

Wool Market in the Balance: Global Wool Prices, Supply and Demand

Chris Wilcox
Chairman, Market Intelligence Committee

IWTO 2016 Congress, Sydney 4 April 2016







Events Affecting the Wool Industry since 84th IWTO Congress in 2015



Anticipated

- Slow economic recovery in advanced economies
- China economy in transition
- Better raw wool demand
- Low world wool production
- Pull-back in superfine wool production
- Higher wool prices, particularly merino cardings
- Continued strong demand for double-faced woollen fabric







Surprises

- Spike in prices and surge in supplies in Australia in May-June 2015
- Large decline in commodity prices
- Periods of global sharemarket upheaval
- Recovery in A\$ and NZ\$ against US\$

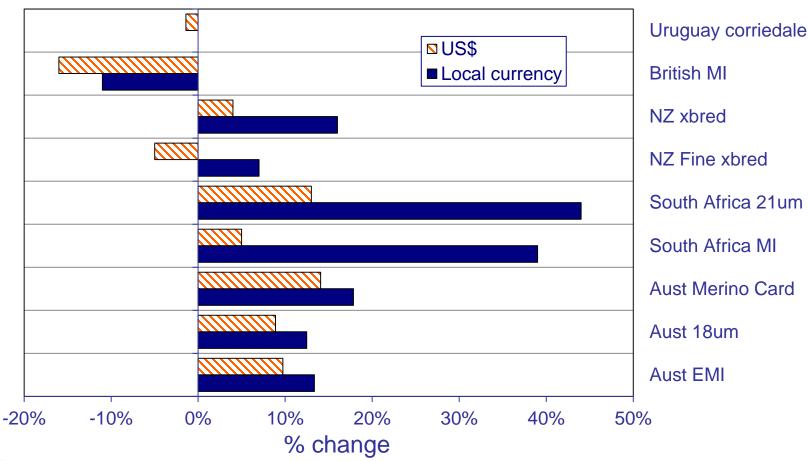






World Wool Prices In the Past Year

(% change March 2016 compared with March 2015)



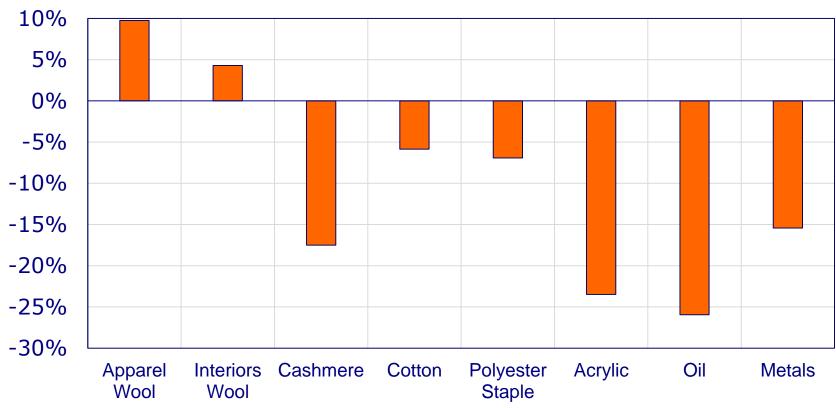


INTERNATIONAL WOOL TEXTILE ORGANISATION



Wool Outperforms Other Commodities % change March 2016 vs March 2015 – US\$ base

% change y-o-y





Source: AWEX, The Economist, CotLook, PCI Fibres

Prices to March 2016

Apparel wool – Australian EMI; Interiors Wool – NZ Crossbred wool





World Wool Production Down then Flat

- World wool production steady in 2014/15 at 1,166 mkg clean
- World production predicted down by 1.5% in 2015/16
 - Up in China, India, UK, Mongolia and USA
 - Down in Australia (-7%), New Zealand, South Africa, Uruguay (-9%)
- Continued interest in sheep for meat or dual-purpose
- Competition from other agricultural enterprises lessens (e.g. dairy in NZ)
- Superfine (18.5 micron and finer) wool production falls back from peak
- Major decline in medium and broader Merino wool
- World wool production predicted to be flat in 2016/17
 - Lower production in Australia offset by expected increases in most other IWTO countries







