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The world nonwovens industry: part 1—the leading ten producers, January 2018

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Abstracts

In this report, the first in a series of three in which the world's top 40 nonwovens producers are profiled, Karen Bitz provides the latest information and analysis about the activities of the world's leading ten producers of nonwovens. For many of these players, sales volumes have increased compared with the previous year, but sales values have declined or remained static due to pricing pressures and lower raw material pass-through costs. Despite these challenges, several companies have made significant investments which are expected to benefit sales in the future. Suominen, for example, has completed work on a new line in South Carolina, USA, representing the largest single investment in the company's history, while Fitesa has opened new lines in Brazil, Germany, Mexico and Sweden, and has recently acquired Pantex. Other companies are focusing on transforming their businesses. For example, DuPont has merged with The Dow Chemical Company to form a technological giant which will thereafter be split into three companies while Ahlstrom has merged with Munksjo although it is continuing to invest in filtration.

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