



A Tale of Two Markets: Merino versus Broad Wool

Chris Wilcox
Chairman, Market Intelligence Committee

IWTO 2017 Congress, Harrogate
May 2017





Key Points

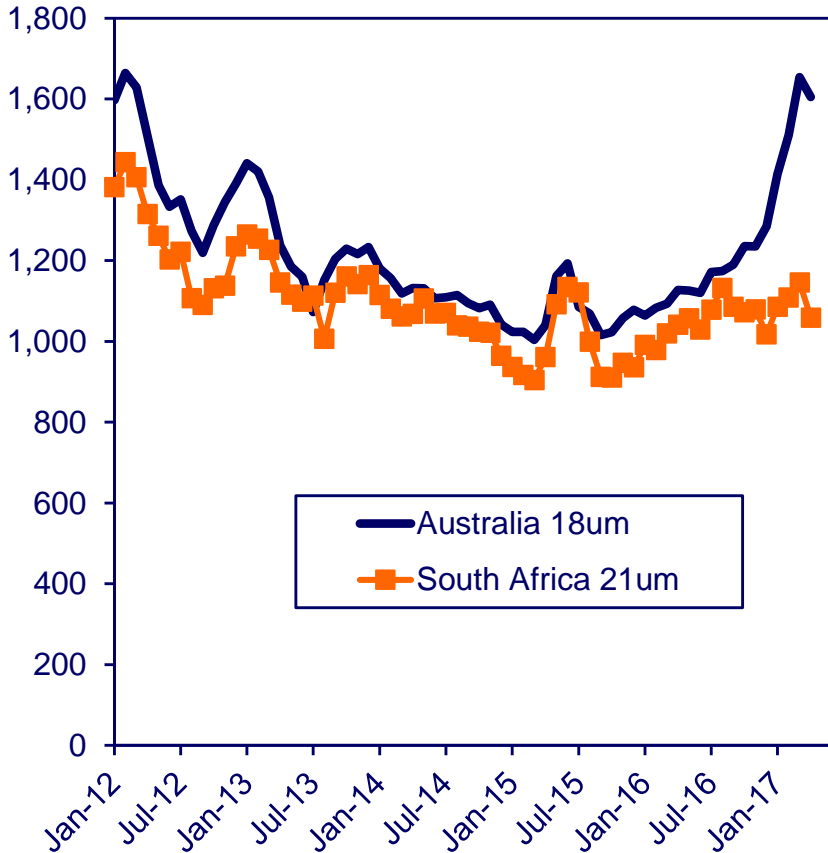
1. Fine Merino prices surge, Medium and Broad wool prices plunge
2. Global production edges higher
3. Production from Merino wool producing countries to slide?
4. Gap between interior textile wool and apparel wool production widens
5. Positive wool textile business conditions for apparel
6. Raw wool exports from Merino producing countries lifts...
7. ...but exports from broader wool producing countries drops
8. Fine Merino wool price relativity against competing fibres at highs...
9. ...Broad Crossbred wool price relativity at lows
10. Lacklustre retail sales for clothing and carpets/furnishings
11. World economy starting to strengthen



