Cotton

Fibres & other raw materials

The seed fibre of the cotton plant, ginned into lint and spun into yarn; the world's main natural textile fibre.

Key facts

World production, 2023
24.7 million tonnes

Top producer
China, 23%

Top exporter, raw cotton lint (HS 5201), 2024
Brazil, 30% of export value

Benchmark price, September 2026
$2.1/kg
Cotlook A Index, CFR Far East; +22% over 12 months

Where it's traded
ICE Futures US Cotton No. 2 (CT)

HS code
5201 Cotton, not carded or combed

FAOSTAT item
767 Cotton lint, ginned

Also called
cotton lint, raw cotton, cotton fibre, cotton fiber, seed cotton

Top producers, 2023

Country	Tonnes	Share
China	5.6 million	23%
India	5.5 million	22%

Country	Tonnes	Share
Brazil	2.9 million	12%
United States	2.6 million	11%
Pakistan	1.7 million	7%

FAOSTAT Crops and livestock products (QCL), 2023.

Top exporters, 2024

Country	Export value	Share
Brazil	5.1 billion USD	30%
United States	4.9 billion USD	28%
Australia	2.4 billion USD	14%
India	916.4 million USD	5.3%
Benin	505.6 million USD	2.9%

CEPII BACI international trade database (HS22, V202601).

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