World Wool Production Trends Total wool production - mkg clean

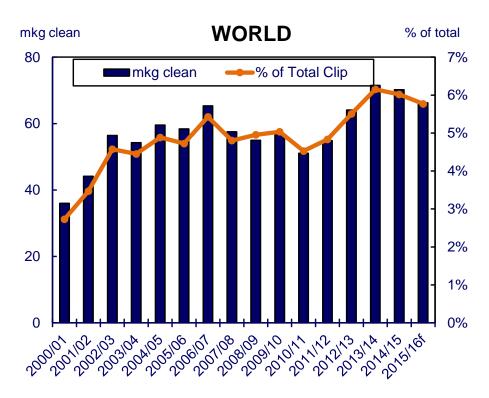
mkg clean	2015	2016f	% change	2017f	% change
"Apparel" wool l	WTO countries	S			
Australia	277	258	-7.0%	256	-0.6%
Argentina	28	28	0.0%	29	+0.7%
South Africa	30	30	-1.0%	30	+1.6%
Uruguay	22	19	-8.8%	20	+3.8%
USA	7.2	7.3	+1.5%	7.4	+1.9%
"Interior textile"	wool IWTO co	untries			
China	176	177	+0.3%	177	0.0%
New Zealand	114	112	-2.2%	112	+0.1%
India	39	39	+0.6%	39	+0.5%
UK	22	22	-1.0%	22	0.0%
Mongolia	17	18	+8.4%	21	+11.1%
Others	442	446	+0.8%	449	+0.7%
Global	1,166	1,148	-1.5%	1,154	+0.5%

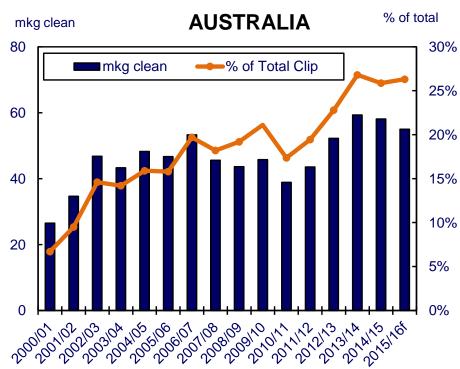
2015 = 2014/15 for Australia, NZ, Uruguay, Argentina, South Africa. Updated:

30th March 2016



Superfine Wool Production Pulls Back from Peak







Source: Poimena Analysis, AWTA, NZWTA, Cape Wools, FLA, Delta, American Sheep

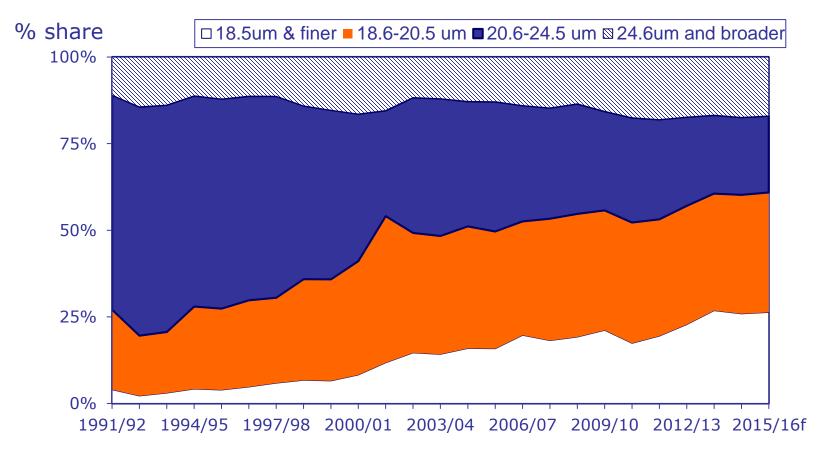
Industries, China Wool Textile Association.

