

Source FIBRE TO FASHION, 05 Jun '25

ICAC holds world cotton production at 26 MT, consumption at 25.7 MT



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Insights

- ICAC projects steady global cotton production and consumption in 2025–26 at around 26 million tonnes and 25.7 million tonnes, respectively. Trade is expected to rebound to 9.65 million tonnes.
- Production gains in Brazil, US and West Africa may be offset by a decline in China.
- Consumption faces pressure from tariffs and competition.
- The A Index price forecast ranges between 56–95 cents per pound.

The International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) has projected that world cotton production and consumption will remain steady in 2025–26, according to its July 2025 report. Global cotton production and consumption are forecast to reach approximately 26 million tonnes (MT) and 25.7 million tonnes, respectively, while cotton trade is expected to rebound to 9.7 million tonnes.

In 2024–25, global production and consumption stood at 25.687 million tonnes and 25.526 million tonnes, respectively.

Regionally, the ICAC has revised production estimates upward for Brazil, the US, and West Africa. However, these gains are likely to be offset by a slight decline in China's output in 2025–26. Following record yields of 2,257 kg/ha—the highest ever recorded—the ICAC projects that China will produce around 6.3 million tonnes, slightly less than the current season but still the highest globally.