



No. 70 – November 2021

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The textile industry has been reinventing itself for decades. But the rules of the game are changing in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Efficiency cannot come at the cost of resilience anymore.

In many situations, manufacturers can generate profit-margins with a long-term perspective. But when pressure intensifies in the industry, margins suffer, and planning gets harder. The Covid-19 pandemic taught us that lesson much too well. In reaction, we increasingly hear that improved resilience is the solution. It can be achieved with alternative sourcing routes and regional supply chains (see Article 1 and 2 on ways to strengthen local economic development). Higher automation and better information systems are also used to ease global transactions. But developing into these directions has a cost, and it is unclear who bears it. Should manufacturers and suppliers decrease profit? Should consumers pay a higher price? Should governments intervene?

Individual reactions by policy makers and private companies differ across regions and countries. The goal of their actions, at the time of writing, is nevertheless the same everywhere. People strive to stabilize the textile industry and fight the current global supply chain disruption (see Article 7 and 8 for county specific impacts and actions).

It is true that 2021 was a good year for most textile manufacturers. This can be read in the 11th ITMF Corona-Survey, a bi-monthly questionnaire to feel the pulse of the textile industry. The newly published report (see Articles 3 to 6) shows an improved business situation 2021 and positive expectations for 2022. However, additional challenges are unravelling across the world and the industry, and experts now revised growth forecasts down (see the Quarterly Economic Commentary for an example). In the words of ITMF president Sun "the world situation presents high complexity and uncertainty". The way we approach the current challenges will define where we will stand tomorrow.



Dr. Olivier Zieschank
director, ITMF

PARTNER NEWS

- > **Hybrid IAF & EURATEX-Conventions 2021 in Antwerp**
- > **FICCA presents the fashion industry's target for emission reduction**
- > **VDMA welcomes the ambitions of the EU to promote climate protection**

PARTNER ARTICLES

- > **Article 1: A short introduction to Special Economic Zone for textile manufacturers**
- > **Article 2: New investment destinations in textiles & apparel in West Africa**

REPORT: THE 11th ITMF CORONA-SURVEY

- > **Article 3: Business situation in the textile industry improved in November 2021**
- > **Article 4: Business expectations are slightly lower but remain on a high level**
- > **Article 5: Strong order intake continues into the middle of 2022**
- > **Article 6: Stable order backlog and slightly higher capacity utilization rate**

REPORT: ITMF TEXTILE MACHINERY WORKSHOP 2021

- > **Article 7: World textile and apparel landscape 2021 and 2022**
- > **Article 8: The textile machinery market in 2021 and 2022**

QUARTERLY ECONOMIC COMMENTARY



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

Article 1: A short introduction to Special Economic Zone for textile manufacturers



Special Economic Zones offer many lucrative incentives to textile manufacturers. The Adrianople Group has created the world's first complete map of SEZs worldwide. [> read more \(members only\)](#)

Article 2: Emerging investment destinations in textiles & apparels in West Africa



Togo's PIA, a textile-focused park, aims to create a sustainable ecosystem for textile value chains and offer multiple incentives to textile investors setting up operations in the park. [> read more \(members only\)](#)

Article 3: The business situation in the textile industry improved significantly in November 2021



Business situation has improved significantly on average across all regions and segments. Only in East Asia more companies judge their situation rather poor than good. [> read more \(members only\)](#)

Article 4: Business expectations in the textile value chain slightly lower but remain high



Business expectations have slightly weakened on average but remain on a relative high level. Especially the downstream segments expect more favorable business in the next six months. [> read more \(members only\)](#)

Article 5: Strong order intake continues into the middle of 2022



Order intake was strong in November. Companies anticipated a further improvement across all regions. Downstream segments are slowly catching up. [> read more \(members only\)](#)

Article 6: Stable order backlog and slightly higher capacity utilization rate



Order backlog remains relatively stable. Textile machinery companies have an average backlog of around 6 months. The capacity utilization rate has increased continuously since May to 82% in November. [> read more \(members only\)](#)

Article 7: World textile and apparel landscape 2021 and 2022



While the challenges facing the textile and apparel industry are global, reactions are local. This article summarizes the situation in each country that took part to the ITMF Textile Machinery Workshop 2021. [> read more \(members only\)](#)



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Article 8: The textile machinery market in 2021 and 2022



The main threats in the textile machinery industry result from scarce cargo space. The main opportunities follow sustainability trends and technology innovation. Regional disparities exist.

[> read more](#)

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ERRATA

Welcome to Santex Rimar Group

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We announced Santex Rimar (Switzerland) as new corporate member in our last newsletter. We should have announced [SANTEX RIMAR GROUP](#) from Italy.

PARTNER NEWS

FICAA presents the fashion industry's target for emission reduction



UN Climate Change News, 8 November 2021 – The fashion industry is raising its collective ambition with updated science-based emission reduction targets under the Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action. [> read more](#)

VDMA welcomes the ambitions of the EU to promote climate protection



Frankfurt, 22 October 2021 – In a position paper published today, the companies organised in the VDMA Textile Machinery Association welcome the ambitions of the EU to promote climate protection, in particular the approach of combining the goals for the EU textile and clothing industry into a sector-specific strategy. [> read more](#) (Link expires on 6.12.21)



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Hybrid IAF & EURATEX-Conventions 2021 in Antwerp

On **November 8/9, 2021**, the International Apparel Federation (IAF) and the European Apparel & Textile Federation (EURATEX) organized jointly back-to-back their annual conventions in Antwerp, Belgium. Due to the complicated travel regulations around the world, the IAF offered to follow and participate in the convention virtually.

The two conventions covered many important topics. The IAF-Convention on November 8th, 2021 had five different sessions, namely 1) supply chain collaboration, 2) digitalization, 3) e-fashion, 4) towards a more transparent and circular supply chain, and 5) overview of global apparel and textile business trends.

In the 5th session ITMF's director general, Mr. Christian Schindler, delivered a presentation with the title: "The global textile industry between efficiency and resilience".

Ahead of the convention, the IAF had elected a new President. After 5 years at the helmet of IAF as President, Mr. Han Bekke, who is President of MODINT, the Dutch apparel and textile industry association, handed over the presidency to Mr. Cem Altan who is a member of the Board of Directors of both the Istanbul Apparel Exporters Association (IHKIB) and of the Turkish Clothing Manufacturers Association (TCMA).



Mr. Han Bekke, immediate past president, IAF, and president, MODINT, and Dr. Christian Schindler, director general, ITMF at the hand-over ceremony on November 7th, 2021 in Antwerp, Belgium

The EURATEX-Convention on November 9th, 2021, covered all relevant aspects the industry in Europe is currently preoccupied with. These were namely 1) traceability, 2) textile waste recycling, 3) going global, 4) EU-Turkey relations, 5) the skill challenge, 6) Product Environmental Footprint (PEF), 7) EU funding and programme opportunities, 8) the new EU chemical strategy, and 9) energy efficiency and decarbonisation.