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"Trends in US Textile and Clothing Imports" and "Trends in EU Textile and Clothing Imports 2003" (download)

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With over 70 pages of data and analysis spanning 20 years, this report covers the general trends, the top ten supplying countries, import trends by supplying country and import prices for each of the 15 product categories. It also gives you details of the major suppliers, import restrictions and the phasing-out of quotas.

US imports of MFA textiles and clothing surged by 17% in 2002 to 38.3 bn sme (square metres equivalent). Within the overall total, imports of made-up textiles soared by 36% and their share increased to 24%. But apparel continued to hold the highest share, at 45%, reflecting strong US demand for cheap clothing. Cotton apparel continues to dominate, and increased its share in 2002 at the expense of apparel made from man-made fibres. But textiles and apparel made from man-made fibres still account for more than half of US imports.

Product Details

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Textile and clothing imports from China surged in volume by 125% following the country's entry to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in late 2001. As a result, China became the leading supplier in value and volume in 2002. Meanwhile, Mexico fell to second place as US imports from the country declined in value by 4%. Imports from Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) countries were also sluggish, having grown by only 0.9%. Among Asean countries, Indonesia and Thailand achieved only modest volume gains despite lower prices. In value terms, imports from each of these two suppliers fell by around 10%. Imports also fell in value from the Asian "big three"—Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan. However, imports from South Korea and Taiwan rose in volume by 47% and 14% respectively as their average prices fell significantly.

Report no. 2:
Trends in EU Textile and Clothing Imports 2003

This report examines trends in EU imports and import prices of 12 major product categories: cotton yarn; fabrics woven from synthetic staple fibres; fabrics woven from synthetic filament yarn; T-shirts; pullovers; trousers; women's blouses; men's shirts; women's overcoats; women's dresses; women's skirts; and women's suits. EU textile and clothing imports have slowed markedly in recent years.

After rising in value by 16.1% in 2000 and by 4.5% in 2001, they fell by 0.3% in 2002 to Euro65.03 bn (US$61.35 bn). In volume terms, imports carried on rising but at the slower pace of 4.9%, reaching 6.32 mn tons.

Price competition among suppliers has intensified. The average import price fell by 5.0% in 2002, following a decline of 1.9% in 2001. This is causing concern among EU producers, who are finding it increasingly difficult to match low import prices. Furthermore, EU exporters suffered in 2002 from the appreciation of the euro against the US dollar. This eroded the gains made in 2001 when the euro weakened. With exports weaker and import volumes up, EU textile output fell by 5.2% while clothing production plunged by 12.1%.

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