fell sharply, from about 1.8 million barrels per day in November to around 1.0 million barrels per day in December, according to data from analytics firm Kpler.

In January 2026, Reliance Industries Limited, India's largest buyer of Russian oil, said it had not received any Russian deliveries for weeks and did not expect any in January, signalling a further decline in imports.

Trump threatens to increase tariff on India

On January 4, Trump said the US could raise tariffs further if India did not stop buying Russian oil.

"They (India) wanted to make me happy, basically. (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi is a very good man; he is a good guy. He knew I was not happy, and it was important to make me happy. They do trade and we can raise tariffs on them very quickly. It would be very bad for them," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One, referring to India's recent reduction in purchases of Russian crude oil.

India has earlier rejected Trump's claim that PM Modi had assured him that New Delhi would stop buying Russian oil. The government said no such assurance or conversation had taken place. New Delhi has repeatedly stated that its energy purchases are based on national interest and affordability, especially at a time of global fuel price uncertainty.

Source: business-standard.com– Jan 08, 2026

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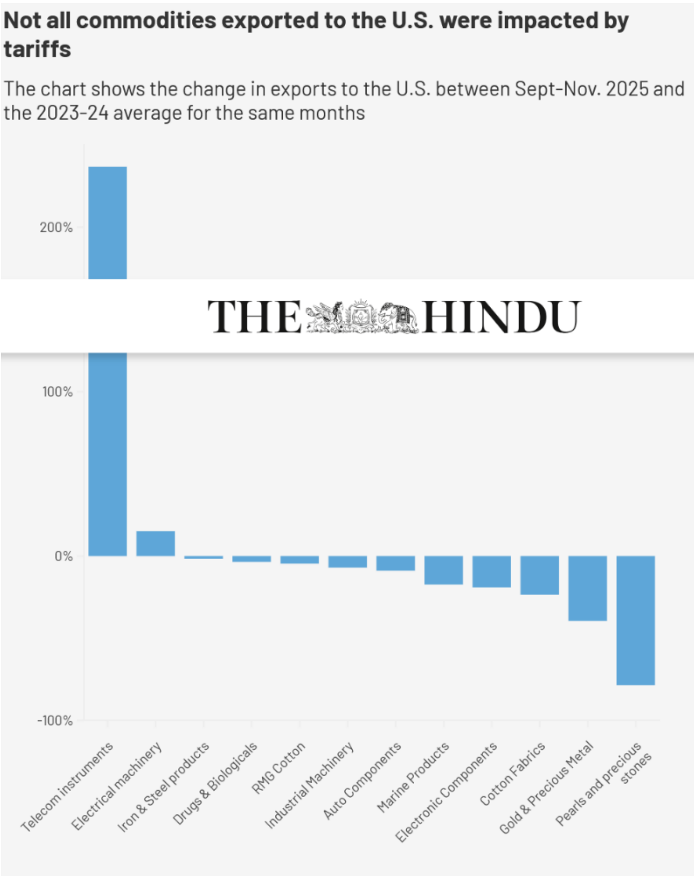
U.S. tariff impact: India is finding newer markets, strengthening old trade routes to compensate

Last month, we noted that India's trade data for November had shown a continued resilience in exports despite mounting U.S. tariffs. Not only did India's overall exports grow, but shipments to the U.S. also rebounded. However, the exact drivers were harder to discern at the time, as detailed data were still awaited.

Foreign Trade Performance Analysis data show several new trends. This analysis focuses only on items where India's export dependence on the U.S. was already significant. To isolate the impact of the tariffs, the figures for September through November 2025 were compared against the 2023-24 average for those same months.

