

**Country Report for the 83rd ICAC Plenary Meeting
(Mwanza, Tanzania–November 2025)**

Japan Spinners' Association
The Japan Cotton Traders' Association

On behalf of both sectors of Spinners and Cotton Traders in Japan, the following is a summary report of the Japanese cotton industries' current situation and proposals to the industry as a cotton consuming country.

1. Recent Situation of Japanese Cotton Industry

Although Japan's economy has been recovering moderately, there is a sense of uncertainty in the export market due to U.S. trade policies and other factors, and the domestic market is also showing a sluggish growth trend due to rising prices.

In 2024, Japan's production of the cotton yarn was 17.7 thousand tons and the imports of cotton goods into Japan reached 455.2 thousand tons (cotton yarn, fabric and made-up goods), totaling 472.9 thousand tons of cotton goods (in yarn volume equivalent) were supplied to the Japanese market. A vast majority of these cotton yarn, fabric and goods were consumed in Japan.

The domestic spinning capacity of all the types decreased slightly from 629 thousand spindles in 2023 to 615 thousand spindles in 2024.

Japanese spinners have been relocating their spinning capacity overseas the past years. Currently a total of 653 thousand spindles are estimated to operate in joint-venture textile mills that include 349 thousand spindles in Indonesia, 74 thousand spindles in Thailand and 121 thousand spindles in Brazil.

Japan's imports of raw cotton increased by 3% from 28.6 thousand tons in 2023 to 29.4 thousand tons in 2024. In 2024, United States accounted for 58.1% of Japan's total cotton imports. Australia and Brazil shared in total imports for 21.8% and 7.1% respectively. The share of these top three countries accounted for 87.0% of Japan's total cotton imports. In addition, the total import volume from African countries was 538 tons.

2. Proposals to Cotton Producing Countries

(1) Cotton with excellent sustainability

Cotton has a variety of properties that have a positive impact on the environment, such as greenhouse gas absorption and retention, re-productivity, recyclability, and biodegradability, and in order to ensure that these excellent properties are properly recognized, it is necessary for producing and consuming countries to work together to strongly appeal to the world the advantages of cotton.

(2) Establish traceability of cotton and cotton products

In recent years, corporate social responsibility has become increasingly severe, and it is essential to ensure product traceability from the perspective of safety management and quality assurance.

The cotton industry also requires concerted efforts from producing and consuming countries to establish consistent traits throughout the supply chain, from raw cotton to apparel.

(3) Supply of High Spinnability Cotton

In order to produce cotton yarn with the quality level required by spinners, it is important that the fiber characteristics of the raw material, cotton, are above the required level, and that there are no elements that cause quality deterioration, such as nep and stickiness, and that there are no extraneous matter such as seed coat fragments, bark, and plastic fragments. In terms of foreign matter, some of hand-picked cotton is still contaminated with rag and scrap cloth, human and animal hair, and in some of machine-picked cotton, the contamination of round module fragments, which have recently become more popular in some cotton-producing countries, is increasing.

In addition, it is desirable to use wrapping materials of cotton bale that are easy to recycle and are less likely to get into cotton and cause problems.

We hope that cotton-producers will share these values and strive to supply cotton with high spinning quality.

(5) Compliance with delivery terms

The delivery schedule is one of the most important contract terms to fulfill conscientiously. Any delay, inaccuracy or failure thereof could result in production disruptions in spinning mills.

Recently, international conflicts and unseasonable weather have disrupted the passage of important shipping routes for the maritime transportation of cotton, which has led to delivery problems. We hope that the shipper recognizes the importance of the contracted delivery schedule for the cotton trade and to make shipments within contract terms and to actively provide information about delivery to buyers.

In addition, recently, when returning empty containers used for cotton transportation to shipping companies, there have been some cases where complaints have been received due to contamination of the containers that occurred at the loading point. When loading cotton, it is desirable to ensure that the container is cleaned of dirt.

(6) Stable supply of Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton

The supply of Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton is unstable and prices are volatile. We, cotton-consuming countries, strongly hope for a stable supply and price of specialty cotton.

Thank you very much.

