



UZBEKISTAN'S TEXTILE EXPORTS: A SHORT DATA-BASED ANALYSIS

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Abstract

This short paper examines recent changes in Uzbekistan's textile exports using a compact set of official statistics for 2023–2025. The analysis shows two trends taking place at the same time. First, the value of textile exports declined from USD 3.07 billion in 2023 to USD 2.63 billion in 2025, and the sector's share in total exports fell from 12.5% to 7.8%. Second, the internal structure of exports improved: the share of finished textile products rose from 39.2% in 2024 to 54.3% in 2025, while yarn fell from 43.2% to 27.0%. Therefore, the sector faced short-term pressure in export value but continued moving toward higher value-added production. The paper argues that Uzbekistan should preserve this upgrading trend while reducing logistics costs and widening market diversification.

Keywords: Uzbekistan; textile exports; export structure; value-added production; foreign economic activity

Introduction

Textile production has long been one of the most visible export-oriented industries in Uzbekistan. The sector is closely linked to the country's cotton base, industrial employment, and broader strategy of moving from raw-material exports to processed products. For a short paper in external economic activity, textile exports are a useful case because they show how industrial policy, trade structure, and export performance interact in practice.

Instead of discussing the issue in general terms, this paper focuses on a narrow question: how did the scale and structure of textile exports change between 2023 and 2025? The main purpose is to identify whether the decline in export value



during 2025 should be interpreted as a general weakening of the sector or as a temporary result that coexists with structural upgrading.

2. Data Snapshot

Table 1 summarizes the key indicators used in the paper. Its purpose is to show, in a compact form, the three dimensions discussed below: total export value, the sector's share in national exports, and the change from lower-processed to more finished products. Even this short snapshot already suggests a mixed pattern: weaker scale, but stronger product composition.

Table 1. Key indicators of Uzbekistan's textile exports

Indicator	2023	2024	2025
Textile exports (USD bn)	3.07	2.87	2.63
Share in total exports (%)	12.5	10.6	7.8
Share of finished textile products (%)	—	39.2	54.3
Share of yarn (%)	—	43.2	27.0

Source: Official statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan; compiled by the author.

3. Export Scale and Relative Position

Figure 1 shows that Uzbekistan's textile exports fell in nominal terms over the last three years. The export value declined from USD 3.07 billion in 2023 to USD 2.87 billion in 2024 and then to USD 2.63 billion in 2025. In other words, the sector recorded two consecutive annual declines. For a country that treats textiles as a strategic export industry, this downward movement deserves close attention.

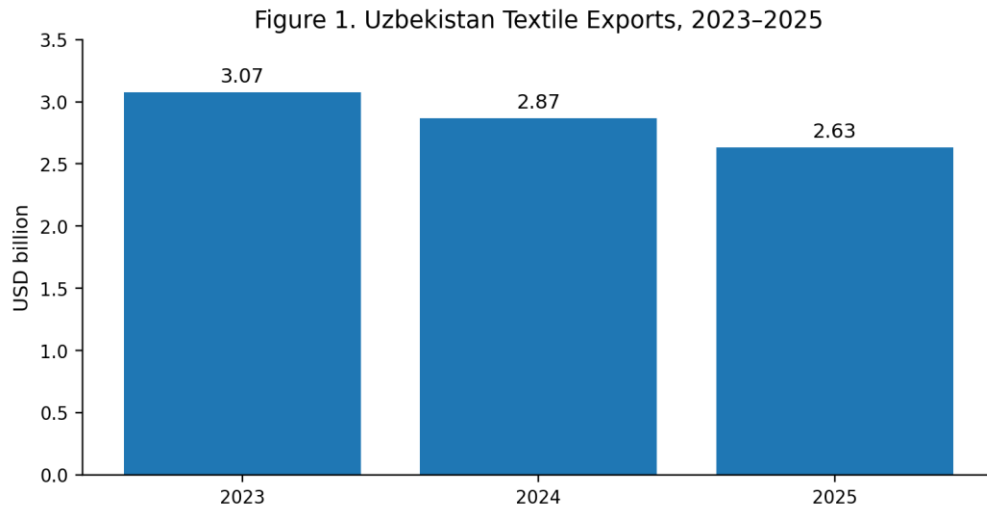


Figure 1. Uzbekistan textile exports in 2023–2025

Source: Compiled by the author from official statistics of Uzbekistan.

The fall becomes even more visible when the sector is compared with Uzbekistan’s total exports. As shown in Figure 2, the share of textiles in national exports decreased from 12.5% in 2023 to 10.6% in 2024 and only 7.8% in 2025. This means that the problem is not simply slower growth inside one industry. Rather, textiles expanded more slowly than the country’s overall export basket and therefore lost relative weight in the national export structure.