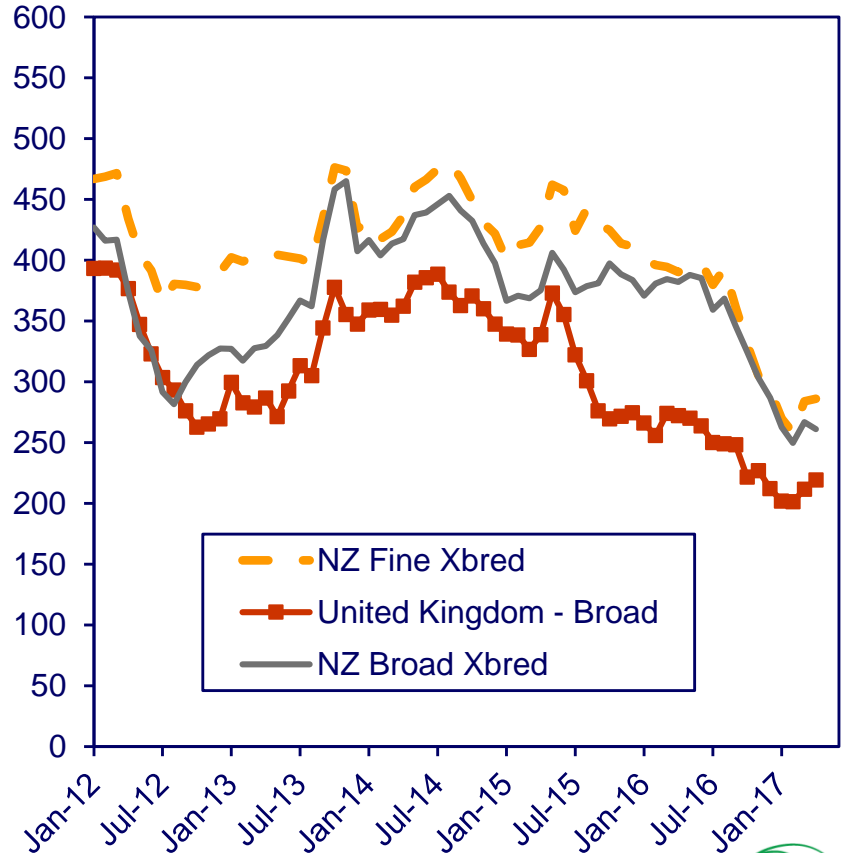


Fine Merino Wool Prices Surge; Medium and Broad Wool Prices Dive

USc/kg



USc/kg



Source: AWEX, Capewools, BWMB, NZ Wool Services
Prices to week ending 14th April 2017.

