

MEASURING THE U.S. COTTON CONTENT OF TEXTILE AND APPAREL PRODUCT IMPORTS**Leslie A. Meyer****USDA-ERS****Washington, DC****Abstract**

The United States is the largest market in the world for cotton textile and apparel products, expanding by one-third over the past decade. Much of this growth can be attributed to imported products, however, as the domestic industry has contracted significantly. The rising import trend is expected to continue with the elimination of quotas, allowing a number of foreign countries greater access to the U.S. market. In 2003, the United States imported an estimated 19.2 million bales of cotton—on a raw-fiber-equivalent basis—in the form of textile and apparel products. This study estimates that one-third of those bales originated as U.S. exported raw cotton or textile products.