



60 Million Households Produce Natural Fibres: Production Reached 30 Million Tons in 2016

An estimated 60 million households were engaged in natural fibre production during 2016, including some 45 million households producing cotton, 6 million producing jute, kenaf and allied fibres, about 5 million wool producers, 1 million involved in production of coir, and another one million involved in other natural fibres, such as abaca, hemp, sisal and silk. When family labour, hired workers and employees in associated service industries such as transportation and storage are considered, total employment in the agricultural segments of natural fibre value chains probably reaches about 200 million people per year, or about 2.5% of the world's population. (all estimates are rounded)

World Production, Value and Employment of Natural Fibres, 2016					
		Production Estimated	Households Millions	Employment Millions	Value of Production \$Billion
Natural Fibers		Metric Tons			
Vegetable Origin					
	Abaca	74,100	0.1	0.4	\$0.12
	Bastfibres, other	263,129	0.26	1	\$0.18
	Coir	1,022,167	1.02	5	\$0.68
	Cotton lint	22,890,000	45	170	\$34.74
	Fibre crops not specified elsewhere	283,286	0.28	1	\$0.19
	Flax fibre and tow, ex scutching mill	311,667	0.01	0.01	\$0.20
	Hemp tow waste	61,901	0.00	0.002	\$0.04
	Jute, Kenaf & Allied Fibres	3,300,000	6	33	\$2.20
	Kapok fibre	99,144	0.10	0.5	\$0.30
	Ramie	120,347	0.12	1	\$0.18
	Sisal, Henequen and similar hard fibers	271,033	0.05	0.3	\$0.46
Animal Origin					
	Silk, raw	169,304	0.3	0.8	\$0.75
	Wool, clean	1,157,333	5	10	\$8.71
	Other, greasy weight*	54,447	0.2	0.5	\$0.95
	Total Natural Fibers	30,077,859	58	224	\$49.7
Sources:					
Estimates for 2016 were developed from data provided by http://faostat3.fao.org/ , FAO statistics on hard fibres 2016, ICAC, and IWTO.					

World production of natural fibres rose from 28 million metric tons to an estimated 30 million in 2016. The value of production at the farm level was approximately \$50 billion during 2016. Higher prices for cotton and jute during 2015 led to increased production of both in 2016. Cotton production rose to 23 million tons, jute reached 3 million tons, wool and coir production are each estimated at approximately 1 million tons, and all other natural fibres together amounted to about 2 million tons in 2016.

World production of all fibres is estimated to have exceeded 100 million metric tons for the first time in 2016, a milestone for mankind and fibre industries. Natural fibres accounted for 30% of the total and manmade fibres the balance.

In 2016, oil-based fibres such as polyester, acrylic, and nylon accounted for an estimated 65 million tons of production, including 45 million tons of filament and 20 million tons of staple. Production of cellulosic manmade fibres reached 6 million tons.

World Fibre Production, Metric Tons									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015, Preliminary	2016, Estimated
Natural Fibers									
Vegetable origin									
Abaca	91,300	67,900	70,100	86,100	78,100	67,500	76,600	78,200	74,100
Bastfibres, other	348,476	296,558	265,847	283,889	272,275	267,497	256,474	265,415	263,129
Coir	729,600	923,600	952,700	949,000	988,900	977,100	1,065,800	1,023,600	1,022,167
Cotton Lint	23,584,000	22,334,000	25,425,000	27,846,000	26,774,000	26,170,000	26,235,000	21,300,000	22,890,000
Fibre crops not specified elsewhere	272,254	263,113	274,166	280,051	282,077	283,561	283,314	282,984	283,286
Flax fibre and tow, ex scutching mill	529,000	324,000	296,000	260,000	331,000	303,000	320,000	312,000	311,667
Hemp tow waste	60,496	48,281	48,001	52,975	56,291	59,337	65,868	60,499	61,901
Jute, Kenaf & Allied Fibres	2,588,000	2,863,400	3,375,600	3,410,400	3,182,000	3,096,400	2,778,900	2,936,700	3,300,000
Kapok fibre	87,034	88,540	84,100	103,100	103,100	101,300	96,000	100,133	99,144
Ramie	254,871	215,751	193,840	163,170	134,742	124,258	112,838	123,946	120,347
Sisal, Henequen and similar hard fibers	295,400	257,800	279,500	297,900	258,700	253,700	282,800	276,600	271,033
Animal origin									
Silk, raw	164,385	163,941	164,779	165,500	168,511	167,913	170,000	170,000	169,304
Wool, clean	1,198,000	1,106,000	1,123,000	1,122,000	1,129,000	1,157,000	1,155,000	1,160,000	1,157,333
Other, greasy weight*	51,001	48,959	49,439	48,724	50,644	52,178	55,058	56,104	54,447
Total Natural Fibers	30,253,817	29,001,843	32,602,072	35,068,809	33,809,340	33,080,744	32,953,652	28,146,181	30,077,859
Manmade Fibers									
Cellulosic Fibers	3,234,000	3,889,000	4,063,000	4,500,000	5,187,000	5,762,000	5,935,000	6,026,000	6,219,002
Synthetic Filament	25,750,000	26,551,000	30,509,000	33,106,000	36,133,000	38,817,000	41,874,000	43,659,000	45,057,320
Synthetic Staple	15,331,000	15,964,000	16,887,000	17,662,000	18,522,000	18,653,000	18,723,000	19,238,000	19,854,159
Total Manmade Fibers	44,315,000	46,404,000	51,459,000	55,268,000	59,842,000	63,232,000	66,532,000	68,923,000	71,130,482
Total Fiber Production	74,568,817	75,405,843	84,061,072	90,336,809	93,651,340	96,312,744	99,485,652	97,069,181	101,208,341
Sources									
2008-2014: Bastfibres, other, Fiber crops not specified elsewhere, Hemp tow waste, Kapok and Ramie: http://faostat3.fao.org/									
2008-2015: Abaca, Coir, Jute, Kenaf & Allied Fibres, and Sisal, Henequen and similar fibres: FAO Statistics December 2014, 2015, & 2016									
Cotton: International Cotton Advisory Committee									
Flax: IWTO Market Information 2015									
Silk: http://faostat3.fao.org/ and IWTO Market Information 2015									
Wool: International Wool Textile Organization									
All other Natural Fibres, Animal origin: Various sources as reported by the International Wool Textile Organization									
* (Includes: Alpaca, Angora Rabbit, Camelhair, Cashmere, Guanaco, Llama, Mohair, Vicuna, Yakhair)									
Manmade Fibres: CIRFS, published in IWTO Market Report 2015									