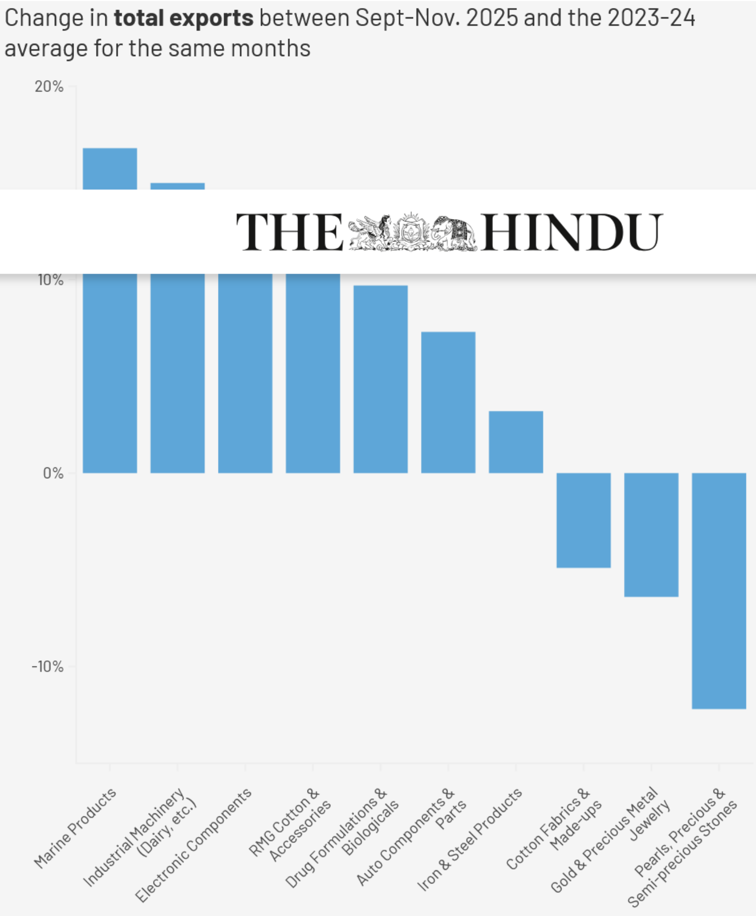
As shown in the chart below, not all commodities exported to the U.S. were impacted by tariffs. Notably, exports of telecom instruments to the U.S. — most of which are not tariffed, particularly smartphones — surged by 237% between the periods considered. Exports of electrical machinery also grew by 15%.



That brings us to the items hit by the U.S. tariffs and other challenges. Exports of pearls and precious stones declined by about 78.5% between the periods considered. Gold jewellery exports to the U.S. declined by 39%, cotton fabrics by 23%, marine products by 17% and readymade cotton by 4.6%.

Overall, the surge in smartphone exports to the U.S. masked the decline in sectors hit by tariffs. This explains why total exports to the U.S. rose despite the new duties. But what about the items that did suffer?

The explanation follows two distinct paths: for some commodities, the blow from U.S. tariffs was partially blunted, while for others, Indian exporters managed to not only absorb the hit but also increase overall exports by diversifying into other markets. The chart below shows the change in total exports between September-November 2025 and the 2023-24 average for the same months



Consider marine products, where overall exports grew by roughly 17% between the considered periods, despite a near-identical decline in shipments to the U.S. Moreover, the U.S. continued to be a dominant buyer in 2025 with a market share exceeding 30%.

So, exporters did more than just absorb the blow in a traditionally dependent market; they also pivoted to other destinations, driving total export even higher than before in marine products. As shown in the table below, marine exports to China — already a robust buyer — grew by 23% during the same period.

Simultaneously, India made significant inroads into relatively newer territories — between September and November 2025, India exported over $50 million worth of marine products to Spain. This expansion extended across Europe, with marine shipments to Belgium surging by 124%, while exports to the Netherlands (56%), Germany (65%), and Italy (23%) all posted substantial gains. So, the gap left by the U.S. was filled by a mix of strengthening alliances and discovering new ones.

India's readymade cotton garments exports to various countries between September to November of 2025

The table shows the value of India's readymade cotton garment exports to various countries between September to November of 2025. The % change in marine exports between Sept.-Nov. 2025 and the 2023-24 average for same months are also provided

Partner	2025	Change
Total	1989.2	10.4
U.S.	580.3	-4.6
U.K.	180.8	15.5
UAE	163.5	29.9
Germany	117.9	20.0
Netherlands	107.3	16.4
France	87.4	22.6
Australia	61.5	1.1
Italy	57.8	28.8
Saudi Arabia	40.3	20.8
Belgium	31.4	20.1
South Africa	13.9	-6.2
China	12.0	29.1

THE HINDU

"Shipments to the EU and China have increased over the past few months. We request the Centre to intervene and have Free Trade Agreements with other countries to help the aqua sector," Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) Andhra Pradesh president K. Anand Kumar said.

A similar strategy was recorded in the case of readymade cotton garments also, with increases in exports to European markets helping here too. The table below shows India's readymade cotton garments exports to various countries between September to November of 2025

"The Rupee at 90 is a good instrument for Indian exporters to locate new markets. It helps push exports to various markets," said Siddhartha Rajagopal, Executive Director of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council.

Source: thehindu.com– Jan 08, 2026

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Govt launches 2-day conference on labour codes, asks states to notify rules

The Union Minister of Labour & Employment, Mansukh Mandaviya, inaugurated a two-day regional conference in Goa on Wednesday, with an agenda of facilitating the smooth implementation of the four new labour codes.

