Cotton System Consumption and Stocks

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Highlights

August 2026 contained 31 days.
September 2026 contained 30 days.

Extra long staple cotton consumed on the cotton system was 151,000 pounds in September 2026, up 22 percent from August 2026 and up 24 percent from September 2025.

Total Manmade fiber consumed on the cotton system was 16.3 million pounds during September 2026, down 5 percent from August 2026 and down 11 percent from September 2025. Of the total manmade fiber consumed, 92 percent was polyester staple.

Total number of spindles on the cotton system was 545,000 during September 2026. Active spindles consuming 100 percent cotton was 281,000 in September 2026, up 1 percent from August 2026 and up 1 percent from September 2025.

Consumption and Stocks – United States: September 2026 with Comparisons

Item		September 2025	August 2026	September 2026
Extra long staple				
Consumed				
Running bales	number	244	251	302
Weight	1,000 pounds	122	124	151
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month)				
Running bales	number	294	212	(D)
Weight	1,000 pounds	147	105	(D)
Rayon and acetate staple				
Consumed	1,000 pounds	448	564	605
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month)	1,000 pounds	3,759	3,955	4,075
Polyester staple				
Consumed	1,000 pounds	16,809	15,985	15,028
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month)	1,000 pounds	16,398	7,729	7,223
Other manmade fiber staple				
Consumed	1,000 pounds	1,040	579	649
Stocks on hand (last Saturday of the month)	1,000 pounds	1,799	1,100	1,706

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

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

Item		September 2025	August 2026	September 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	174	146	146
Cotton-system spindles active				
Spindles consuming 100% cotton	1,000	278	279	281
	million hours	187	(D)	(D)
Spindles consuming 100% manmade fiber	1,000	18	11	11
	million hours	7	6	5
Spindles consuming mixtures or blends	1,000	213	186	186
	million hours	86	90	82

(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 - Estimation Branch Contacts

For more information about specific data items, please contact the Estimation Branch staff members below. You can also email inquiries to nass@usda.gov.

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Crops: Apricots, Bell Peppers, Broccoli, Canola, Cauliflower, Chile Peppers, Cucumbers, Hemp, Macadamias, Mustard Seed, Nectarines, Peaches, Plums, Pumpkins, Prunes, Rapeseed, Rye, Safflower, Soybeans, Squash, Sunflower

Jeff Lemmons, Section Chief ..... (202) 973-3272

Crops: Artichokes, Avocados, Cabbage, Crop Progress, Dates, Dry Edible Beans, Grapes, Green Peas, Hops, Olives, Pistachios, Potatoes, Rice, Snap Beans, Sugarbeets, Sugarcane, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatoes, Walnuts, Wheat

Fleming Gibson, Section Chief (Acting) ..... (202) 236-2428

Crops: Almonds, Asparagus, Barley, Beets, Blueberries, Carrots, Chickpeas, Coffee, Corn, Cranberries, Dry Edible Peas, Garlic, Grapefruit, Lemons, Lentils, Mandarins/Tangerines, Maple, Mushrooms, Onions, Oranges, Papayas, Pears, Pecans, Raspberries, Sweet Corn, Tobacco

Julie Weber, Section Chief ..... (202) 317-0165

Crops: Apples, Cantaloupe, Cotton, Cotton System Consumption and Stocks, Fats and Oils, Flaxseed, Flour Milling Products, Grain Crushings, Hay, Hazelnuts, Honeydew, Kale, Kiwifruit, Lettuce, Mint, Oats, Peanuts, Proso Millet, Sorghum, Spinach, Strawberries, Sweet Cherries, Tart Cherries, Watermelon

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