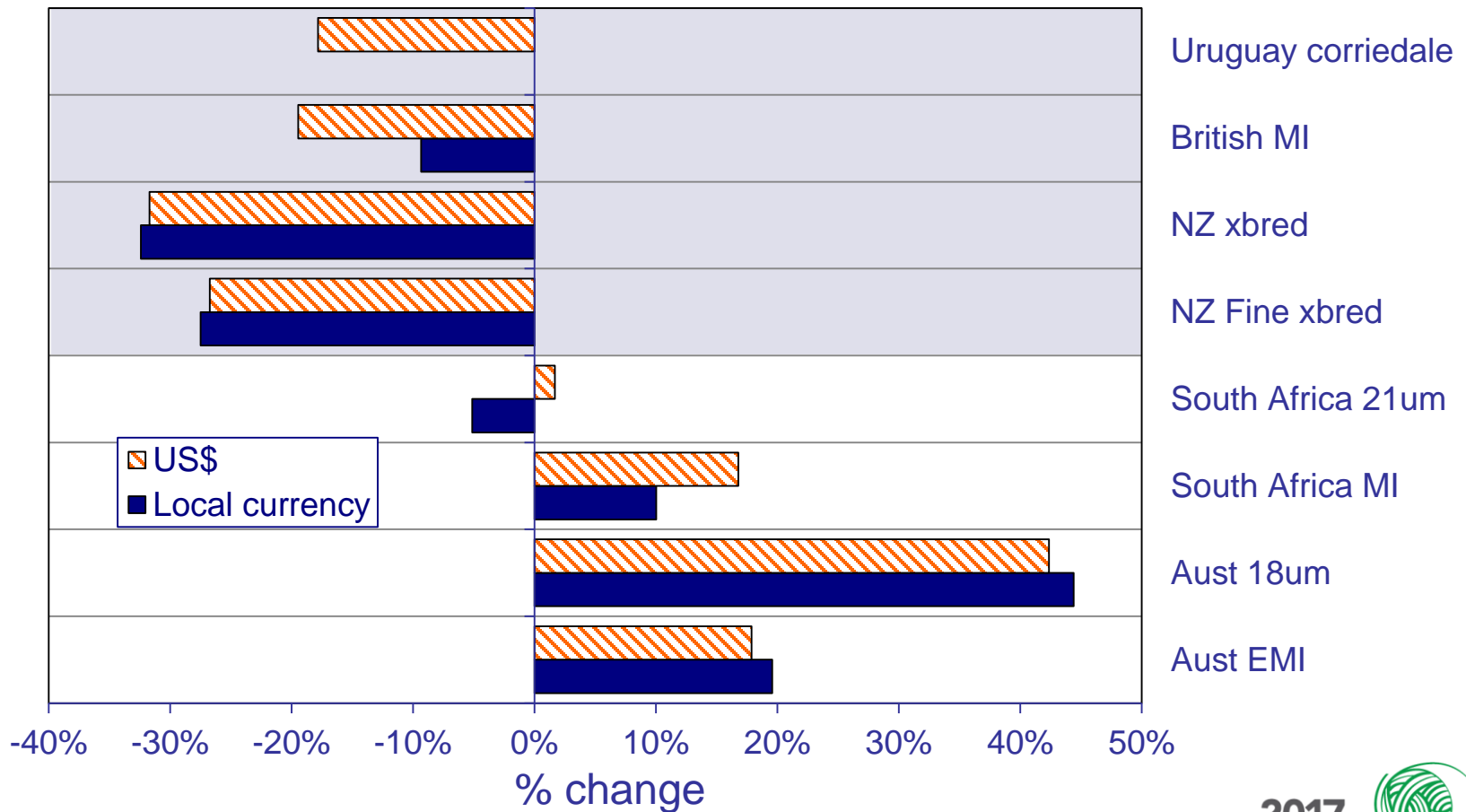
NZ Fine crossbred wool is 25-32 micron and NZ Broad crossbred wool is 33-38 micron.
The UK wool price is the British Wool Marketing Board Indicator.





