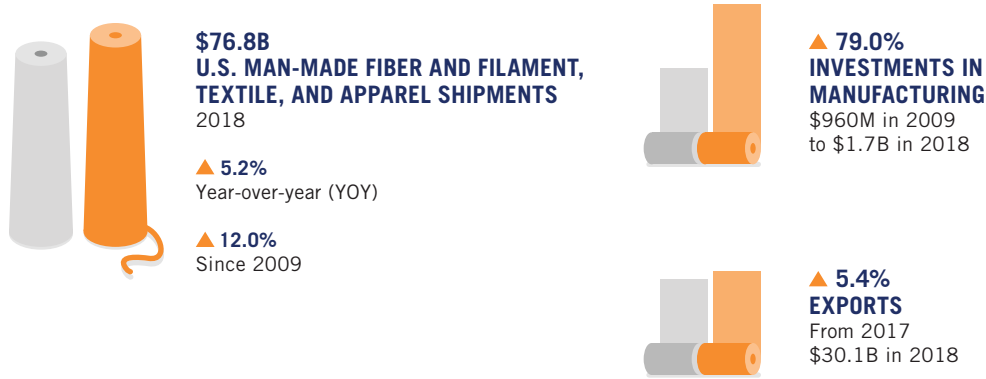


# TRADE WINDS BLOWING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

After a rocky start to the 21st century, the U.S. textile industry has put its roots into the global marketplace and continues its upward trajectory throughout 2019. The National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO) attributes this to the U.S. government creating new trade policies that favor domestically produced goods over imports, resulting in an increase in U.S. exports.

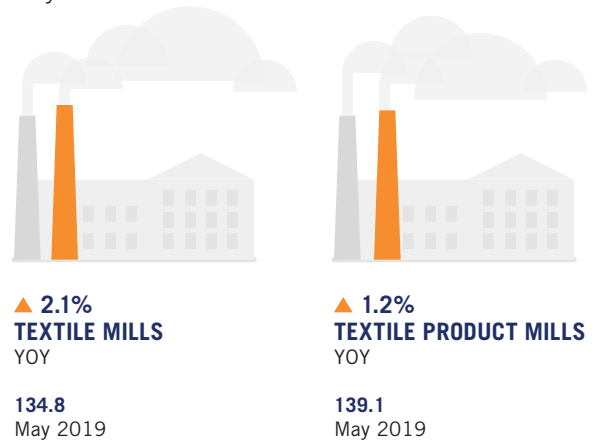
## BY THE NUMBERS

Productivity. Flexibility. Innovation. As stated by NCTO at the 2019 State of the U.S. Textile Industry address, the U.S. textile industry continues to make headway in the global market.



## MILLING ON UP

Producer price indexes for both textile mills and textile product mills exhibited growth over the 12 months ended May 2019.

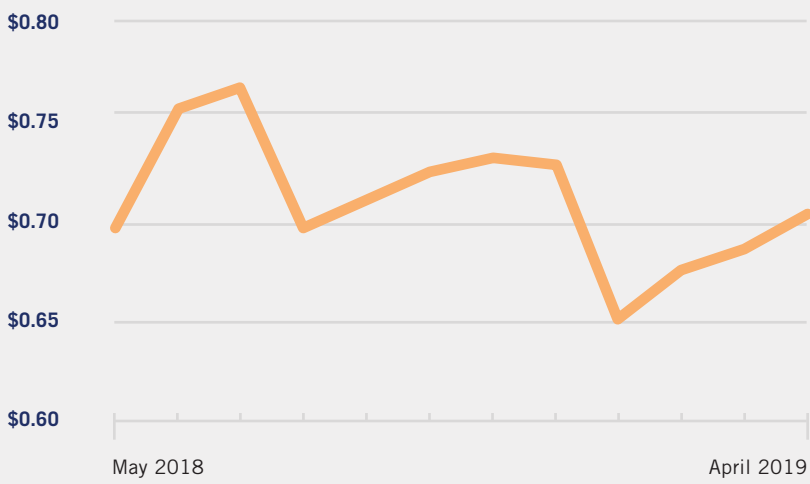


## COTTON SUSTAINS ITS SPOT

The cotton industry has seen sustainability production double, as many cotton farmers and apparel manufacturers followed the eco-friendly path of utilizing “better cotton,” which prevents environmental degradation. To date, 19% of global cotton production is via “better cotton.”

