

And, while 1967 production showed a decline from that of 1966, the record year, so too did imports.

In this connection, it should be recalled that in 1957 domestic textile production reached 6,221.7 million pounds and imports 190.3 million pounds. The next year, 1958, when the tabulation begins, domestic production was down to 5,962.2 million pounds while imports were up slightly to 215.6 million pounds. This means that in the one year 1957-58, domestic production dropped 259.7 million pounds before beginning an upward climb which hit its all-time peak in 1966.

In the single year period 1966-67, domestic production declined only 24.5 million pounds, or about one-tenth the decrease experienced ten years earlier.

Also, in the 1966-67 period, imports dropped 58.3 million pounds, or about twice as much in actual volume than the actual drop in domestic production.

Moreover, even though 1967 production was not as high as that for 1966, United States textile production last year was 3,013.8 million pounds more than it was ten years earlier.

And, notwithstanding the outcries of the domestic industry, the actual volume increase in imports was only 482.3 million pounds for this decade period, as against an increase in United States production of more than three billion pounds.

To sum up, in this ten-year period 1958 through 1967, imports may have increased to seven, or eight, or even nine percent of domestic production. But, the actual volume increase in United States textile production was 50%.

Now, if what happened some ten years ago repeats itself, the golden decade that began with a drop in American production of more than a quarter of a billion pounds might well bring about another acceleration in United States output, as the American industry enters into its second golden decade in what promises to be the golden age for textiles in this country.

Fifthly, an examination of the tremendous shift in the use of the three major textile fibers (cotton, wool, and manmade) during the past decade suggests that this inter-fiber competition had more impact and influence on American textile production than the competition from imports.

AMERICAN MILL CONSUMPTION BY FIBERS

[In millions of pounds]

Year	Manmade fiber	Percent	Cotton	Percent	Wool	Percent	Total
1958-----	1,764.2	29.6	3,866.9	64.8	331.1	5.5	5,967.5
1959-----	2,064.7	30.2	4,334.5	63.3	453.3	6.4	6,842.5
1960-----	1,877.8	29.0	4,190.9	64.6	411.0	6.3	6,486.6
1961-----	2,060.7	31.4	4,081.5	62.2	412.1	6.3	6,561.0
1962-----	2,418.5	34.3	4,188.0	59.5	429.1	6.1	7,042.1
1963-----	2,787.8	38.5	4,040.2	55.7	411.7	6.4	7,246.1
1964-----	3,174.3	40.8	4,244.4	54.5	356.7	4.6	7,782.1
1965-----	3,624.1	42.7	4,477.5	52.7	387.0	4.5	8,494.4
1966-----	4,002.2	44.4	4,630.5	51.4	370.2	4.1	9,007.5
1967-----	4,420.4	47.2	4,420.7	49.3	312.6	3.5	8,976.5

Note: Because other fibers, such as silk, were also consumed during this same period, the totals for each year add up to more than for the three fibers combined.

The above data is taken from the *Textile Organon* for March 1968.

For 1968, the *Textile World*, February 1968 issue, projects a substantial increase in the use of textile fibers by the United States industry over that used in both 1966 and 1967. According to its calculations, the domestic consumption of all fibers in 1966 was 9,006 million pounds and in 1967 9,003 million pounds. For this year, it projects a total of 9,450 million pounds, with 47% of the consumption share in cotton, 3.0% in wool, and 50% in manmade fibers.

This 1968 estimate is that 447 million pounds more of textile fibers will be consumed by the domestic industry than in the previous 1966 high year.

Returning again to the *Textile Organon* tabulations, we find that for the 1958-67 decade cotton remains the major fiber, but its popularity over manmade fiber has narrowed rapidly in this ten-year period. Wool has also lost some of its appeal, but not nearly as much as cotton percentage-wise.

Ten years ago, cotton dominated 64.8% of the fibers consumed by United States mills, with manmade fibers contributing only 29.6% and wool 5.5%. Now, cotton controls only 49.3% of the mill consumption, with manmade fibers contributing almost as much, or 47.2%. Wool's percentage has declined to 3.5%.