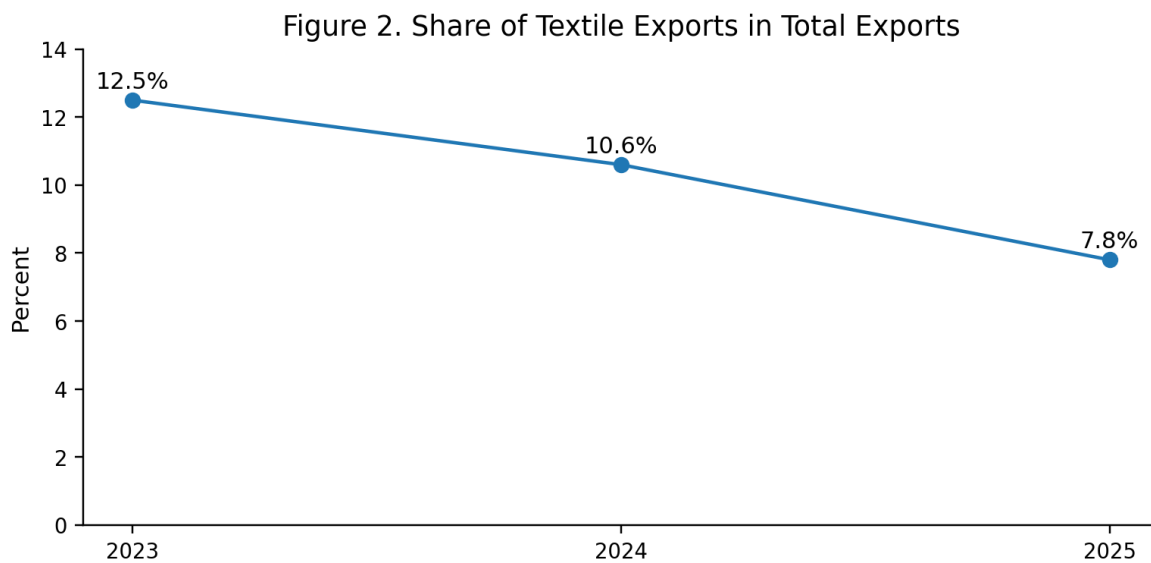


Figure 2. Share of textile exports in Uzbekistan’s total exports

Source: Compiled by the author from official statistics of Uzbekistan.



4. Structural Upgrading Amid Falling Export Value

A simple reading of the previous figures could lead to a pessimistic conclusion, but the composition of exports suggests a more nuanced interpretation. Figure 3 compares the internal structure of textile exports in 2024 and 2025. In 2024, yarn remained the largest category with 43.2%, while finished textile products accounted for 39.2%. By 2025, this relationship changed substantially: finished textile products rose to 54.3% and yarn fell to 27.0%.

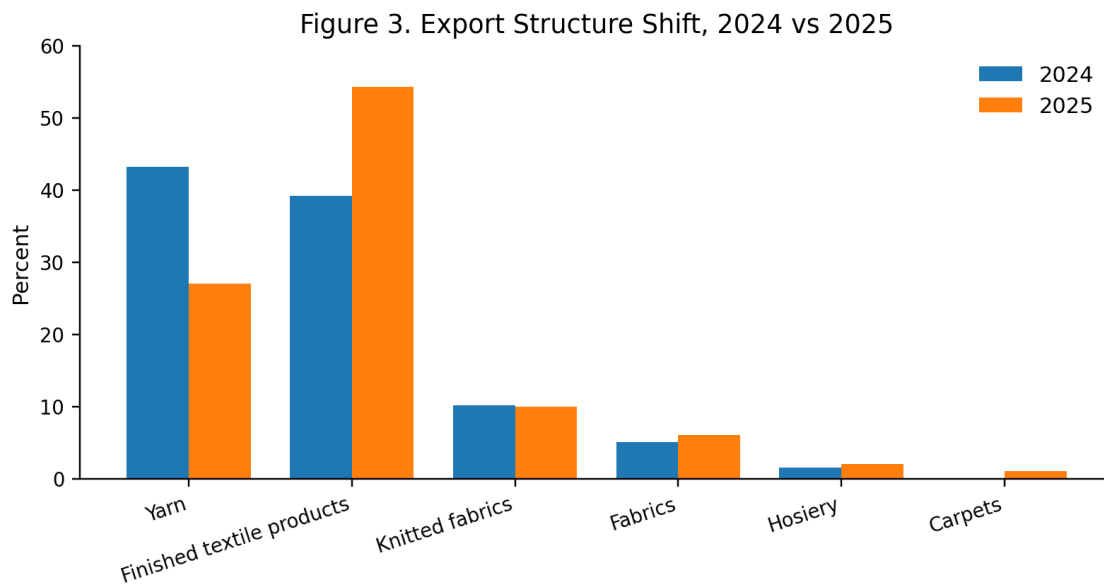


Figure 3. Export structure shift from 2024 to 2025

Source: Compiled by the author from official statistics of Uzbekistan.

