July 2026

Textile machinery order index, 2nd quarter 2026

In the period between **April and June 2026**, order intake for Italian textile machinery manufacturers showed mixed but encouraging signals for the second half of the year. The order **index at constant prices** stood at 46.6 points (taking 2021=100 as the base year), showing a **slight decrease of 3%** compared to the same quarter of 2025. This trend was largely due to the **contraction recorded in the domestic market**, which fell by 25% compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. Looking at the overall balance sheet for the first six months of 2026, total **orders posted a 4% decline** compared to the first half of 2025, split between -11% in Italy and -3% abroad.

While the year-on-year comparison suffers from particularly challenging baselines, the **quarter-on-quarter perspective offers a picture of strong recovery**. Compared to the first quarter of 2026 (January–March), total order intake **surged by 25%**, driven by a lively **rebound in both domestic (+39%) and international (+23%) demand**.

On the operational front, the **total backlog accumulated by companies** currently guarantees **about 3.5 months of assured production**, while the capacity utilization rate stood at 79.7%.

Analyzing the dynamics of individual production sectors compared to the first quarter of the year, order trends in the **domestic market** were **growing or stationary across all segments**, with sharp increases in **spinning and weaving**. In **international markets, positive growth** prevailed particularly in the **weaving, knitting, and finishing sectors**.
Regarding **sales forecasts** for the third quarter of 2026, company expectations point to substantial **stability in volumes** compared to the previous period; caution prevails in the domestic market, while expectations on foreign markets are balanced between increases and decreases, reflecting **cautious optimism**.

Marco Salvadè, president of ACIMIT, commented: *"Despite the international uncertainty, it is comforting that the indicator, albeit slightly, is positive in the foreign market, given that about 80% of our order intake comes from international countries. The context of the domestic market is different, as it suffers both from comparison with a positive second quarter of 2025 and from the new 2026-2028 hyper-depreciation incentive launched in June, whose effects are not yet visible in terms of investments."*

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