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## Tajikistan, Republic of

### Cotton and Products

## Tajik Cotton Production Continues to Increase

### 2004

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**Report Highlights:**

Despite early concerns of infestation, Tajikistan's cotton production increased in 2004. The crop benefited from good weather conditions particularly during the harvest. Tajikistan exports over 75 percent of its production and exports are expected to increase this year.

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Includes PSD Changes: Yes  
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes  
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**Executive Summary**

Despite earlier concerns with infestations, Tajikistan cotton production increased in 2004. The crop benefited from good weather conditions, particularly during the harvest period. Exports are expected to increase this year.

**Production**

The cotton harvest has been completed in Tajikistan and production is expected to increase in 2004 due primarily to favorable weather conditions and increased area under production. Earlier in the year, there were reports of infestation in several southern provinces; however, there were not major cotton-growing regions. In October, Tajik officials predicted 610,000 tons of seed cotton, which most international companies believed was too high. Since then, official data for seed cotton production has been revised to 558,500 tons almost 10% lower than the state plan. Production of fiber cotton is expected to be about 160,000 - 170,000 tons. This total may increase somewhat depending on weather conditions through the middle of November, when the picking campaign is expected to end. The average yield in Tajikistan is 1.8-1.9 tons per ha (seed cotton). The harvest is in full swing with officials reporting that more than 70% of the crop has been picked. The harvest is much further ahead than last year when heavy rains in the region resulted in some cases of two to three plantings. This year the crop was on average about 14-20 days earlier than last year.

Cotton is grown entirely on irrigated land. Soviet land management practices are still used which has resulted in soil compaction and salinity problems. Moreover, the absence of any crop rotation system has also exacerbated the situation.

Like other commodities, cotton inputs are not adequate. Machinery is antiquated and fuel supplies unreliable. In addition, farms are unable to receive fertilizers and pesticides in sufficient quantities. There were reports of infestation in cotton-growing regions earlier in the year. These pests included white fly and cotton weevils. However, the infestation appears to have been limited to 3 southern provinces, which are not major producing areas.

Contract farming is prevalent in Tajikistan. Farmers receive inputs from "investors" who are repaid in cotton production. Farmers are generally unaware of input costs or sale prices and thus have little ability to improve their situation.

Gins are considered privatized and owned by private "investors". There are approximately 26 gins in Tajikistan, which can process anywhere from 15 TMT to 50 TMT a season. However, most gins are working at less than 50% capacity. Russian equipment is used.

## Production Table

Tajikistan, Republic of Cotton							
	2002	Revised	2003	Estimate	2004	Forecast	UOM
	USDA Official [Old]	Post Estimate [New]	USDA Official [Old]	Post Estimate [New]	USDA Official [Old]	Post Estimate [New]	
Market Year Begin		08/2002		08/2003		08/2004	MM/YYYY
Area Planted	0	0	0	0	0	0	(HECTARES)
Area Harvested	265000	260000	285000	285000	290000	290000	(HECTARES)
Beginning Stocks	33094	16800	28740	11000	34183	19000	(MT)
Production	157852	143000	169827	162000	168738	168000	(MT)
Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0	(MT)
MY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	(MT)
<b>TOTAL SUPPLY</b>	190946	159800	198567	173000	202921	187000	(MT)
Exports	136079	127800	136080	133000	130636	140000	(MT)
USE Dom. Consumption	26127	21000	28304	21000	32659	21000	(MT)
Loss Dom. Consumption	0	0	0	0	0	0	(MT)
<b>TOTAL Dom. Consumption</b>	26127	21000	28304	21000	32659	21000	(MT)
Ending Stocks	28740	11000	34183	19000	39626	26000	(MT)
<b>TOTAL DISTRIBUTION</b>	190946	159800	198567	173000	202921	187000	(MT)

**Consumption**

Only about 10 – 15 percent of all production is used domestically with the majority of cotton exported. Cotton continues to be one of the few foreign exchange earners for the government. Tajikistan has a small textile industry but cotton is primarily made into yarn, again for export. Local consumption is between 20 and 25 TMT tons of fiber cotton. The Tajik textile industry is mainly located in the northern part of the country.

**Trade**

The Tajik government controls all cotton exports and prices. The government through a cotton exchange basically sets prices for trading companies ensuring that more profits go to the government. The majority of Tajik cotton is sold through brokers in Switzerland and shipped through Latvia for other destinations. According to traders, Tajik cotton will often find its way to Asian markets including Korea, Thailand and Vietnam as well as Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Tajikistan suffers by being a land-locked country. Transit tariffs through Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are extremely high adding to the cost of both inputs and exports.

**Stocks**

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### Policy

The government still maintains control over the cotton sector.

### Marketing

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### Export Trade Matrix

Time Period	2003	
Exports for:		UOM
U.S.		
Others		
Russia	29,000	MT
Latvia	32,000	MT
Switzerland	48,000	MT
Total for Others	109,000	MT
Others not Listed	24,000	MT
Grand Total	133,000	MT