Fine Merino Wool Prices Surge; Medium and Broad Wool Prices Dive

(% change April 2017 compared with April 2016)

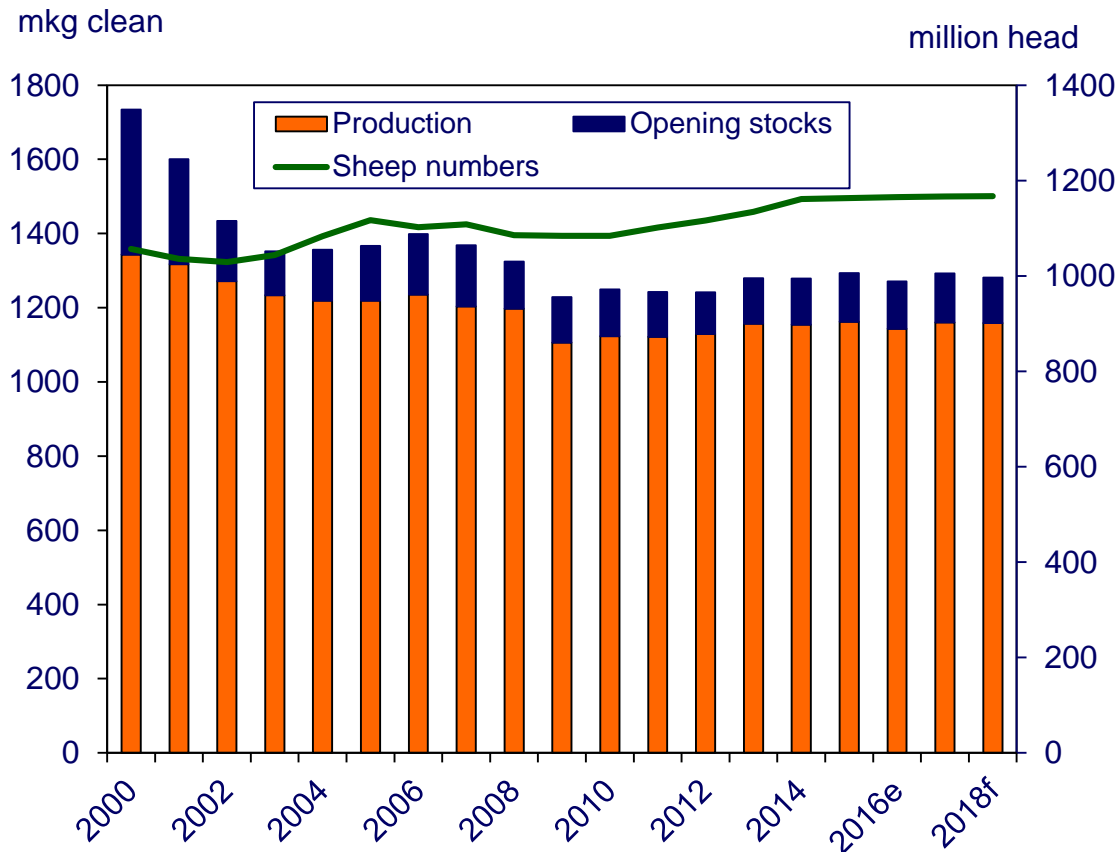


Source: AWEX, NZ Wool Services, Capewools, BWMB, Zambrano & Cia (Uruguay)





Wool Production Increases Modestly in 2017



2016 production
1,143.2 mkg clean

2017 production
1,160.7 mkg clean

2018 production
1,159.0 mkg clean

Near 70 year lows

Stocks:Use ratio
~11%

Source: Poimena Analysis, International Wool Textile Organisation, Food and Agricultural Organisation
 Note: The year refers to the season ending eg 2000 = 1999/2000
 Data in 2016 is an estimate and data in 2017 and 2018 is a forecast
 Updated April 2017





World Wool Production Changes

Total wool production - mkg clean

mkg clean	2016	2017f	% change	2018f	% change
“Apparel” wool IWTO countries – shading shows 60% or greater of production is Merino					
Australia	260.2	276.9	+6.4%	267.3	-3.4%
South Africa	30.3	30.7	+1.6%	31.4	+2.0%
Argentina	26.4	26.4	0.0%	26.1	-1.3%
Uruguay	18.3	18.4	+0.7%	18.4	+0.0%
USA	6.9	6.9	-0.7%	6.8	-0.9%
“Interior textile” wool IWTO countries					
China	179.6	180.1	+0.3%	180.0	0.0%
New Zealand	108.6	103.1	-5.1%	103.5	+0.4%
India	32.5	33.3	+2.4%	34.0	+2.1%
UK	23.5	23.5	0.0%	23.8	+1.2%
Mongolia	19.0	10.6	+8.1%	22.7	+10.2%
Other countries	446.4	449.2	+0.6%	453.5	+1.0%
Global	1,143.2	1,160.7	+1.5%	1,159.0	-0.1%

