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Cotton and Polyester Price Comparison: China, India, and Pakistan

Monthly Report

3 June 2021

Cotton prices rose in May in China, India, and Pakistan, whereas PSF prices fell or stayed unchanged depending on countries. The cotton/PSF spread has rebounded as a result. Our monthly report delivers a comparative view of the average cotton and polyester prices in China, India, and Pakistan, including the latest and historical trends of the cotton/polyester price difference. Historical data covering the past ten years are available for download.

Cotton prices have risen everywhere in May, whereas polyester staple fiber prices have fallen.

The cotton market indicator gained 2.5% in China, 2.6% in India, and 4.2% in Pakistan, considering average prices over the month.

In China, cotton prices are now at a standstill due to a lack of demand from spinners.

In India, cotton prices are soaring over end-of-season low supply levels.

In Pakistan, the structural cotton deficit helps in supporting cotton prices until the start of the new season by mid-July.

By contrast with cotton prices, polyester staple fiber prices stayed unchanged in China in May, falling 1.3% in India and 5.2% in Pakistan.

The high level in intermediate prices has supported polyester prices, but demand remains disappointing.

The Covid crisis in India and Pakistan resulted in lower yarn production, depressing demand for PSF.

Prices have been kept unchanged in India, as of June 1st, staying unmoved also in Pakistan and China.

The cotton/PSF price difference rebounded everywhere in May, rising 4.5% in China, 14.6% in India, and 27.2% in Pakistan.

In the last 12 months, the same spread jumped by 50% to 55%, depending on countries.

PSF was more competitive at the end of last year compared with cotton, however.

Cotton & Polyester Price Database

More data are available in our Price Database (daily and historical series):

[Polyester Staple Fibers \(PSF\) in China, India, and Pakistan](#)

[China Cotton Market](#)

[India & Pakistan Cotton Markets](#)

[Textile Fiber Price Comparison](#)

Price Database

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Cotton Prices in China, India and Pakistan						
In US Cents per Pound						
Month	China	India	Pakistan	China	India	Pakistan
	328	Shankar-6	KCA Spot	328	Shankar-6	KCA Spot
	US cts	US cts	US cts	US cts	US cts	US cts
	/Lb	/Lb	/Lb	1 Year = 100		
May 20	74.26	59.82	65.48	100	100	100
Jun 20	76.55	59.22	60.56	103	99	92
Jul 20	78.65	59.53	60.77	106	100	93
Aug 20	81.74	60.72	60.89	110	102	93
Sep 20	85.19	63.72	64.24	115	107	98
Oct 20	94.39	67.89	72.56	127	113	111
Nov 20	99.86	70.23	72.33	134	117	110
Dec 20	102.63	72.15	73.82	138	121	113
Jan 21	106.95	75.56	80.79	144	126	123
Feb 21	111.48	77.77	84.71	150	130	129
Mar 21	111.20	79.53	94.30	150	133	144
Apr 21	108.04	78.06	88.15	145	131	135
May 21	112.33	81.32	91.79	151	136	140
1-Month	4.29	3.26	3.65			
1-Month	3.97%	4.18%	4.14%			
3-Month	0.76%	4.57%	8.36%			
1-Year	51.27%	35.95%	40.20%			
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Polyester Staple Fiber Prices in China, India and Pakistan						
In US Cents per Pound						
Month	China	India	Pakistan	China	India	Pakistan
	US cts	US cts	US cts	US cts	US cts	US cts
	/Lb	/Lb	/Lb	1 Year= 100		
May 20	36.75	45.99	44.77	100	100	100
Jun 20	37.29	45.72	42.68	101	99	95
Jul 20	35.08	46.53	42.74	95	101	95
Aug 20	35.69	46.70	41.72	97	102	93
Sep 20	36.14	42.64	41.91	98	93	94
Oct 20	38.67	43.63	42.99	105	95	96
Nov 20	38.50	46.56	45.34	105	101	101
Dec 20	39.53	50.06	47.69	108	109	107
Jan 21	43.23	54.11	52.98	118	118	118
Feb 21	49.43	57.03	56.79	135	124	127
Mar 21	50.24	63.25	63.25	137	138	141
Apr 21	47.26	59.26	62.64	129	129	140
May 21	47.94	59.43	59.36	130	129	133
1-Month	1.44%	0.28%	-5.23%			
3-Month	-3.02%	4.21%	4.54%			
1-Year	30.46%	29.24%	32.59%			
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