This is the first of six regional conferences planned by the Central government, covering all states, Union territories and key stakeholders. The objective of these conferences is to facilitate the smooth implementation of the four labour codes and deliberate on related issues concerning the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY).

"Stakeholders have widely welcomed the government's decision, particularly noting key progressive provisions such as annual health check-ups, social security coverage for workers engaged in hazardous activities even in establishments with a single worker, mandatory issuance of appointment letters, and the reduced eligibility period for gratuity to one year from the earlier requirement of five years," said the statement.

The four new labour codes were brought into force on November 21, and the government pre-published the draft rules on December 30. Upon releasing the draft rules, the Centre invited objections and suggestions from stakeholders for a period of 30 to 45 days.

At the regional conference, virtually inaugurated by the Union labour minister, Labour Secretary Vandana Gurnani urged states to notify their respective rules at the earliest, after consulting their law departments.

"States are also encouraged to participate in outreach under PMVBRY, address overlaps with Shops and Establishments Acts through further deliberations, and leverage expanded ESIC coverage under the codes, including for gig and platform workers, while exploring the inclusion of contract and outsourced workers under ESI to set an example as model employers," said the statement.

At the conferences, the government aims to deliberate on rules and regulations, identify gaps and divergences, expedite the issuance of statutory notifications, and discuss the constitution of boards, funds and related institutional mechanisms. Consultations were also held on schemes to be formulated under the labour codes, alongside discussions on IT systems and digital platforms for effective implementation.

The government has previously said that it aims to make the four codes fully effective starting April 1. Before that, it will notify the finalised rules once stakeholder consultations are concluded and the suggestions are taken into account.

Source: business-standard.com– Jan 07, 2026

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Bangladesh textile industry lobbies for safeguard tariff on Indian cotton yarn imports

Nagpur: Amidst unrest in run-up to elections, the textile industry in Bangladesh is lobbying for imposing a 20% safeguard tariff on import of cotton yarn, blended yarn, and even grey melange from India. These are key products made by industries in India, including the units in Vidarbha. A safeguard tariff is a temporary duty imposed by any country to protect the local industry.

A note was circulated by a foreign trade research officer in Bangladesh to the country's trade and tariff commission, commerce secretary, and the textile mills association suggesting slapping safeguard duty on Indian cotton at a meeting that was convened on January 5. Even as the outcome of the meeting is not known yet, the note has gone viral in India. This has left the textile sector here worried, as industry players say it could be a double whammy.

India losing its competitive edge in Bangladesh may affect rates of raw cotton fetched by farmers, they suggested. The tariff threat comes at a time when India re-imposed the duty on raw cotton imports from January 1. The 11% duty was lifted in August, following tariff tension with the US. However, despite stiff lobbying by the textile sector, it was not extended beyond December 31. Lifting of duties allowed cheaper imports of raw cotton to India, benefiting the sector.

However, within 1 week of bringing back the duties, cotton prices even in the private market have touched the minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 8,110 a quintal for the best grade. Costlier cotton would affect margins for the Indian textile industry. If Bangladesh imposes a duty, even exports from India would be affected, say industry sources.

Prashant Mohta, managing director of Gima Tex Limited and president of Vidarbha Industries Association (VIA), said 30% of the yarn produced each month in Vidarbha is exported to Bangladesh. This came to as much as 3,000 tons. There are around 45 units engaged in yarn production in Vidarbha alone. The duty will lead to yarn prices crashing in India, even impacting cotton prices.

Moreover, India has duty free imports of Bangladeshi apparel. The demand to impose a duty in Bangladesh stemmed from a wrongful practice by industries of the country, unearthed by the country's authorities recently.

Certain licensed importers in Bangladesh are allowed to bring in duty-free yarn from India only if it is used to make garments that are ultimately exported. However, it was found that certain industries consumed duty-free cotton and sold garments in the domestic market, affecting the trade dynamics in Bangladesh. This led to a demand for imposing a duty on imports from India, said a source.

Source: timesofindia.com– Jan 08, 2026

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India targets global textile hub status at Ministers' Conference 2026

The National Textiles Ministers' Conference 2026, organised by the Ministry of Textiles, in collaboration with the Government of Assam, will commence from January 8 in Guwahati, Assam. The two-day conference will be held under the theme 'India's Textiles: Weaving Growth, Heritage & Innovation', bringing together textile ministers and senior officials from across the nation.

The two-day conference aims to provide a platform for deliberations on policy, investment, sustainability, exports, infrastructure development, and technological advancement in the textile sector. It aligns with the government's vision of positioning India as a global textile manufacturing hub by 2030, with a focus on boosting exports, employment generation, and inclusive growth, in line with the ethos of 'Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi'.

