



Apparel and Textile

A Top Export Prospect for Haiti

September 2014

Overview

	2011	2012	2013
Total Market Size	195	193	74
Total Local Production	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Exports to the U.S.	715.8	745.1	819.3
Total Imports	195	193	74
Imports from the U.S.	4.8	4.7	4.5

(Figures in million USD. U.S. figures derived from U.S. Census Bureau. Other figures are from the Central Bank of Haiti (BRH/Banque de la République d'Haiti) and Trade Map - International Trade Centre.)

The extension of the HOPE II benefits and gradual improvements in the political and security situations have aroused foreign investors' interest in the Haitian garment apparel sector. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Haiti's exports in 2011 (USD 715.8 million) showed an increase of 35 percent compared to 2010 (USD 528.5 million), as a result of the HOPE II/HELP benefits, which facilitate higher potential yields to investors. As of December 2012, Haitian textile exports valued USD 745.1 million, a 4 percent increase over 2011 exports. The Haitian textile sector is well known for its resilient labor, one of its main comparative advantages. In FY 2013, total textile exports valued USD 819.3 million with a 10 percent increase over 2012. Assembly sector exports represent 90 percent of Haiti's exports.

Sub-Sector Best Prospects

Typically, all Haitian firms in the apparel sector work as contractors for U.S. textile companies, such as Sara Lee and Levi Strauss. U.S. firms' export cut fabric, raw materials, and equipment to support assembly. Haitian firms provide labor on a contractual basis.

This predictable cash flow provides some market opportunities for U.S. companies that specialize in raw materials for the textile and apparel sector.

Opportunities

In December 2006, the U.S. Congress passed the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Act of 2006 (HOPE). This U.S. trade preference legislation boosted Haitian private textile investment as well as foreign investment in the Haitian textile industry sector. Up to mid-2008 HOPE had helped generate approximately 5,000 jobs. In May 2008, Congress passed HOPE II, which extends the trade preference an additional ten years effective October 2008, and allows use of third country textiles/fabric. In May 2010, Congress passed the Haiti Economic Lift Program (HELP), which extends two existing trade preference programs, the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA) and HOPE II, until September 2020. According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), Haitian apparel exports to U.S. under the Earned Import Allowance Program have increased substantially over non-EIAP exports since the passage of the bill.

Web Resources

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