



Analysis of World Nonwovens Market

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ABSTRACT

During the past decade, significant changes have occurred in the worldwide nonwoven market. The predominant regions of the world for the nonwoven production have been restructured. The Asia-Pacific region, including China, shows a potential growth in nonwoven production while the United States and Western Europe continue to develop production technology. The global production of nonwovens reached 4.4 million tons, which is equivalent to \$15.9 billion (U.S. dollar). During 2004, 64% of nonwoven materials were produced in North America, Western Europe and Japan. A decade earlier, these regions accounted for slightly higher than 70% of worldwide nonwoven output. The impact on the nonwovens industry is obvious as raw material prices escalate. Major nonwoven producers have faced the challenge, with increasing pressure, to sustain profit margins although raw material prices are not stable. This price volatility continued to impact financial performance of nonwoven companies in 2005. Nevertheless, global nonwoven production is forecast to rise to 6.3 million tons by 2009, or an increase of two million tons from 2004 production levels.

Keywords: textiles, economic analysis, nonwoven market, predominant regions, raw materials, global nonwoven production, North America, Western Europe, China

Introduction

Although the world market of nonwoven products continuously grows, it faces the structural readjustment followed by the change of global economic condition, raw material capacity and consumers' needs and behavior. In addition, new expansionary manufacturers are emerging while the existing nonwoven producers are concerned by present consumers. This research focuses

on the prediction of the future global nonwoven production as shown in Figure 1, by analyzing information about the global economic condition, the current market of nonwoven production, and the production trends of polypropylene (PP) and polyester (PET) which are most widely used as raw materials in nonwoven industry.