Source: IWTO national committee reports, FAO and Poimena Analysis

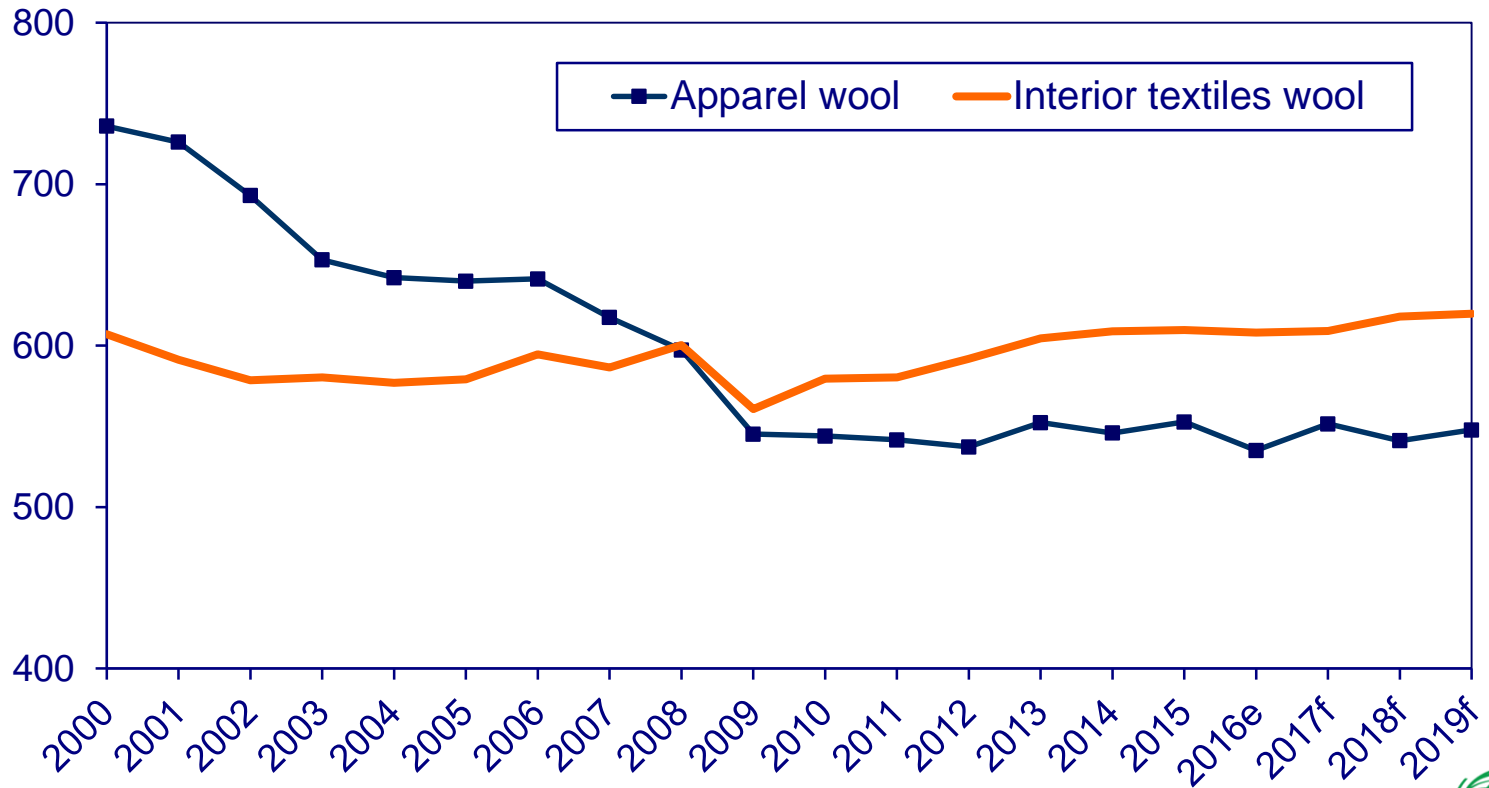
Note: 2016 = 2015/16 for Australia, NZ, Uruguay, Argentina, South Africa.

