

Prospects for the textile and clothing industry in China

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Abstracts

China is the world's largest producer and exporter of textiles and clothing, and its textile and clothing industry has played a significant role in the country's economic development. The industry's success can be attributed to high productivity, an emphasis on training and the development of skills, investment in modern manufacturing machinery, a loyal workforce and an ambitious entrepreneurial spirit. Operations in the industry are extensive and range from the production of raw materials to the manufacture of finished goods. Most of the world's leading clothing brands have manufacturing links with China. In addition, factories owned or part-owned by foreign investors have played a significant role in the development of the industry, and such factories now account for around 33% of the industry's output. Further impetus will be provided by the government's economic policy of encouraging consumers to save less and spend more. However, wage levels have risen strongly and are already markedly higher than in most other countries in Asia. Also, the industry could suffer a loss of competitiveness if the renminbi is revalued. China also suffers from an ageing population as a result of the country's one-child policy and there may not be enough young people to recruit for manufacturing activities in the future. Despite these issues, China's advance in the manufacturing sector is set to continue. This report looks at the development of the textile and clothing industry in China, its size and structure, and fibre, textile and clothing production and consumption. The report also features: a geographical, political and economic profile; a detailed look at the country's imports and exports of textiles and clothing; the domestic market; a review of government policies and investment incentives; foreign direct investment (FDI) in the textile and clothing industry; an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT); and a look at the country's infrastructure and human resources and how these affect the textile and clothing industry.

Contents

SUMMARY

IMPORTANCE OF THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING INDUSTRY TO THE ECONOMY OF CHINA

DEVELOPMENT OF THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING INDUSTRY IN CHINA

CHINA: GEOGRAPHICAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROFILE

Geographical profile

Political profile

Economic profile

CHINA: INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation

Roads

Railways

Airports

Waterways

Seaports and river ports

Power

Telecommunications

Industrial parks

CHINA: HUMAN RESOURCES SIZE AND STRUCTURE OF THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN CHINA

Spinning

Weaving

Knitting

Productivity

Outlook

SIZE AND STRUCTURE OF THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY IN CHINA

CHINA: FIBRE, TEXTILE AND CLOTHING PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

Fibre production
Cotton
Man-made fibres
Fibre consumption
Yarn and fabric production
Clothing production
Manufacturing costs

CHINA: DOMESTIC MARKET

CHINA: TEXTILE AND CLOTHING EXPORTS

Exports of raw cotton and cotton textiles
Raw cotton
Cotton yarn and thread
Cotton fabric
Textile and clothing exports by major export destinations
Textile exports by destination
Clothing exports by destination
Outlook

CHINA: TEXTILE AND CLOTHING IMPORTS

Textile imports
Clothing imports
Imports of cotton products
Textile imports by supplying country

CHINA: IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF TEXTILE MACHINERY

CHINA: FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) IN THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING INDUSTRY

TEXTILES AND CLOTHING IN CHINA: GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

Government policies
Foreign investment policies

Investment incentives

TEXTILES AND CLOTHING IN CHINA: STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS

Strengths

Weaknesses

Opportunities

Threats

List Of Tables

LIST OF TABLES

- Table 1: China: political and economic profile, 2014
- Table 2: China: economic indicators 2010-12
- Table 3: China: area planted to cotton and cotton production, 2008-12
- Table 4: China: synthetic fibre production, 2008-12
- Table 5: China: yarn and fabric production, 2008-12
- Table 6: China: production of fabric by fibre type and clothing, 2008-12
- Table 7: Brands manufactured in China, 2011
- Table 8: China: consumer expenditure on clothing per head, 2007-12
- Table 9: China: textile and clothing exports, 2000-13
- Table 10: China: exports of raw cotton, cotton yarn and thread, and cotton fabric, 2008-12
- Table 11: China: textile and clothing exports by destination, 2009-12
- Table 12: China: textile exports by leading destination, 2009-12
- Table 13: China: clothing exports by leading destination, 2009-12
- Table 14: China: textile and clothing imports, 2000-13
- Table 15: China: imports of raw cotton, cotton yarn and thread, and cotton fabric, 2008-12
- Table 16: China: textile imports by leading supplier, 2009-12
- Table 17: China: imports and exports of textile machinery, 2007-13
- Table 18: China: fixed asset investment in the textile and clothing industry 2008-12

LIST OF MAP

China

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