Table 1 Spinning Capacity and Yarn Production in Japan

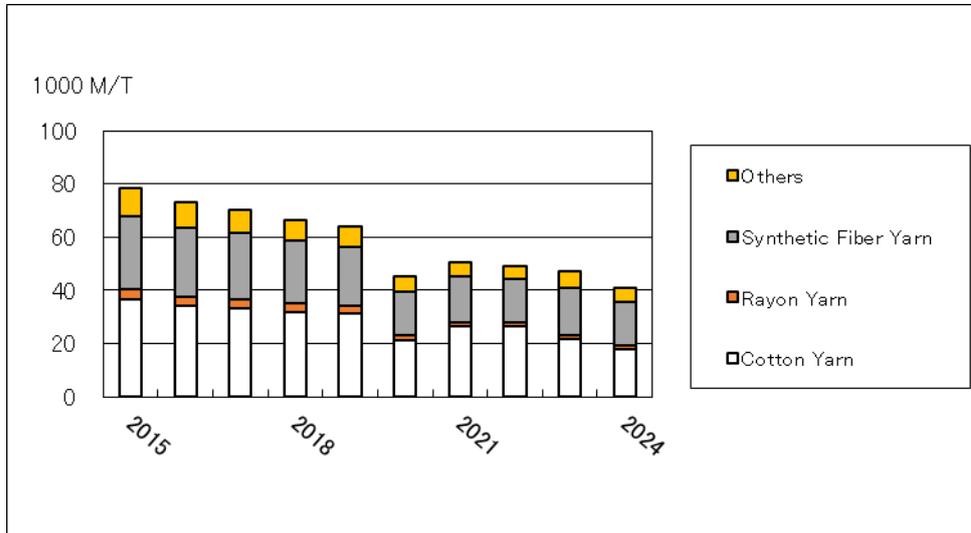


Table 1 Spinning Capacity and Yarn Production in Japan

	Spinning Capacity (1,000Spds)			Yarn Production (1,000 Metric Tons)				
	Cotton Type	Others		Cotton Yarn	Rayon Yarn	Synthetic Fiber Yarn	Others	
2015	N/A	N/A	932	36.6	3.9	27.3	10.7	78.5
2016	N/A	N/A	889	34.2	3.4	26.0	9.4	73.0
2017	N/A	N/A	886	33.2	3.4	25.2	8.2	70.1
2018	N/A	N/A	851	31.9	3.4	23.6	7.7	66.5
2019	N/A	N/A	838	31.1	3.0	22.1	7.8	64.0
2020	N/A	N/A	781	21.3	2.0	16.1	5.9	45.3
2021	N/A	N/A	769	26.4	1.4	17.3	5.5	50.6
2022	N/A	N/A	718	26.5	1.2	16.5	5.0	52.6
2023	N/A	N/A	629	21.5	1.7	18.0	5.8	47.0
2024	N/A	N/A	615	17.7	1.8	16.0	5.4	40.9

Source : Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

Table 2 Japan's Imports of Cotton Yarn, Cotton Fabrics And Cotton Made-Up Goods

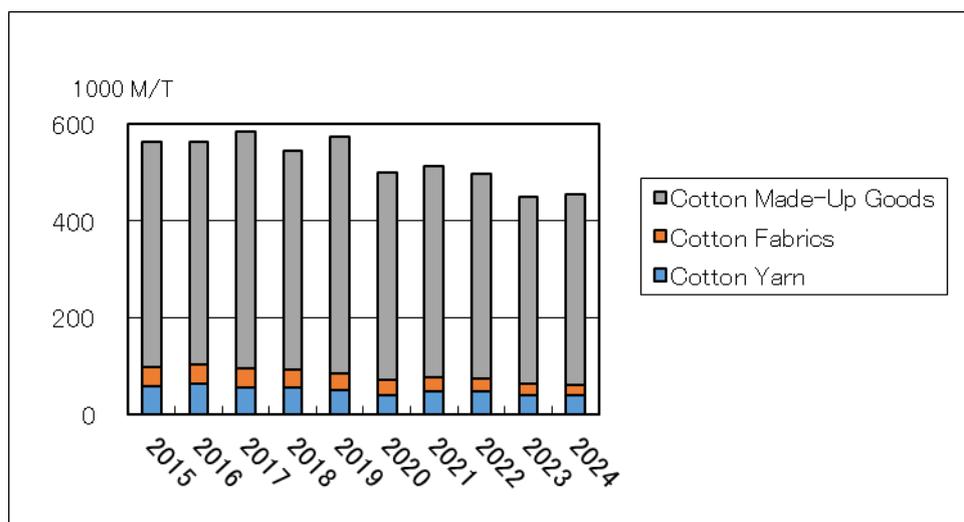


Table 2 Japan's Imports of Cotton Yarn, Cotton Fabrics And Cotton Made-Up Goods

Unit : 1,000 Metric Tons (Million Sq. Meter)

