



Cotton System Consumption and Stocks

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Highlights

February 2026 contained 28 days.

March 2026 contained 31 days.

Total Manmade fiber consumed on the cotton system was 23.7 million pounds during March 2026, up 17 percent from February 2026 but down 2 percent from March 2025. Of the total manmade fiber consumed, 93 percent was polyester staple.

Total number of spindles on the cotton system was 564,000 during March 2026. Active spindles consuming 100 percent cotton was 274,000 in March 2026, unchanged from February 2026 but down 2 percent from March 2025.

Consumption and Stocks – United States: March 2026 with Comparisons

Item	March 2025	February 2026	March 2026
Extra long staple			
Consumed			
Running bales number	(D)	(D)	(D)
Weight 1,000 pounds	(D)	(D)	(D)
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month)			
Running bales number	364	(D)	(D)
Weight 1,000 pounds	182	(D)	(D)
Rayon and acetate staple			
Consumed 1,000 pounds	720	562	573
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month) 1,000 pounds	4,291	(D)	(D)
Polyester staple			
Consumed 1,000 pounds	22,561	18,949	22,114
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month) 1,000 pounds	15,360	9,367	9,715
Other manmade fiber staple			
Consumed 1,000 pounds	904	720	995
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month) 1,000 pounds	1,607	1,837	1,423

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Spindles in Place, Active Spindles and Spindle Hours Operated – United States: March 2026 with Comparisons

Item	March 2025	February 2026	March 2026
Cotton-system spindles in place			
Ring spindles 1,000	379	379	379
Airjet spindles 1,000	20	20	20
Open-end spindles 1,000	182	165	165
Cotton-system spindles active			
Spindles consuming 100% cotton 1,000	280	274	274
million hours	198	(D)	(D)
Spindles consuming 100% manmade fiber 1,000	19	14	12
million hours	9	6	6
Spindles consuming mixtures or blends 1,000	219	211	213
million hours	115	103	106

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: *Cotton System Consumption and Stocks* is part of the Current Agricultural Industrial Reports (CAIR) program. CAIR reports are administered under NASS's Census of Agriculture program. Response to CAIR surveys are required by law (Title 7, U.S. Code). Data are collected from all known mills that consume cotton.

The census universe was determined during operation profile interviews which were completed for each potential facility to identify the presence of cotton consumption and spindle activity in 2014.

In the Cotton and Manmade Fiber Staple survey questionnaires, mills are asked for previous calendar month data on cotton and manmade fiber consumed, stocks and spindle activity. Mills are mailed questionnaires with the options of completing the survey by mail or by Electronic Data Reporting (EDR). For surveys not received in a reasonable amount of time, telephone follow-up is conducted.

Estimating Procedures: Imputation is done for operations with non-response by using historical data and current data relationships. Data for reporting firms are added to estimates for non-reporting firms to obtain National totals.

Revision Policy: Data are revised the following month based on late reports or corrected data. Final figures are published in the annual summary of the following year.

Reliability: Approximately 50 reports are received each month which represent about 95 percent of total spindles. Monthly data can vary due to different firms reporting month to month. Survey data are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions and mistakes in reporting and in processing the data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized by carefully reviewing all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@usda.gov

Anthony Prillaman, Acting Chief, Crops Branch.....	(202) 720-2127
Chris Hawthorn, Head, Field Crops Section.....	(202) 720-2127
Fleming Gibson, Head, Fruits, Vegetables, and Special Crops Section.....	(202) 236-2428
Joshua Bates – Asparagus, Hemp, Maple Syrup, Soybeans.....	(202) 690-3234
Natasha Bruton – Cotton System Consumption and Stocks, Grain Crushings, Fats and Oils, Flour Milling Products, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Plums, Prunes.....	(202) 690-1042
Noemi Guindin – Crop Progress and Condition, Kiwifruit.....	(202) 720-2127
Michelle Harder – Hay, Kale, Peanuts, Raspberries	(202) 690-8533
Deonne Holiday – Almonds, Carrots, Coffee, Cranberries, Garlic, Onions Proso Millet, Rye, Tobacco.....	(202) 720-4288
Bret Holliman – Apricots, Barley, Chickpeas, Nectarines, Peaches, Snap Beans, Tomatoes	(202) 720-7235
James Johanson – Dry Edible Beans, Lettuce, Macadamias, Wheat	(202) 720-8068
Greg Lemmons – Beets, Corn, Flaxseed, Pears, Rice, Sweet Corn	(202) 720-9526
Krishna Rizal – Artichokes, Celery, Grapefruit, Lemons, Mandarins and tangerines, Mint, Mushrooms, Olives, Oranges, Pistachios	(202) 720-5412
Chris Singh – Apples, Cucumbers, Hazelnuts, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Squash, Sugarbeets, Sugarcane, Sweet Potatoes	(202) 720-4285
Becky Sommer – Cabbage, Cotton, Cotton Ginnings, Sorghum, Walnuts, Strawberries.....	(202) 720-5944
Travis Thorson – Blueberries, Canola, Mustard Seed, Rapeseed, Safflower, Spinach, Sunflower	(202) 720-7369
Antonio Torres – Cantaloupes, Dry Edible Peas, Grapes, Green Peas, Honeydews, Lentils, Oats, Sweet Cherries, Tart Cherries, Watermelons	(202) 720-2157
Chris Wallace – Avocados, Bell Peppers, Chile Peppers, Dates, Floriculture, Hops, Papayas, Pecans	(202) 720-4215

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