Updated March 2016





Medium Merino Wool Production Drops Australian Wool Production by Micron Range Shares





Source: Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee and Australian Wool

Testing Authority

Updated: March 2016



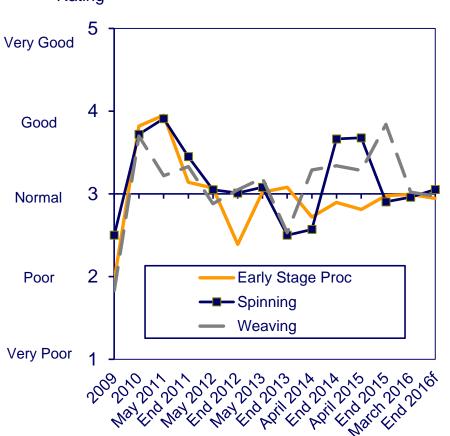


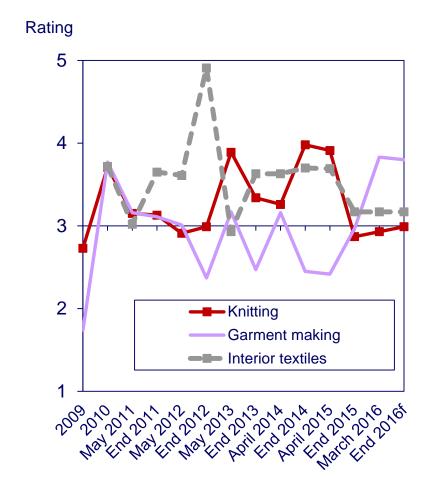
IWTO Wool Textile Business Survey 2016

- Eleven countries reported
 - Care with interpreting results
- Early stage processing tracking slightly below "normal"
- Knitting, weaving and interior textiles sectors come back from "good" conditions
- Spinning improving a little
- Excess stocks in weaving, knitting, garment making and interior textiles in 2015
- Stocks now under control?
- Low stocks currently in ESP



Wool Textile Industry Production Activity: Return to Normal Levels?







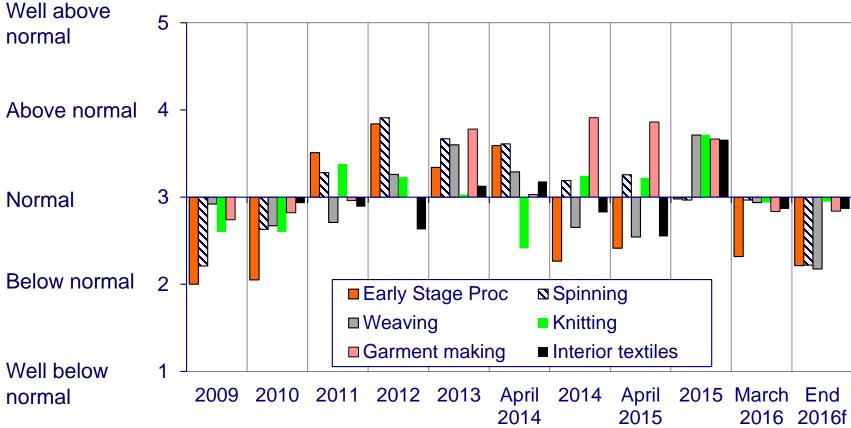
Source: IWTO Wool Textile Business Survey

Weighted results for China, Italy, Germany, Uruguay, Mongolia, Argentina, South Africa, Japan, France, Spain and the United Kingdom





