Knitting Industry

Industry Talk

Italian textile machinery orders recovery in Q2

Orders rebound despite weaker year-on-year performance.

Italian textile machinery manufacturers reported encouraging signs of recovery in the second quarter of 2026, despite order intake remaining slightly below the level recorded a year earlier.

According to ACIMIT's latest Textile Machinery Order Index, total orders at constant prices reached 46.6 points, based on 2021=100, representing a 3% decline compared with the second quarter of 2025. The decrease was primarily driven by a 25% contraction in the domestic market, while the cumulative result for the first six months of 2026 showed overall orders down 4% year-on-year, comprising an 11% decline in Italy and a 3% reduction in export markets.

However, quarter-on-quarter figures point to a much stronger picture. Compared with the first quarter of 2026, total order intake increased by 25%, supported by a 39% rise in domestic demand and a 23% increase in international orders.

The association said companies currently have sufficient order backlogs to guarantee around 3.5 months of production, while average capacity utilisation reached 79.7%.

Compared with the previous quarter, domestic market performance was either stable or positive across all production sectors, with particularly strong gains in spinning and weaving. International demand also strengthened, especially for weaving, knitting and finishing machinery.

Looking ahead to the third quarter of 2026, manufacturers expect sales volumes to remain broadly stable. While businesses remain cautious about the domestic market, expectations for export markets are evenly balanced between further growth and declines, reflecting a cautiously optimistic outlook.

Marco Salvadè, president of ACIMIT, said that despite continuing international uncertainty, it was encouraging to see foreign markets continuing to show positive momentum, noting that around 80% of Italian textile machinery orders originate from overseas customers. He added that the domestic market continued to be affected both by comparison with a particularly strong second quarter of 2025 and by the recently introduced 2026-2028 hyper-depreciation incentive, whose impact on investment has yet to become evident.

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