The COVID-19 pandemic has posed severe challenges to the various industries worldwide in 2020 and has stagnated their growth. China’s textile industry is no exception.

Thanks to the epidemic prevention and control measures implemented by the Chinese government, the epidemic situation has remained stable in China compared with other countries. Chinese businesses largely resumed work at the beginning of this year and the market improved thereafter. Though the cold winter for China’s textile industry is not over yet, the warm spring will not be far behind.

**Textile Trade Rebounds**

According to the data released by the China Customs, China’s exports of textile yarns, fabrics, and products amounted to USD 12.2909 billion in December 2020 and USD 153.9597 billion from January to December 2020, an increase of 27.98% over the same period the previous year, when the exports amounted to USD 120.2981 billion.
However, it should be noted that masks account for a large proportion in the export of textile yarn, fabric and its products this year. As the world's largest producer and exporter of masks, China's annual production of masks accounts for about 50% of the world's. After the stable control of the domestic epidemic situation in March this year, the domestic mask production capacity gradually recovered, while the foreign epidemic outbreak, so the proportion of mask export increased, reaching an astonishing 68.35% in May. Therefore, as a whole, as of December this year, the export volume of traditional textile yarns, fabrics and their products, except masks, has declined compared with previous years.
But a lot of trading companies went through a difficult time and received very few orders in May and June. Then in July and August, the usually slack season for the trade, the market improved. The textile trade rebounded and many textile businesses received orders.

“Our company mainly exports to the U.S.. Since the beginning of this year, we had received no order from the U.S. till May, when the exports to the U.S. resumed. From then on, we had received orders now and then. Recently, the number of orders has increased remarkably and our production has been scheduled to the end of October,” said a manager of a trading company.

**Domestic Demand Continues to Grow**

The sudden outbreak of COVID-19 at the beginning of this year caused a sharp decline in international demand. As a result, several companies that rely on foreign trade were faced with order cancellation. In an effort to expand sales channels, they set out exploring the domestic market which they were not so familiar with before.
The domestic demand has kept growing as the Chinese government curbs the spread of the epidemic and initiates economic internal circulation.

The head of a sales company said, “though the market is gloomy on the whole, it has little impact on small companies like ours. We still have orders. Recently the production of autumn and winter fabrics for the domestic market has started. As a manufacturer specializing in the production of autumn and winter fabrics, we have received several orders these days and the order amount has increased from thousands of meters to tens of thousands of meters.”

China has outdone other countries in respect of epidemic prevention and control and economic recovery. So far, an agreement has been reached on the V-shaped reversal. China’s economic and social stability as well as a comprehensive industrial system and infrastructure facilities have served as a strong backup for the competitiveness of Chinese manufacturing in the post-epidemic era.
Zhejiang and Jiangsu Province: Tricot Machine has been Well Received and the Home Textile Market Has been Thriving

Due to the epidemic, people have to work from home and spend more time at home. Besides, with the improvement of the quality of life, people have sped up the replacement of household items, which has led to an increase in the demand for home textile products. Fabrics like linen, suede, peach skin and velvet chiffon are sold well and manufacturers of these products destock easily.

“This year home textiles are sold well. In April and May, we were asked by our customers to stop the production of clothes for some of the orders and to step up the production of home textiles instead. The machines in our plant are in full gear. They were not stopped even when the market was stuck in the doldrums. We almost keep no stock of goods. All of our products are exported to Walmart in the U.S.,” said the head of a home textile manufacturer.
A senior executive engaged in foreign trade for many years also remarked, “we have sold more home textile products this year than previous years. American customers contribute to the bulk of the orders. Our products are mostly sold to IKEA and Walmart, and then hospitals and hotels. As we mainly produce disposable four-piece bedding sets, the worst moment of the epidemic turned out to be our opportunity.”

As shown in the market feedback, the epidemic has contributed to the thriving home textile market. Due to the epidemic, people change their beddings more frequently. Besides, as hospitals and hotels mostly use disposable beddings, they naturally consume more home textile products and have a large demand for these products. Meanwhile, the flourishing growth of the home textile market should be attributed to the stable customer base of home textile manufacturers. It is difficult for their customers to source quality suppliers in a short time. If they choose to import from Vietnam and other Southeastern Asian countries, they have to figure out a solution to the incomplete supply chain of those Southeastern Asian suppliers and import most of the raw materials from China. But labor shortage and logistics delays have become two of the toughest problems during the epidemic. Therefore, many of them choose to work with existing suppliers.
ILLIES recommends the Tricot machines from Karl Mayer to its customers as they are the best choice for the production of a variety of warp-knitted home textile fabrics.

