

THE EU TEXTILE SECTOR

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS & BIO-BASED MATERIALS

EU production



166 billion euros turnover.

1.7 million people employed.



160,000 firms in the EU textiles sector.

Mostly SMEs

90% is employed in a company with fewer than 50 employees.



6.9 billion tonnes of finished textile products in 2020.

Italy, France, Germany, Spain and Portugal account for **three-quarters** of EU textile production.



EU consumption



Average European textile consumption: 15 kg/year, Of which 6 kg clothing.

Average European household spends annually:

- €600 on clothing,
- €160 on footwear,
- €70 on household textiles.



6.6 million tonnes of textiles consumed in Europe annually.

Clothes are discarded after an average of 7 wears. The number of times a garment is worn has decreased with 36% in 15 years.

7x

Over half of fibres produced globally are polyester.



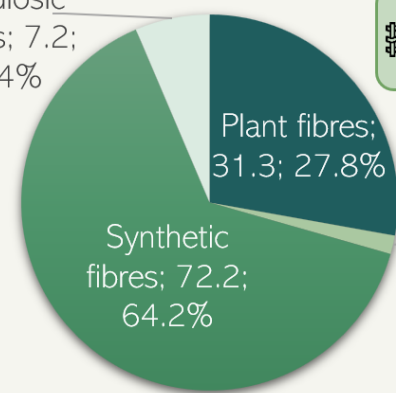
Less than half of global fibre production is bio-based.

Cotton accounts for 61% of the bio-based fibres.



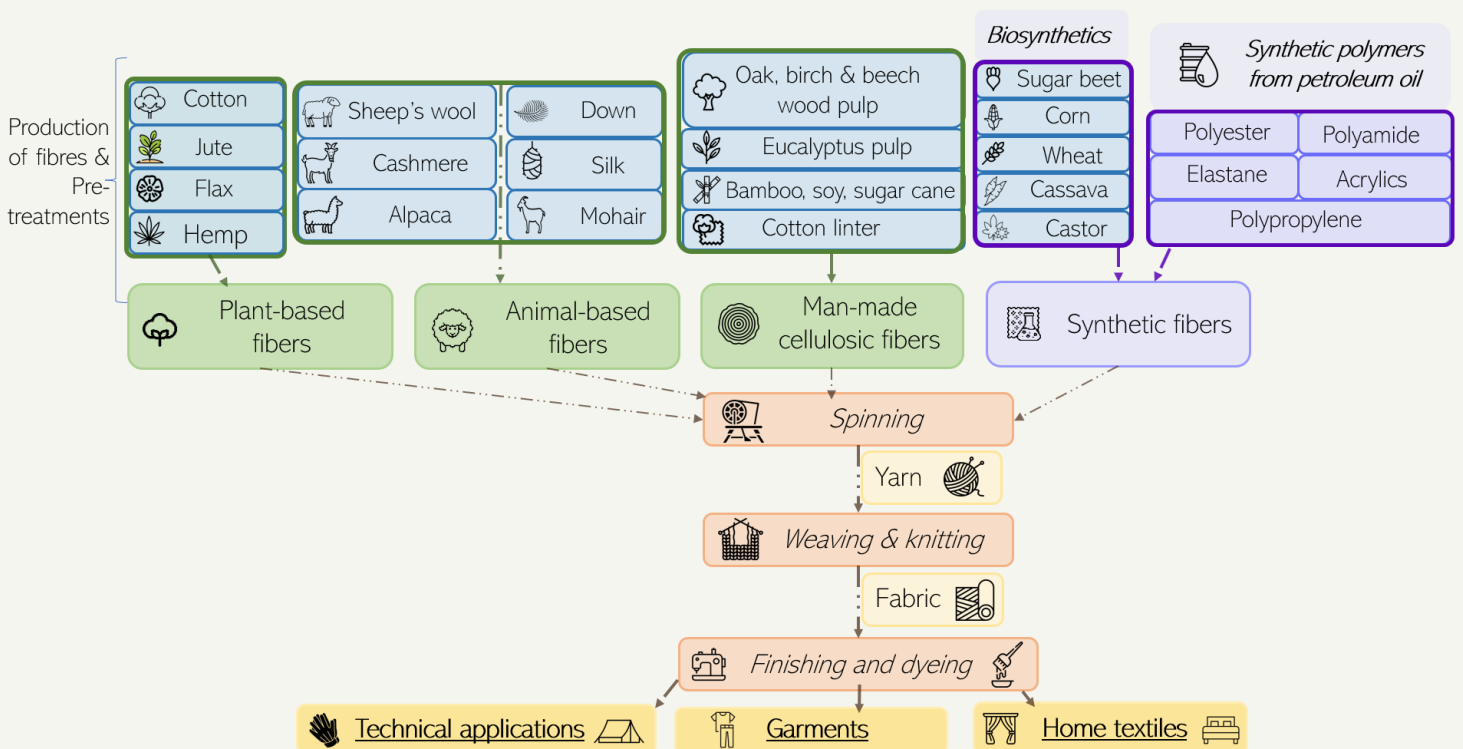
Global fibre production in 2021 (million tonnes)

Man-made cellulosic fibres; 7.2; 6.4%



Total fibre production: 113 million tonnes

FIBRES AND TEXTILE PRODUCTION PROCESS



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Textiles account for:

2%

Of the carbon budget. On its current path, this will be 26% of the budget in 2050.

4%

of freshwater extracted. Enough to meet the consumption needs of 5 million people.

5%

of the world's cultivated land (total sown area) is dedicated to producing fibres. This is expected to grow to 7% in 2030.

7%

of municipal waste. Globally, 92 million tonnes of textile waste was generated in 2015. Which is expected to grow with 62% by 2030.

25%

of plastics are used for textiles. 98 million tonnes of petroleum oil, which is expected to triple in 2050.

10%

of the world's insecticides are used in cotton production. As well as 5% of pesticides.

Use of chemicals



The textile sector uses **43 million tonnes of chemicals** annually, almost half a kilo of chemicals per kilo of synthetic fibre and over 900 grams of chemicals per kilo of cotton.

Release of microplastics

Microplastics are released during the production, use and end-of-life disposal of textiles from man-made fibres, and end up in various ecosystems. It is estimated that every square km² of ocean floor holds an average of 70 kgs of plastic.



For more information, please visit our website: www.btgworld.com



Or follow the ALIGNED project: www.alignedproject.eu



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