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Italian textile machinery supports Asia's drive for advanced manufacturing

Key insights

- *Italian textile machinery orders rose 7% year on year in Q3 2026*
- *Export orders increased 8%, while domestic orders fell 4%*
- *Italy exported €1.675 billion worth of textile machinery in 2025*
- *Asia accounted for 40% of Italian textile machinery exports in 2025*
- *India led destination markets with €176 million in exports, up 28%*

Italian textile machinery manufacturers are seeing stronger international demand, with export orders driving growth in the third quarter of 2026. The trend highlights the importance of overseas markets for Italy's established machinery producers as global textile manufacturers evaluate investment in productivity, automation and sustainable production.

Q3 2026 Order trends

According to the Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers (ACIMIT), total order intake increased 7% year on year in the July–September quarter. Export orders rose 8%, while domestic orders declined 4%. However, total orders fell 4% compared with the previous quarter, indicating that the recovery remains uneven.

Export performance and regional breakdown

According to ACIMIT, Italian textile machinery production reached approximately €1.94 billion in 2025, while exports totaled €1.675 billion, down 8% from 2024. Overseas sales accounted for around 86% of production, underlining the industry's dependence on international buyers.

Asia remained the largest export destination, absorbing €667 million, or 40% of total exports. The European Union accounted for 24%, followed by non-EU European markets at 11%, North America at 10%, South America at 8% and Africa at 7%.

India emerged as the leading destination market in 2025, with exports reaching €176 million, a 28% increase from the previous year. This performance signals opportunities for Italian manufacturers serving major textile-producing economies.

ACIMIT's first-half 2025 trade data also recorded €30 million in Italian textile machinery exports to Bangladesh, down 6% year on year. China received €79 million, India €78 million, the United States €49 million, Türkiye €43 million, and Pakistan and Egypt €33 million and €36 million, respectively. These figures illustrate the range of markets served by Italian suppliers, although individual company export values are not available in the cited data.

Technology segments and market outlook

Italy's machinery industry includes manufacturers serving spinning, weaving, knitting, dyeing, finishing and other textile production processes. Companies such as Itema, Santoni, Lonati and Reggiani operate in different machinery segments, offering potential areas of interest for textile manufacturers planning technology upgrades.

The next major industry platform is ITMA ASIA + CITME 2026, scheduled for November 20–24 at the National Exhibition and Convention Centre in Shanghai. The exhibition will connect machinery suppliers with Asian buyers exploring advanced manufacturing technologies.

For Italian manufacturers, continued export growth could create opportunities to expand their presence across Asian textile markets. However, the quarterly decline in overall orders and cautious industry outlook suggest that sustained demand will remain important.