

Knitting Industry

Industry Talk

Italian textile machinery orders fall sharply

Italian machinery orders decline amidst fragile global market conditions.

Orders for Italian textile machinery manufacturers fell sharply in the fourth quarter of 2025, declining by 36% compared to the same period in 2024, as the global market environment remained challenging. The downturn affected both domestic and overseas demand, with orders from the Italian market dropping by 50% and foreign markets contracting by 34%.

Compared to the previous quarter, July to September 2025, total orders were down by 25%. The orders index for the October to December 2025 period stood at 31.5 points, based on 2021 equalling 100. The domestic index reached 28.4 points, while foreign markets performed slightly better at 31.9 points.

Across the full year, order intake in 2025 declined by 22% compared to 2024. Domestic orders were down by 28%, while foreign markets recorded a 21% decrease. At the end of December 2025, the order backlog was equivalent to approximately 2.9 months of production, offering limited short-term visibility for manufacturers.

From a sector perspective, the spinning segment is showing comparatively stronger dynamism. Looking ahead to the first quarter of 2026, forecasts remain cautious, although several companies anticipate stability or modest improvement compared to the previous quarter.

Marco Salvadè, president of ACIMIT, said the operating environment continues to be demanding for Italian manufacturers. However, export data for the first ten months of 2025 provided some positive signals. Notably, exports to India increased by 46.7%, making it the leading destination market for Italian textile machinery. He emphasised that innovation, quality and a strong presence in strategic markets will be central to the sector's recovery.

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