Updated: 11th April 2017



Mind the Production Gap: Interior Textile versus Apparel Wool

mkg clean



Source: IWTO, Country statistics, Poimena Analysis
Updated April 2017





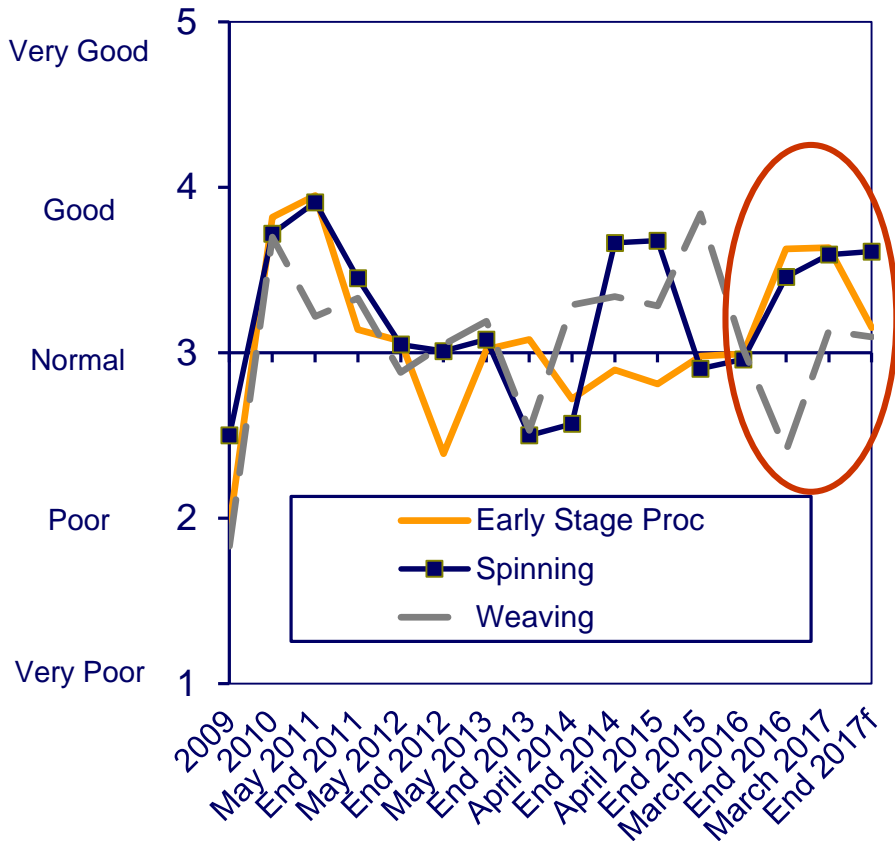
IWTO Wool Textile Business Survey 2017

- Thirteen countries reported
- Positive aggregate activity levels for stages from early stage processing to knitting
 - Improvement on a year ago
- Interior textiles less positive
- Positive conditions and outlook in China, India, Italy, Mongolia, France, Germany,
- Negative conditions in New Zealand, Uruguay, Japan, Turkey
- Stocks under control except in weaving?

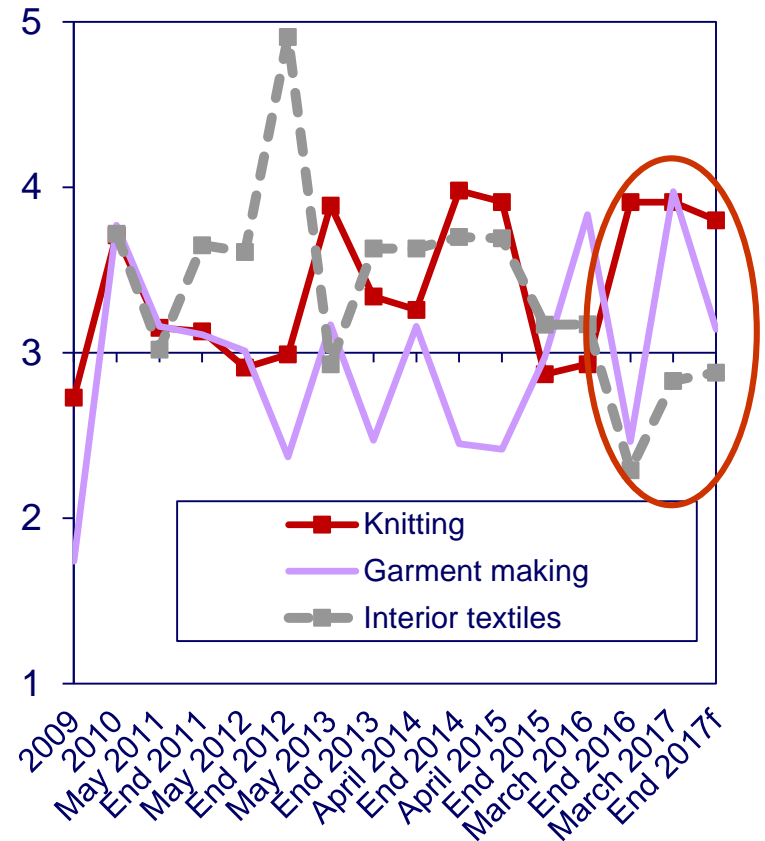


Wool Textile Industry Production Activity: Positive Levels Reported for Apparel

Rating



Rating



Source: IWTO Wool Textile Business Survey. Updated April 2017
 Weighted results for China, Italy, Germany, Uruguay, Mongolia, Argentina, South Africa, Japan, France, India, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Turkey





