# Statistics: Fibre Consumption in South America, 2009 edition 

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## Abstracts

Consumption of fibres in South American mills fell by 1.7\% in 2008, following a 1.3\% increase in 2007. As a result, usage fell below the level seen in 2006 although it was still higher than in previous years. South American textile and clothing companies have had to struggle in the face of a weakening US dollar, which has made their goods more expensive in their biggest export market, the USA. Also, they have faced strong competition from low cost producing countries in Asia especially China. Nevertheless, mill consumption rose in some South American countries in 2008.

Brazil continued to dominate the industry in 2008, having accounted for $65 \%$ of total fibre consumption in the region during the year. However, consumption fell to 1.71 mn tons, which was lower than in three of the previous four years. Consumption also declined in Chile, Colombia and Peru, but in Argentina it increased.

Cotton represented as much as $53 \%$, or 1.40 mn tons, of all fibres consumed in South America in 2008. Synthetic filament yarn accounted for $31 \%$, synthetic staple fibre for $14 \%$, wool for $1 \%$ and cellulosic staple fibre for $1 \%$. Usage of cellulosic filament yarn was negligible.

## Contents

## SUMMARY

## FIBRE PRODUCTION

Synthetic fibre production
Cellulosic fibre production

## MILL FIBRE CONSUMPTION

Synthetic fibre consumption
Cellulosic fibre consumption
Natural fibre consumption

## OUTLOOK

## STATISTICAL APPENDIX

## List Of Tables

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru: production of man-made fibres, by fibre type, 1999-2008
Table 2: South America: mill consumption of fibres, by fibre type, 1999-2008
Table 3: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru: mill consumption of fibres, by fibre type, 1999-2008
Table 4: Argentina: production, trade and mill consumption of fibres, by fibre type, 1999-2008
Table 5: Brazil: production, trade and mill consumption of fibres, by fibre, type, 1999-2008
Table 6: Chile: production, trade and mill consumption of fibres, by fibre type, 1999-2008
Table 7: Colombia: production, trade and mill consumption of fibres, by fibre type, 1999-2008
Table 8: Peru: production, trade and mill consumption of fibres, by fibre type, 1999-2008

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