This change is economically important because finished textile products usually carry more value added than yarn or other semi-processed goods. Therefore, the sector in 2025 showed a mixed pattern: lower aggregate export value but a better product mix. For academic analysis, this point is central. It suggests that short-term export pressure did not stop the longer-term industrial shift from low-processed outputs to more sophisticated and market-ready products.

5. In-Year Dynamics and Short-Term Pressure

Figure 4 compares cumulative textile exports in 2024 and 2025. At every checkpoint, the 2025 line remained below the 2024 line. For example,



cumulative exports in January–June 2025 reached USD 1.27 billion, versus USD 1.53 billion in the same period of 2024. By January–December, the gap remained visible: USD 2.63 billion in 2025 against USD 2.87 billion in 2024. This means that the decline was not caused by one unusual month; it persisted during the year.

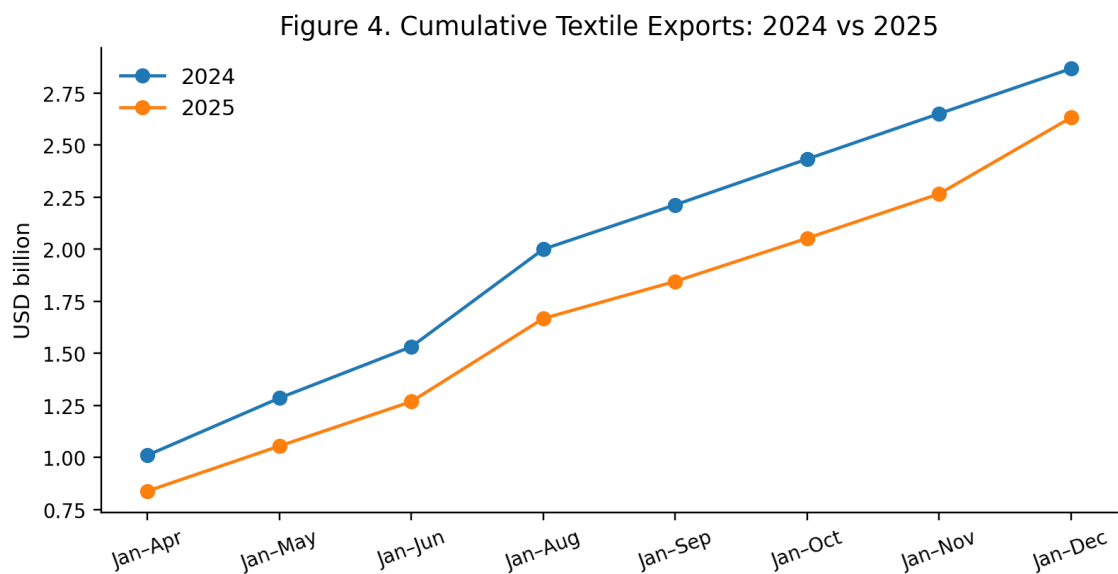


Figure 4. Cumulative textile exports: 2024 versus 2025

Source: Compiled by the author from official statistics of Uzbekistan.

Several factors may explain this result. First, external demand and price conditions in foreign markets may have become less favorable. Second, Uzbekistan still faces the structural disadvantage of being a double-landlocked country, which raises logistics costs and delivery time. Third, competition in textiles is intense, so a shift toward finished products can improve long-term positioning without producing an immediate increase in total export value. Thus, the data are most consistent with the conclusion that 2025 was a year of transition rather than a year of simple decline.



6. Conclusion

The data in this paper support two conclusions. First, Uzbekistan's textile exports weakened in scale between 2023 and 2025, both in absolute value and in their share of total exports. Second, the internal structure of exports improved, because finished textile products became the dominant category in 2025. This means that export contraction and structural upgrading occurred simultaneously. For policy and business practice, the main task is not to reverse structural change, but to strengthen it. Uzbekistan should continue increasing the share of finished products, while also reducing logistics bottlenecks, broadening export destinations, and improving marketing capacity in foreign markets. In this way, a higher-quality export structure can eventually be translated into sustainable export growth.

References

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