World - All fiber demand and GDP growth

Global fiber demand is estimated to decline by almost 4% in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

World: 2019 fiber demand by type

Synthetic fibers account for two thirds of total global fibers demand, which is over 100 million metric tons.

- Polyester Sustained high growth for polyester fibers – Low costs of production – Versatility – Wide range of end use applications
  - 2020 demand heavily impacted - weaker sales of fibers into apparel, home textiles and automobiles.
  - A sharp recovery is expected in 2021.
  - Polyester staple fibers demand into non-wovens related to health, hygiene and the cleaning segments remains buoyant.

Polypropylene

There has been severe demand destruction in all but polypropylene fibers, which have maintained good growth this year due to a surge in demand for face masks, medical gowns and medical fabrics, primarily produced with spun bond and melt blown non-wovens using polypropylene fibers.

Global Polypropylene Demand Growth

- Which fibers are going to be most competitive from a price perspective? What are the expectations of availability, which fibers are going to be long/short in the medium/long-term?
- What are the implications for steam cracker operators and aromatics units based on the outlook for synthetic fibers and potential substitution by natural fibers?
- How can I better negotiate contracts and optimize supply chains?
- How will supply and demand changes for different fibers influence the need and location of new conversion capacity?
- Where are new investments in the fibers industry expected and possible M&A activity?

Polymer demand by type

- Polyester
- Polypropylene
- Cellulosic
- Acrylic
- Wool
- Nylon
- Silk

Key questions around these market changes:

World: Polyester Supply & Demand

IHS Markit is now offering a comprehensive global fibers service which delivers data and analytics across all major natural and man-made fibers, accounting for more than 95% of global fibers consumption, namely cotton, polyester, cellulosic (viscose + acetate), nylon, polypropylene, acrylic, wool and silk.

The new service combines country supply and demand data for these fibers along with a 5-year history and 2-year long term outlook. Additionally, the report provides annual regional prices for many grades of these fibers.

Annual global fibers service

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