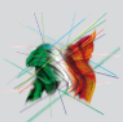


TEXTILE MACHINERY: NEW SKILL SETS REQUIRED FOR INDUSTRY 4.0

Once again, innovation has taken a front row seat at the general meeting of ACIMIT, the association that represents Italian textile machinery manufacturers. In presenting the latest figures for the sector for 2017, President Alessandro Zucchi reiterated the inevitability of the digitalization process regarding the entire textile industry. Partnerships between technology suppliers and textile manufacturers have become an essential component in providing solutions to the needs of *fast-fashion* and increasingly more significant *e-commerce* retail channels.

However, the digitalization of production processes requires a whole new set of skills, and consequently new training solutions. The declaration of intent launched by the trade association is essentially to strengthen the current link with educational institutions. “*We need to consolidate the dialogue with schools,*” states Zucchi, “*making sure that our needs are met in professional terms, created by the new digital context and the ensuing opportunities young people can seize upon in sectors such as textile machinery production, in which Italy plays a pre-eminent role in providing excellence worldwide.*”

At the general meeting’s opening remarks, Prof. Fortis, Vice President of the Edison Foundation, illustrated Italy’s global leadership within the textile machinery industry, both in terms of exports and trade balance. The quality and distinction of Italian textile machinery has been reiterated by the latest figures provided by President Zucchi. In 2017, production rose by 8%, for a value of 2.4 billion euros, while exports grew by 7% (2 billion euros). Production benefitted from a growing demand abroad for Italian machinery, as well as the crucial recovery of Italy’s domestic market, mainly due to the boost generated by the fiscal incentives for the digitalization process of the companies.



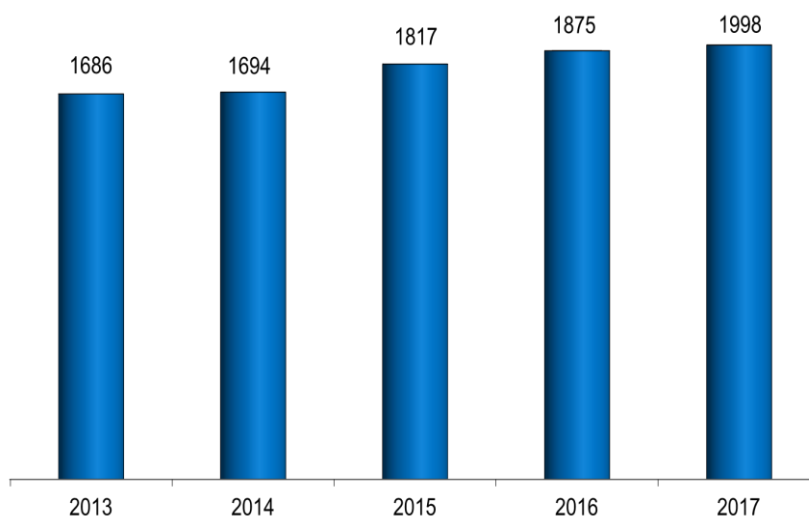
Italian textile machinery sector (million euro)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	var. 2017/16
Production (a)	1972	1969	2097	2184	2367	8%
Export (b)	1686	1694	1817	1875	1998	7%
Domestic Sales (a-b)	287	275	280	310	369	19%
Import (c)	383	399	442	483	500	3%
Consumption (a-b+c)	671	674	722	793	870	10%

Source: ACIMIT

Note: Figures exclude laundry machinery data

Export of Italian textile machinery



Source: ACIMIT

Background on the Italy's textile machinery industry and ACIMIT

ACIMIT represents an industrial sector comprising around 300 manufacturers (employing close to 12,000 people) and producing machinery for an overall value of about 2.9 billion euros, with exports amounting to more than 84% of total sales. Creativity, sustainable technology, reliability and quality are the characteristics which have made Italy a global leader in the manufacturing of textile machinery.

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