Source: Better Cotton Initiative

AVERAGE PRICING FOR UPLAND COTTON: (\$/POUND)

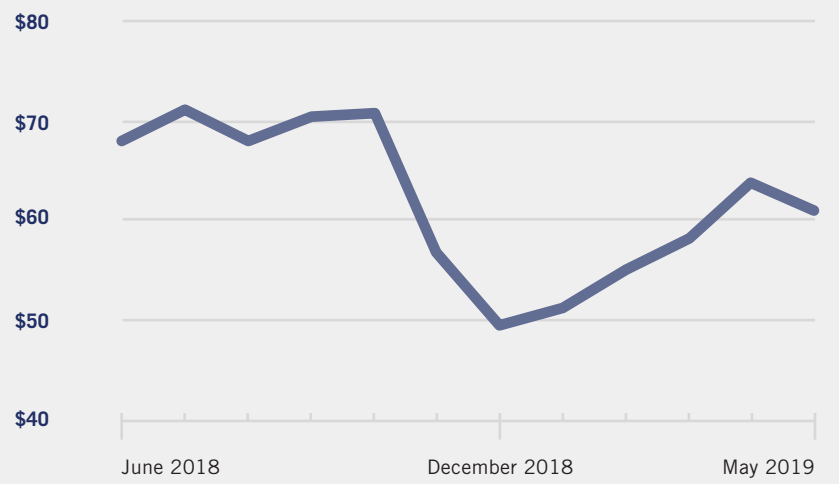


Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

## RUNNING ON OIL

Since synthetic fibers are predominantly produced from petroleum, the price of crude oil plays a major role in the pricing for these fibers. The continued trade uncertainty between the U.S. and China caused price fluctuations, with numbers dramatically decreasing at the tail end of 2018. Prices recovered in the spring of 2019 due to domestic factory activity.

CRUDE OIL PRICES: (\$/BARREL)



Source: Energy Information Administration

## NO WORSE FOR THE WEAR

Many textile end-use industries, such as apparel, furniture, and automotive, saw recent increases in sales for their respective areas. As textiles are vital for manufacturing in each of these end-use industries, the sales increases shine a direct light on the success of the textile industry.

**APPAREL**

UNADJUSTED RETAIL SALES (APRIL 2019):

- ▲ 0.6% YTD
- ▲ 3.9% YOY from April 2018

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**FURNITURE**

A rise in discretionary income and consumer confidence contributed to the spike in furniture sales.

**\$64.5B** FURNITURE STORES REVENUE 2018

- ▲ 2.9% Annually, 2013–2018

Source: IBISWorld, Inc.

**AUTOMOTIVE**

Analysts predict 2019 will experience moderate growth as more used vehicle leases reach their expiration date, but interest rates continue to rise.

**AUTOMOTIVE SALES (MAY 2019):**

- ▲ 15.9% Month-over-month from April 2019
- ▼ 2.2% YOY from May 2018

Source: Edmunds

## HOME GROWN

Although the new millennium was off to a rough start, the textile industry has not only rebounded, but has exhibited excellent growth, particularly from 2018 to the present. The NCTO attributes the reasoning behind the positive trend to U.S. government policy changes that put a higher emphasis on domestic versus imported products—such as the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement—which, if ratified, will further aid the industry with its focus on domestic manufacturing.

TO LEARN MORE, DOWNLOAD GA'S TEXTILES MONITOR AT [GREATAMERICAN.COM/MONITOR](http://GREATAMERICAN.COM/MONITOR)