Wool Textile Industry Stock Levels Pull Back from Highs





Source: IWTO Wool Textile Business Survey

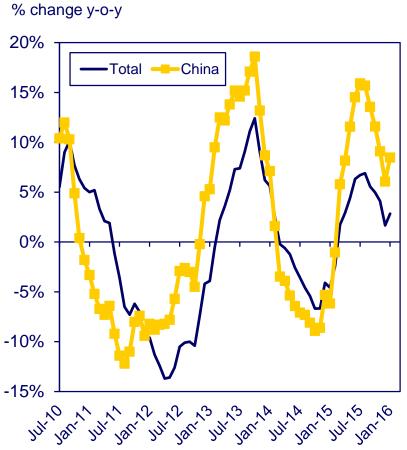
Weighted results for China, Italy, Germany, Uruguay, Mongolia, Argentina,

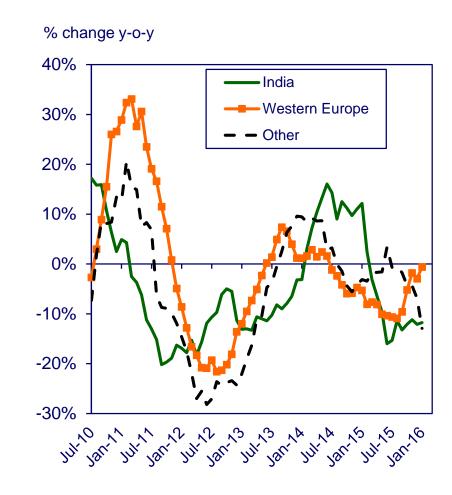
South Africa, Japan, France, Spain and the United Kingdom





Raw Wool Imports by Europe Turns Up 12 month rolling aggregate











Clothing Retail Sales in the Major Wool Consuming Countries

% change y-o-y	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Oct-Jan	
							2014	2015
China	+25.8%	+25.1%	+17.7%	+11.5%	+10.8%	+9.5%	+8.9%	+6.6%
USA	+6.0%	+3.4%	+0.9%	+1.3%	+1.1%	+3.8%	+5.1%	+1.5%
Japan	-6.3%	+3.2%	-0.4%	-0.7%	-0.5%	-2.3%	-1.0%	-3.3%
Germany	+1.2%	+0.9%	-0.3%	+0.1%	+1.3%	+2.6%	+2.1%	+1.6%
UK	+5.4%	+3.3%	+1.5%	+3.1%	+5.2%	+1.6%	-1.0%	+0.2%
Italy	+0.8%	-1.1%	-2.3%	-2.1%	-1.3%	+0.8%	-1.1%	+0.7%
France	+2.8%	+1.7%	+0.6%	+1.1%	+1.2%	+2.9%	+1.6%	+2.0%
South Korea	+9.8%	+8.6%	+3.2%	+0.8%	+1.6%	+3.5%	+0.7%	+5.6%



Source: Government statistical bureaus.

Notes: Value of retail sales. China is for retail sales of garments, hats, footwear and knitwear. Japan is for major department stores. Germany, Italy, France and South Korea is total retail sales.





Retail Sales of Furnishings and Floorcoverings in Selected Countries

% change y-o-y	China	USA	Japan	UK
2010	+37.2%	+2.1%	-4.0%	-17.6%
2011	+32.8%	+9.6%	-1.8%	-22.1%
2012	+27.0%	+6.3%	+1.7%	+28.9%
2013	+21.0%	+10.4%	-2.5%	+14.5%
2014	+13.9%	+6.5%	-1.8%	-3.1%
2015	+16.1%	+5.9%	-14.8%	-28.9%



Source: Government statistical bureaus.

Notes: Value of retail sales. China is for retail sales of furniture including floorcoverings, USA is for carpets and other floorcoverings. Japan is for sales of furniture in major

department stores. UK is for floor covering retail stores.

