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Italian Textile Machinery Orders Show Quarterly Recovery in Q2 2026 Despite Annual Dip

ACIMIT reports a 25% quarter-on-quarter rise in orders, while domestic demand remains weak and export markets provide stability.
Italian textile machinery manufacturers recorded mixed results during the second quarter of 2026, with order intake showing signs of recovery compared to the previous quarter despite remaining below last year's levels.
According to the latest ACIMIT Textile Machinery Order Index, the order index at constant prices stood at 46.6 points (2021=100), representing a 3% decline compared to the second quarter of 2025. The decrease was mainly attributed to weaker domestic demand, where orders fell by 25% year-on-year.

First Half of 2026 Remains Below Previous Year
For the first six months of 2026, total orders declined by 4% compared to the corresponding period in 2025.
The performance was split between:

- Domestic market: -11%
- International markets: -3%

Despite the annual decline, the comparison with the previous quarter indicates improving market conditions.

Quarter-on-Quarter Orders Rise by 25%
Compared with the first quarter of 2026 (January–March), total order intake increased by 25%.
The recovery was driven by growth across both domestic and international markets:

- Domestic orders: +39%
- International orders: +23%

The results suggest stronger business activity entering the second half of the year.

Production Backlog and Capacity Utilisation
Operational indicators remained relatively stable.
Manufacturers reported:

- Production backlog: approximately 3.5 months of guaranteed production
- Capacity utilisation rate: 79.7%

These figures indicate a steady production pipeline despite market uncertainties.

Performance Across Textile Machinery Segments
Compared with the first quarter of 2026, domestic order trends were either stable or positive across all production segments.
The strongest domestic improvements were recorded in:

- Spinning machinery
- Weaving machinery

In international markets, the most positive order growth was seen in:

- Weaving machinery
- Knitting machinery
- Finishing machinery

Industry Outlook for Q3 2026
Italian textile machinery companies expect sales volumes during the third quarter of 2026 to remain broadly stable.
While domestic market sentiment remains cautious, expectations for international markets are balanced between anticipated increases and decreases, reflecting cautious optimism among manufacturers.

ACIMIT Highlights Export Market Importance
Commenting on the latest results, Marco Salvadè, President of ACIMIT, said that although international uncertainty continues, it is encouraging to see positive signals from export markets, which account for around 80% of total order intake.
He noted that the weaker domestic performance reflects comparison with a strong second quarter in 2025, as well as the recent launch of Italy's 2026–2028 hyper-depreciation incentive in June, whose impact on investment activity has yet to materialise.