This year, Karl Mayer, a partner of ILLIES, launched the third generation TM 3, which is well received by the customers.

This upgraded version has a working width of up to 290 inches. The ultra-wide working width and stable, high-speed operation of the machine can help customers improve their production efficiency remarkably. In addition, TM 3 can meet the requirements of a variety of applications. It embodies the perfect integration of high efficiency and precision.

The first equipment was delivered to the customer at the beginning of August, 2020. As of today, it has been put into operation smoothly for more than three months. At the plant of the customer, this machine has worked stably at a speed of 2200 rpm and has increased the production efficiency of the first generation TM 3-186” by almost two times. The outstanding performance has drawn a lot of investors and customers.
Advantages of TM 3:

- Working Width: 280” (+10”)
- Gauge: E28, E32
- Operating system: KAMCOS® 2-N traverse mechanism
- Warp beam support: 3x32” (1x40”+2x32”)
- Speed: 2200 rpm

In November of this year, Karl Mayer has launched HKS 3-M ON 300” high-performance tricot machine with 3 guide bars. Its maximum width is 300 inches. This machine has faster running speed, stronger pattern change ability and better user control experience.

Advantages of HKS 3-M ON 300”:

- Production speed increase of 15% compared to HKS 3-M 280”
- Available with working width extension +10” (290”) and +20” (300”) for highest flexibility in panel width and panel number
- Flexible equipment of beams for individual customer needs with 14 x 21” or 7x42” wide beams possible
- New spring motion assistant for an easy, fast and – most important – safe guide bar change
- New warp beam support design with improved accessibility to clamping positions and easier beam change
- Up to 2,500 rpm
"ON technology" adds more flexibility to your production

- Flexible models how to create patterns and designs on the machine according to the needs of your business.
- SwapKnit and k.innovation - CORE provide the flexibility required by the new business environment
- Immediate pattern change and availability of lappings for quick reaction to market demands
  - lower down-times of the machines waiting for pattern discs
  - Predefine customized articles and load from cloud
- No trained staff necessary to change patterns and reduced risks of faults when changing patterns on the machine.

**Fujian Province: Double Needle Bar Raschel Machine is more Popular and is Suitable for the Production of Sneaker Fabrics**

Fujian Province has a long-standing reputation for shoemaking. Last year, the footwear industry of Fujian Province achieved a revenue of RMB 361.8 billion, and sports shoes ranked first in China.

Over the past decades, the Fujian Province has developed a complete footwear supply chain, which has served as the strongest backup for the province to rise to the challenges of the epidemic.

Anta, for example, is a noted shoemaker in Fujian Province. During the epidemic, the company mobilized all of its employees and franchisees to join the retail, which had accelerated the recovery of production capacity. In May, Anta’s sales caught up with those in the same period the previous year. In June, sales grew by leaps and bounds, especially during the 618 Promotional Campaign, when E-commerce sales totaled RMB 1.43 billion, a year-on-year increase of 78%.

Thanks to the wide-ranging applications of its products, Double Needle Bar Raschel Machine has been well received and has basically maintained stable sales in Fujian Province.
Warp-knitted spacer fabric is composed of front and back layers and a spacer layer in the middle. These three layers can be formed into various structures as required. The surface of the spacer fabric depends on the density of the loops and the spacer layer on the angle and density of the spacer filaments. Such an arrangement not only determines the appearance of the spacer fabric, but also the unique features of the spacer fabric.

High-performance Double Needle Bar Raschel Machine can be used to produce a variety of spacer fabrics.
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RD 7/2-6 EN Double Needle Bar Raschel Machine

RDJ 6/1 EN Double Needle Bar Raschel Machine
The warp-knitted spacer fabrics produced by this kind of machine also have a lot of advantages:

- Flexible surface jacquard and three-dimensional structure
- Relatively low weight by volume and integrated functional features

**Guangdong Province: HKS 2-SE for the Production of Sportswear, Underwear, and Swimwear Fabrics Have Sold well**

ILLIES’s customers in Guangdong Province focus on the production of warp-knitted elastic fabrics, which are ideal for sportswear, underwear, and swimwear.