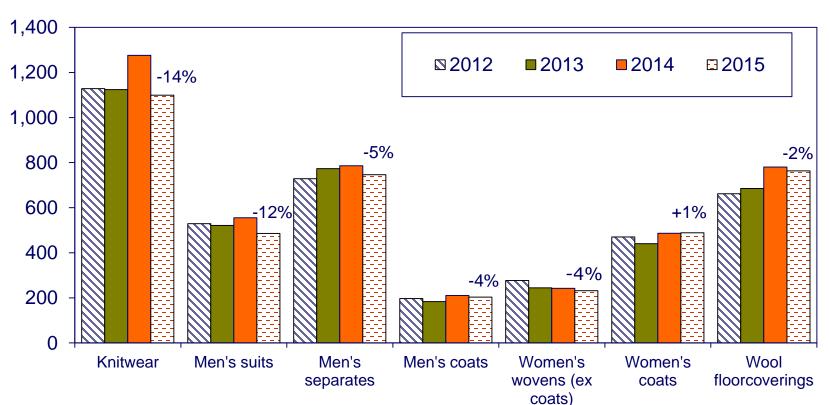




Disappointing US Imports of Wool Products in 2015

(Value - Calendar Year)







Source: OTEXA





Drivers and Prospects for 2016/17



- Solid in US and UK, improving in Europe and Japan
- China slowing and in transition a key for wool
- Positive consumer confidence in the US, Europe and Japan
- BUT... Disappointing results for US imports of wool products
- Mixed forecasts for growth in private consumption
- Wool textile industry stocks now under control?
- Low world wool production continues
- High price ratio for wool against cotton prices and synthetic fibres – does it matter?
- US\$ predicted to be strong against grower country currencies, but how accurate are the forecasters?





Prospects in the balance





Private Consumption Forecasts in Key Apparel Wool Consuming Countries

Country	Share of wool at retail	Private Consumption Forecasts				
		2014	2015	2016(f)	2017(f)	
China*	23%	7.3%	6.9%	6.4%	6.2%	
USA	11%	2.4%	2.4%	2.7%	2.6%	
Japan	9%	-1.0%	-1.2%	0.4%	0.1%	
Italy	5%	0.4%	0.9%	1.4%	1.2%	
Germany	5%	0.9%	1.9%	2.0%	1.6%	
South Korea	5%	3.3%	2.6%	2.5%	2.4%	
UK	4%	2.6%	2.9%	2.7%	2.2%	
France	3%	0.6%	1.4%	1.3%	1.6%	



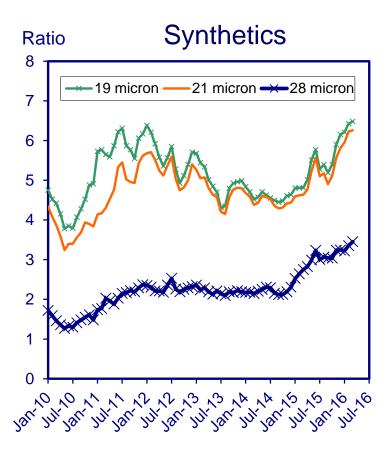
(f) forecast. * China is GDP growth.

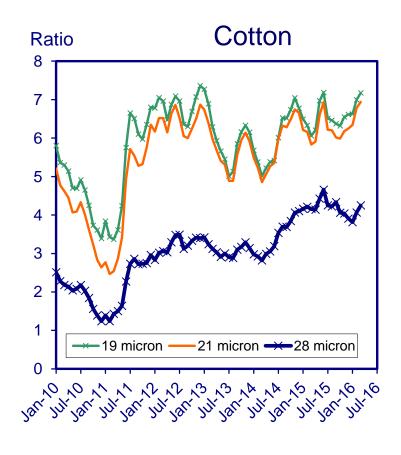
Source: Poimena Analysis for wool at retail, three year average 2012-14, Consensus Forecast (March 2016)





Wool Price Competitiveness US\$ terms







Source: AWEX, Cotton Outlook, PCI Fibres, CIRFS, Woolmark, Poimena Analysis

Data to March 2016

Note: for 28 micron wool, the ratio is against acrylic fibre







Thank You!





