

While it is true that the textile industry experienced a slight leveling off last year, after a decade of steady increases, *Textile World's* Index of Textile Manufacturing Activity for March 1968 noted that, "At 157, the January (1968) Index is seven points over January 1967. This year, the Index should have little difficulty beating last year's record high of 163 in December. All major indicators . . . now support the pinpointing of June as the snap-back month for the textile industry. The industry's economic picture, growing brighter month by month, glowed strongly at year-end. One indicator—shipments of textile mill products—closed out 1967 at an annual rate of \$20.8 billion . . ."

Standard & Poor's Industry Surveys on "Textiles and Apparels", for May 2, 1968, showed that, "The S & P index of textile products stock prices has moved up nine percent thus far this year on top of the 32% rise in 1967. Strong earnings gains have been reported recently by leading mill companies and prospects point to a gain of almost 40% in current earnings as measured by the S & P stock index for the group . . . The apparel stock-index has moved up almost 14% thus far this year on top of a 21.5% advance in 1967. Estimated earnings for 1968 would represent a rise of 19% on top of the 13% gain last year . . . An improved market performance appears likely."

The "Textile Statistics Section" of *America's Textile Reporter*, monthly trade journal of the industry, for August 31, 1967, reveals an overall increase in the output of broad woven fabrics, the barometer of industry production, for the last ten years.

The total for all broad woven fabric production, except for tire cord and fabrics, increased from 12,117,558,000 linear yards in 1957 to 13,311,990,000 linear yards in 1966, for an increase in production of almost two billion linear yards in the past decade, or almost 100,000,000 linear yards on the average per year.

As for sales and inventories, according to Department of Commerce data, textile sales in 1957 amounted to \$12,806,000,000 and in 1966 \$20,407,000,000, while in 1957 inventories totalled \$2,240,000,000 and in 1966 \$3,245,000,000. In this last decade, textile sales increased by an average of more than \$600,000,000 a year.

Douglas Greenwald, chief economist of McGraw-Hill's Economic Department, in McGraw-Hill's *Textile World* magazine for April 1967, stated that during the last ten years production of textile mill products increased by about 38%, as measured by the *Textile World's* index of mill activity, and by 42%, as measured by the Federal Reserve Bank's index of textile production. "Thus, output of the industry has grown at an annual rate of about 3.5% per year for the full 10-year period but has nearly doubled that growth rate in the last three years . . . We expect that the record of the industry over the next ten years will surpass that of the past decade."

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Most domestic textile operatives will concede that the golden decade (1957-66) was one of historic production and profits, and that 1967 was a temporary leveling-off year with prospects for 1968 quite promising.

Still, to substantiate their plea for increased protection in the form of import quotas, they emphasize that the textile industry lags behind most other American manufacturing occupations in certain key fiscal areas.

While the latter is true, they neglect to indicate how rapidly those differences are being closed.

After payment of federal income taxes, as released by the Federal Trade Commission, corporate profits of both the textile mill products industry and the apparel and related products industry increased more than for all manufacturing industries (except for newspapers which were not included in the tabulation), based on per dollar of sales and on stockholders' equity. Although total textile industry corporate profit remains less than the average for all manufacturing industries, the gap is being closed rapidly, especially in terms of stockholders' equity.

Expressed in cents, the corporate profit per dollar of sales for all manufacturing industries was 4.8, for textile mill products industry 1.9, and for apparel and related products 1.3 in 1957. Ten years later, in 1966, these figures were for all manufacturing 5.6, for textile mill products 3.6, and for apparel and related products 2.4. In other words, in ten years, corporate profits, after federal income taxes, had increased by less than a penny for all manufacturing industries, but by almost two cents for the textile mill products industry and by more than a cent for the apparel and related products industry.