

## **WOODWORKING TECHNOLOGY: “MADE IN ITALY” STOPS AT 2.4 BILLION IN 2024**

Times remain “complicated” for the Italian industry of woodworking technology and furniture production. The preliminary data for 2024 show the impact of the “uncertainties” that have long affected the real effectiveness of “Industry 5.0” measures and the enduring consequences of the Russian invasion in Ukraine and the Israel-Palestine conflict (combined with the stagnation caused by the exceptional demand of previous years) on overall results.

According to the preliminary balance drawn by the Studies office of Acimall, the Confindustria member association that represents industry companies, **production in 2024** amounted to 2.43 billion euros, 8.3 percent less than in 2023.

The reduction involved both **export** (1.7 billion, down by 7.8 percent) and **domestic demand** (730 million, minus 9.5 percent), combined with a sharp drop in **import** (180 million, minus 40.2 percent) showing that the Italian offer can “dominate” the demand of technology.

The latter figure actually “supported” the **trade balance** (1.52 billion euro, down by 1.5 percent compared to the final balance of 2023), while **apparent consumption** stopped at 910 million, 17.9 percent less than the previous year; these figures put Italy in the top positions of the European and global rankings of wood technology demand.

*“The situation is certainly not positive – said the Acimall director **Dario Corbetta** – and the industry is suffering from a temporary suspension of reality due to the Covid outburst first, and then the incentives that have delayed the structural problems of our industry for two years. The causes of this scenario are well known: labor shortage, slow generational change and all the challenges that the mechanical manufacturing industry is facing, without forgetting the geopolitical tension that have inevitably hindered export to a few markets”.*

### **EXPORT**

Talking about export, in the first nine months of 2024, the **United States** (129 million, minus 3.6 percent versus the same period of 2023), **France** (122 million, plus 22 percent) and **Germany** (92 million, minus 1.3 percent) took the top positions in the ranking of Italy’s customers, followed by **Poland** (74 million, minus 5.4 percent), **Spain** (56 million, plus 7 percent), **United Kingdom** (46 million, minus 28.7 percent), **China** (45 million, plus 16.8 percent), **Sweden** (38 million, minus 11.5 percent), **Turkey** (35 million, plus 21.4 percent) and **Belgium** (32 million, minus 13.4 percent).

The trend of export to China and Turkey is very interesting, with both countries recording a strong growth of woodworking machinery production in the past few decades, making them competitors to be watched carefully: *“The fact that Italian manufacturers can consolidate their role in these markets not only witnesses to the quality of Italian technology, but also shows that advanced technology makes the difference, although for Turkey we should consider possible triangulations towards other destinations”*, added director Corbetta.

Looking at the **competitiveness on global markets**, Italy keeps playing a leading role: in the ranking of the wood and furniture technology exporting countries in the January-September 2024 period, **China** remains at the top with 1.827 billion euro export, 7.2 percent more than in the same period of 2023. The second place is held by **Germany** (1.807 billion, minus 12.4 percent) and the third by **Italy** (1.138 billion, minus 7.6 percent).

### **IMPORT**

Moving on to import, on a global level, the **United States** were the biggest customer for global suppliers, purchasing machines and plants for the wood supply chain from abroad for a total value of 1.782 billion euros, 0.8 percent less than in the first nine months of 2023. At number two, **Germany** (635 million of foreign purchases, minus 8.2 percent), followed by **Canada** (486 million, plus 8.4 percent).

As to **Italy's top suppliers** in the January-September 2024 period, the first place in the ranking was taken by **Germany** with 48 million euro (minus 48.5 percent), followed by **China** (23 million, minus 3.7 percent) and **India** (9 million, minus 49.8 percent).

*For more information:*

**Luca Rossetti**

+39 351 9098189 - [press@acimall.com](mailto:press@acimall.com)