	Cotton Yarn				Cotton Fabrics				Cotton Made-Up Goods		
		Pakistan	Indonesia	China			China		China	Vietnam	
2015	58.3	11.5	19.9	5.6	40.4	(269.9)	17.0	(131.8)	463.7	299.3	64.2
2016	62.4	11.8	22.2	5.6	40.9	(266.5)	16.1	(124.8)	460.1	281.0	67.4
2017	56.3	10.5	19.0	5.1	38.7	(255.2)	15.2	(118.9)	489.1	273.1	74.3
2018	55.7	12.7	17.7	4.8	37.7	(250.4)	14.2	(111.8)	450.8	245.2	85.7
2019	49.7	8.9	15.3	4.3	34.0	(223.9)	11.3	(89.0)	491.6	251.1	101.1
2020	39.6	7.4	11.1	3.2	32.5	(226.6)	13.1	(107.3)	427.2	218.5	84.6
2021	47.8	8.9	14.3	3.7	28.4	(188.5)	10.3	(80.4)	436.9	223.6	80.8
2022	47.3	10.3	12.7	3.6	26.0	(170.9)	9.6	(74.8)	423.2	201.7	91.7
2023	39.8	8.1	11.0	2.5	23.4	(156.0)	4.6	(66.2)	386.9	175.3	90.9
2024	38.2	8.8	9.4	2.9	21.1	(141.6)	7.7	(61.8)	395.9	175.2	95.1

Source : Ministry of Finance

Table 3 Japan's Raw Cotton Imports by Country

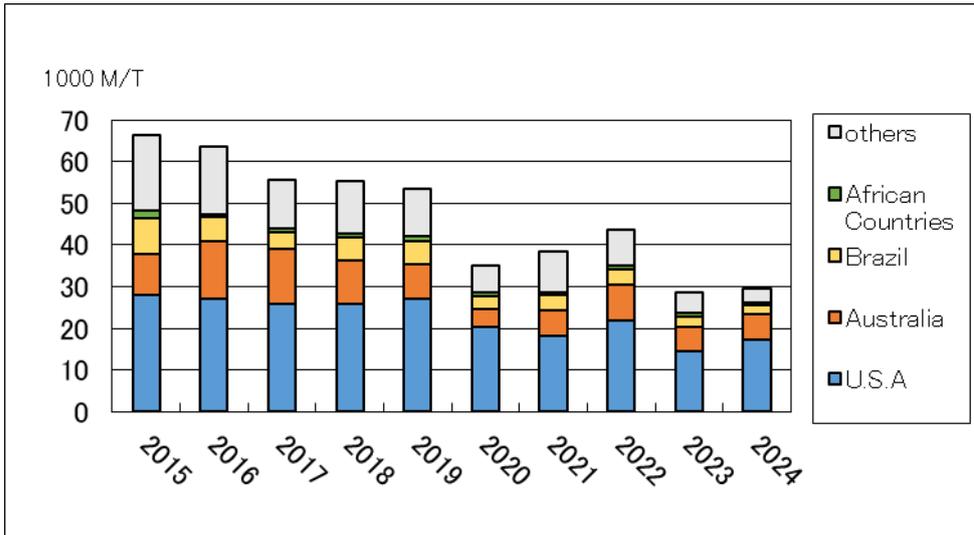


Table 3 Japan's Raw Cotton Imports by Country

Unit : Metric Ton

	U.S.A	Australia	Greece	Brazil	African Countries	Others	Total
2015	28,011	9,731	10,870	8,754	1,817	7,095	66,278
2016	27,180	13,664	10,730	5,769	818	5,441	63,602
2017	25,904	13,086	7,159	4,135	946	4,264	55,494
2018	25,824	10,582	8,199	5,527	650	4,652	55,433
2019	27,042	8,327	6,742	5,565	1,055	4,728	53,459
2020	20,372	4,226	3,706	3,044	876	2,734	34,958
2021	18,188	6,075	6,087	3,609	587	3,830	38,376
2022	21,693	8,854	5,322	3,653	936	3,158	43,616
2023	14,414	5,997	2,081	2,262	880	2,959	28,593
2024	17,104	6,415	555	2,081	538	2,735	29,429

Source : Ministry of Finance