Karl Mayer Double Needle Bar Raschel Machine allows manufacturers to give full play to brand new conceptions and solutions.

**Climate Regulation:**

- Excellent breathability
- Directed water vapor and heat exchange
- Insulation zone and buffer zone for moisture and heat

**Compression Elasticity**

- Spacer filaments serve as an outstanding filling
- Large contact surface eases the load effectively

**Tensile Strength**

- Good vertical and horizontal elasticity

**Design Potentials**
Based on customer needs, ILLIES recommends Karl Mayer’s HKS 2-SE, which is ideal for the production of smooth, elastic, and non-elastic fabrics. Tricot machine with 2 guide bars features the best productivity and proves to be a good choice for the production of simple, lightweight fabrics.

The HKS 2-SE is the specialist for elastic fabrics and sets new standards in terms of productivity and fabric quality:

- High-performance knitting machines capable of producing a wide range of products
- An extensive range of patterns

and articles
- Highest operational reliability
- Long service life
- New ergonomic design for optimized handling
- New KAMCOS® 2 operator interface is easier to use and integrate assistance
- apps
- Integrated monitoring systems for highly efficient production
  - Integrated Camera for fabric monitoring
  - Integrated Laserstop for yarn breakage detection
- Lower power consumption thanks to LEO® (Low Energy Option)
- Functional LED lighting
**Technical Textiles Become New Growth Points**

Despite the complex challenges for global economic prospects, China’s technical textile market has maintained stable growth, thanks to the stable demand of major customer groups and the innovation-driven industrial transformation and upgrade in China.

The proportion of technical textile fiber processing in China’s textile industry had been increasing from 20% in 2010 to about 30% in 2019, ranking second among the three major textile applications (clothing, technical textiles, and home textiles).

Notably, multi-axial warp knitting machines for the production of technical textiles have been sold well this year. As the various infrastructure projects across the country resume work and the downstream markets embrace increasing demand, sales of this machine have grown over the previous year.

It is worth noting that customers who purchase multi axial warp knitting machines this year mainly use them in the wind power industry. In recent years, China’s wind energy industry has developed rapidly, which has also led to the sustainable development of the whole downstream industry chain.
In recent years, China's wind energy industry has developed rapidly, which has also led to the sustainable development of the whole downstream industry chain.

As an important part of the wind turbine, the wind turbine’s blade mostly uses warp knitted glass fiber base cloth. From 1.5 MW nearly 40 m long 10 years ago, to 2 MW more than 60 m now, not only the mechanical properties of glass fiber and other reinforcement materials need to be improved, but also the process performance improvement of fabric structure is particularly important. The reliability and flexibility of Karl Mayer knitting machine can meet these higher requirements, so it is recognized by customers.

**Overall Market Prospects**

In October, end customers did not stock in advance as they did in previous years. Instead, they placed small orders and reordered quickly. As the cold weather sets in, a lot of orders that were put aside earlier have all been placed recently, leading to an evident market rebound. Textile manufacturers are expected to seize the opportunity to make a breakthrough in the last days of 2020.
Recently, there is also a very good news for the textile market. On November 15, the signing ceremony of the regional comprehensive economic partnership agreement (RCEP) was held by video, and the ministers of economy and trade of 15 member countries formally signed the agreement. The total GDP of the 15 member countries exceeds US $25 trillion, covering 30% of the global population. The signing of the agreement marks the successful start of the construction of East Asia free trade area with the largest population, the most diverse membership structure and the largest development potential in the world.

It is believed that this agreement will directly increase the competitiveness of Chinese textile enterprises. Because before the signing of the agreement, Southeast Asian countries need to import fabrics from China if they want to produce a piece of clothing, and this part of fabrics needs to pay tariff, and the import of some raw materials such as wool and cotton from abroad also need tariff. But after the agreement is signed, this part of tariff can be reduced, which directly strengthens the competitiveness of China textile enterprises. Believe that the next year’s domestic textile market will be better and better.