The inaugural session on January 8 will be attended by the Union Minister of Textiles Giriraj Singh, Chief Minister of Assam, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, Minister of State for Textiles, Pabitra Margherita along with other dignitaries. The inaugural session will also feature the opening of an exhibition and pavilion, showcasing India's textile strength, innovation, and rich heritage.

The conference will feature sessions covering key areas such as infrastructure and investment, expanding India's textile exports, raw materials and fibres, technical textiles and new-age fibres, and preserving and promoting handlooms and handicrafts.

Special focus will be placed on flagship initiatives such as the PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks, sustainability and environmental compliance, technical textiles, innovation, and integrated value-chain development, the Ministry of Textiles said in a press release.

A conclave on 'Strengthening and Empowering the Textiles Sector of the North-Eastern Region of India' will also be held on January 8, in which textile ministers from North-Eastern states, members of Parliament, and senior officials from the centre and states will participate.

The conclave will focus on unlocking the potential of the North-East's silk, handloom, handicrafts, and bamboo-based textiles, with special emphasis on Eri, Muga and Mulberry silk, women-led enterprises, branding, and market access.

The National Textiles Ministers' Conference is expected to strengthen centre–state collaboration and chart a clear roadmap for a competitive, sustainable, and inclusive textile sector.

Source: fibre2fashion.com– Jan 07, 2026

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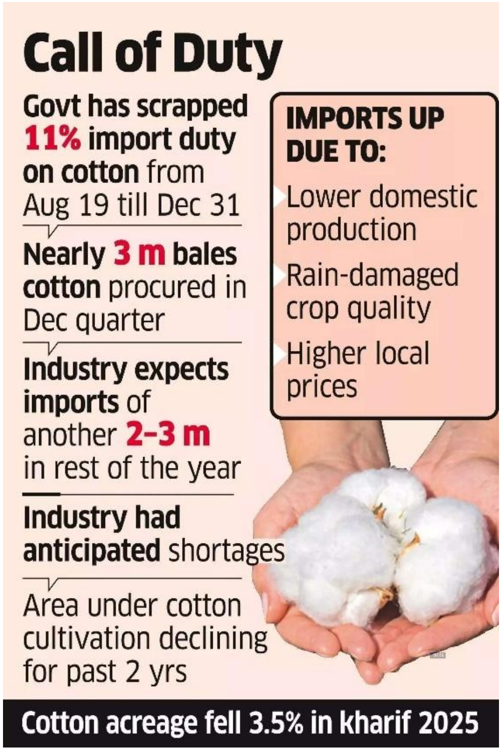
Cotton imports zoom as traders reap zero duty window benefit

Pune: India imported cotton at a record pace, procuring nearly 3 million bales in the December quarter, as buyers rushed to take advantage of the duty-free window till the year-end.



This could lead to a second consecutive year of record imports in FY26 amid lower domestic production, rain-damaged crop quality, and higher local prices.

Trade bodies, global merchants, and textile mills estimate that total imports during the October-September cotton marketing season could reach 5-6 million bales, depending on government policy, US tariffs, and trade pacts with the EU and the UK.

Acting on a longstanding demand from the cotton textile and yarn industry, the government scrapped a 11% import duty on cotton from August 19 till December 31. The industry had anticipated shortages as the area under cotton cultivation has been declining for the past two years.

Cotton acreage fell 3.5% in kharif 2025 from the year earlier, adding to a sharper 9.5% decline in kharif 2024 over 2023.

"The top 10 mills in the country have covered their cotton requirements until May or June through imports," said Atul Ganatra, chairman, Radhalakshmi Group and former president of the Cotton Association of India (CAI).

In addition to the strong imports in the first quarter of the cotton marketing year, the industry expects another 2-3 million bales to be imported in the rest of the year.

A key reason is the widespread damage to the quality of Indian cotton due to adverse weather conditions. "The quality of at least 50% of this year's cotton production has been affected, which is reflected in parameters such as strength and shine," said K Selvaraju, secretary general of the Southern India Mills Association (SIMA).

Export commitments require specific grades of cotton that are contamination-free and of extra- long staple (ELS), for which India depends on imports. "We will import 300,000 bales of Australian cotton between June and August. At least 500,000 bales of duty-free extra-long staple cotton will be imported by September to meet our normal demand for this variety. More than 500,000 bales may also come from Africa, which attracts lower duties," said Ganatra.

Cotton imported by processing mills for their captive consumption attracts only 4% import duty. Large mills can import at lower effective duties when domestic prices remain higher than international prices.

Meanwhile, state-owned Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is holding more than 20% of this year's crop through price support procurement at the minimum support price.

Source: economictimes.com– Jan 07, 2026

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