



TEXTILE AND CLOTHING
INFORMATION CENTRE

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THE REPORT ANALYSES THE 2017 EU EXTERNAL TRADE, FOR THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING SECTOR AS WELL AS THE MAIN EU SUPPLIERS AND CUSTOMERS, EVALUATES THE WEIGHT OF REGIONS AND SECTORS IN TOTAL EU TRADE AND INCLUDES DETAILED TABLES AND GRAPHS FOR THE 33 MAIN EU TRADE PARTNERS.

China's share in EU imports declined further in 2017 to the benefit of South Asian countries

15 JUNE 2018 - The leading position of **China** has continued to be eroded by the increasingly vigorous entry of other production zones. Even though emerging countries are gradually taking market share away from China, it should be noted that some of the businesses are actually Chinese companies that have relocated.

The **Mediterranean** countries, which have long benefited from their proximity to the EU-28, have held the same position for the last few years.

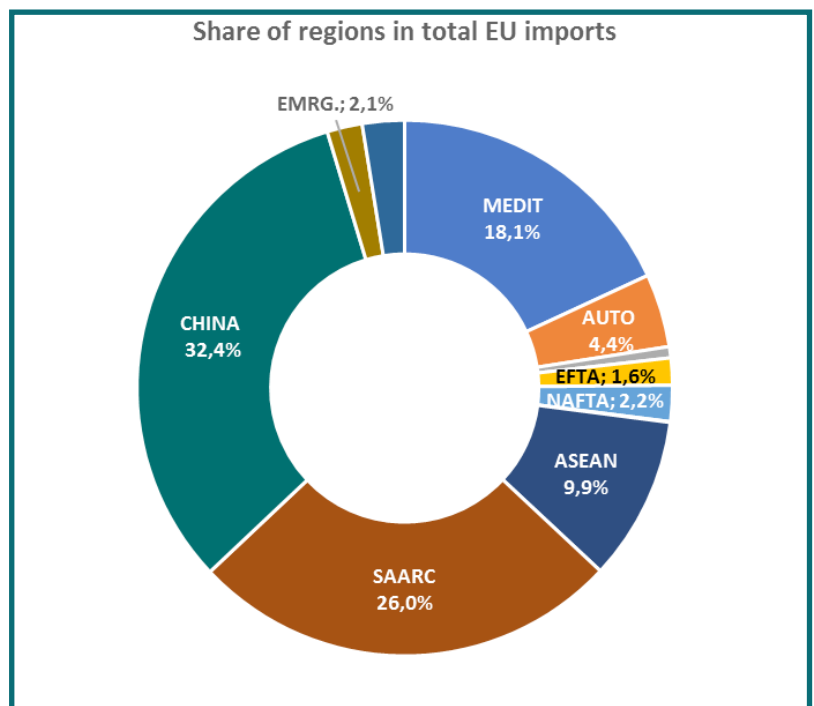
Contrary to China, the **SAARC and ASEAN** zones have grown slowly but surely since 2010, improving gradually their shares in EU textile & clothing imports.

In 2017, these **four zones** still accounted for over 86% of total extra-EU textiles and clothing imports.

Looking to products, China prevailed as the main supplier of **woven garments**. However, China's share continued to decline to the benefit of the SAARC and ASEAN zones whose shares rose.

Traditional suppliers of the EU-28, the Mediterranean countries expanded their market share.

Concerning imports of **knitted garments**, China was again overtaken by the SAARC zone whose share now represents one third of total EU imports in that segment.



Articles of clothing accounted for more than half of EU-28 exports in 2017, due to sharp rises of exports to EU's top customers

In 2017, extra-EU exports went to four main defined country groupings whose respective shares were:

- Mediterranean countries: 13.3%
- Group of autonomous countries: 12.4%
- EFTA group of countries: 16.4%
- NAFTA group of countries: 17.0%

These four groups accounted for 59% of extra-EU textile and clothing exports in 2017.

Woven fabrics were the major textile product in EU-28 textiles exports. The NAFTA zone and the Mediterranean countries are the biggest purchasers of textile goods.

Articles of **clothing** accounted for more than half of all exports, almost two thirds of which was woven items. EFTA and NAFTA areas make up the two main buyers. Items of apparel continued to interest developed countries and certain consumer categories in developing countries with increasing purchasing power.

**N.B.: The main country groupings included in this study were: ACP, EFTA, NAFTA: USA, Canada, Mexico. ASEAN: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam. AUTONOMOUS: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldavia, Uzbekistan, Russia, Ukraine. MEDITERRANEAN: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey. MERCOSUR: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela. EMERGING ASIAN COUNTRIES :(South Korea, Hong-Kong, Taiwan). SAARC: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.*

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CITH - the Textile and Clothing Information Centre was used extensively for the drafting of this publication. It provides statistical information on trade in textile and clothing since 1981. The basic data are collected by Eurostat and subsequently processed by the CITH in order to present the European import and export data in detail by partner country and by product, in accordance with the groupings used by Euratex. CITH can deliver tailor-made reports on customers' request, which can be updated on a regular basis, or adapted to a specific format.

EURATEX - the European Apparel and Textile Confederation, is representing the interests of the industry at the level of the EU institutions. As the voice of the European industry, EURATEX aims to create a favorable environment within the European Union for manufacturing of textile and clothing products.

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