Wool Textile Industry Stock Levels Normal and Below

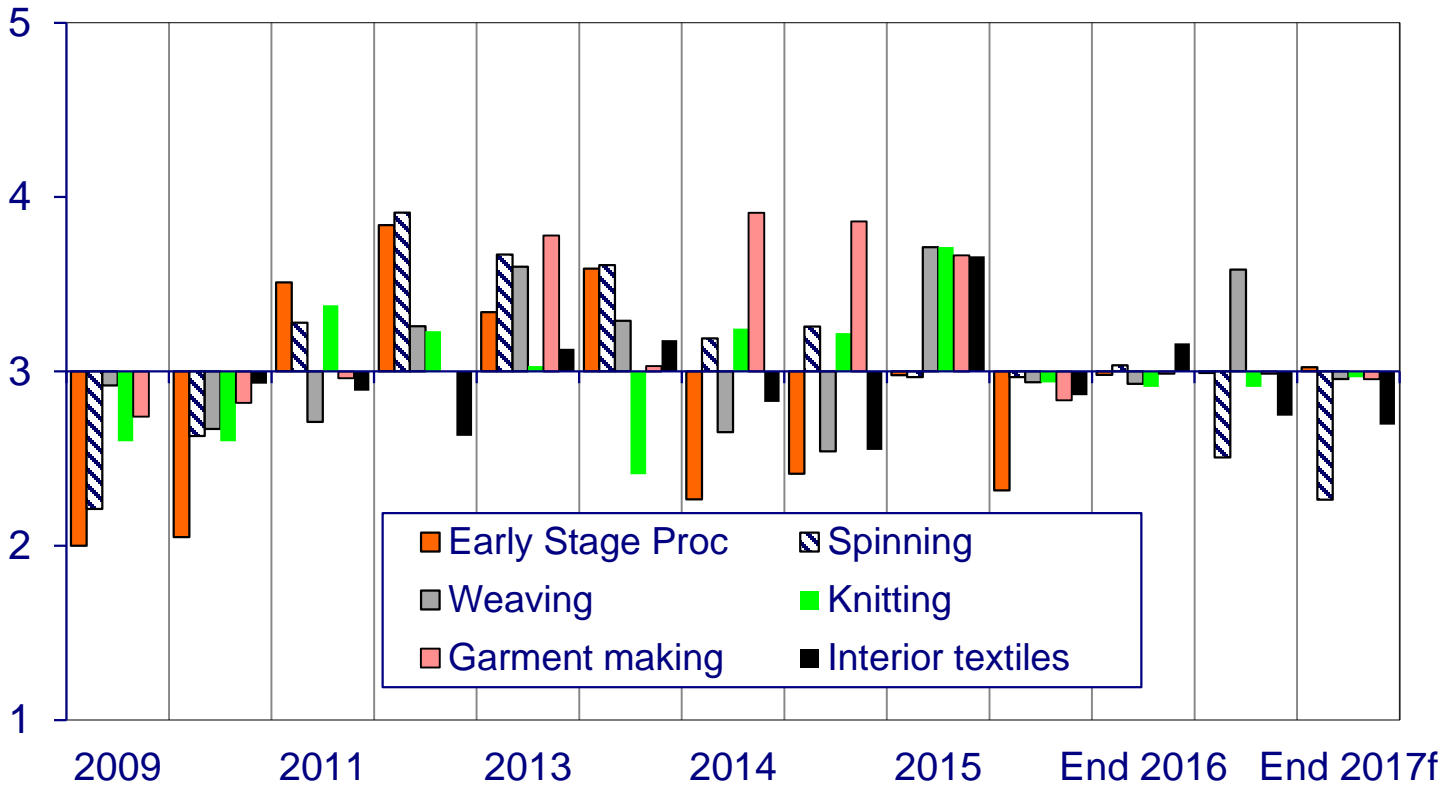
Well above
normal

Above normal

Normal

Below normal

Well below
normal

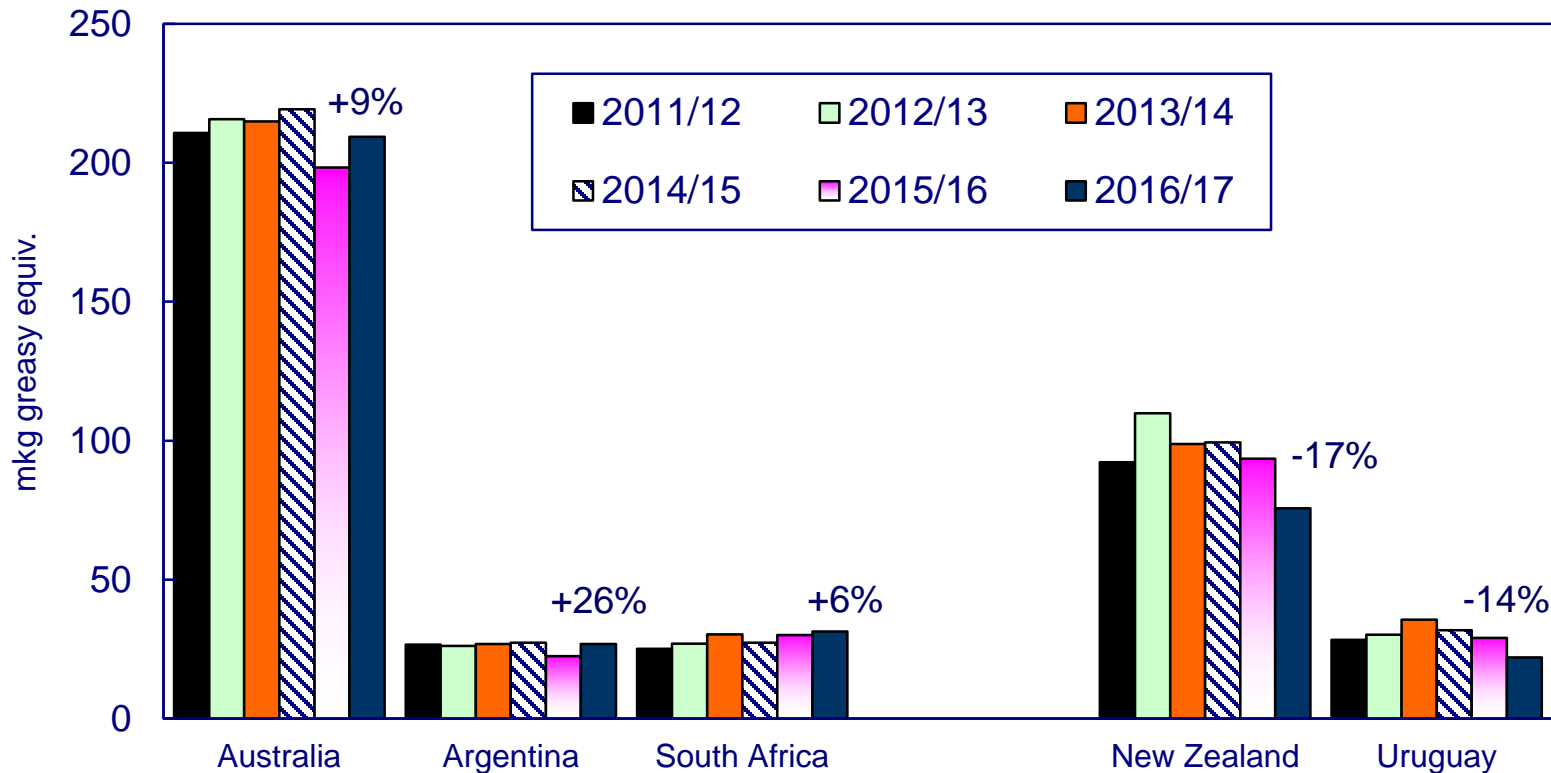


Source: IWTO Wool Textile Business Survey. Updated April 2017
 Weighted results for China, Italy, Germany, Uruguay, Mongolia, Argentina, South Africa, Japan, France, India, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Turkey





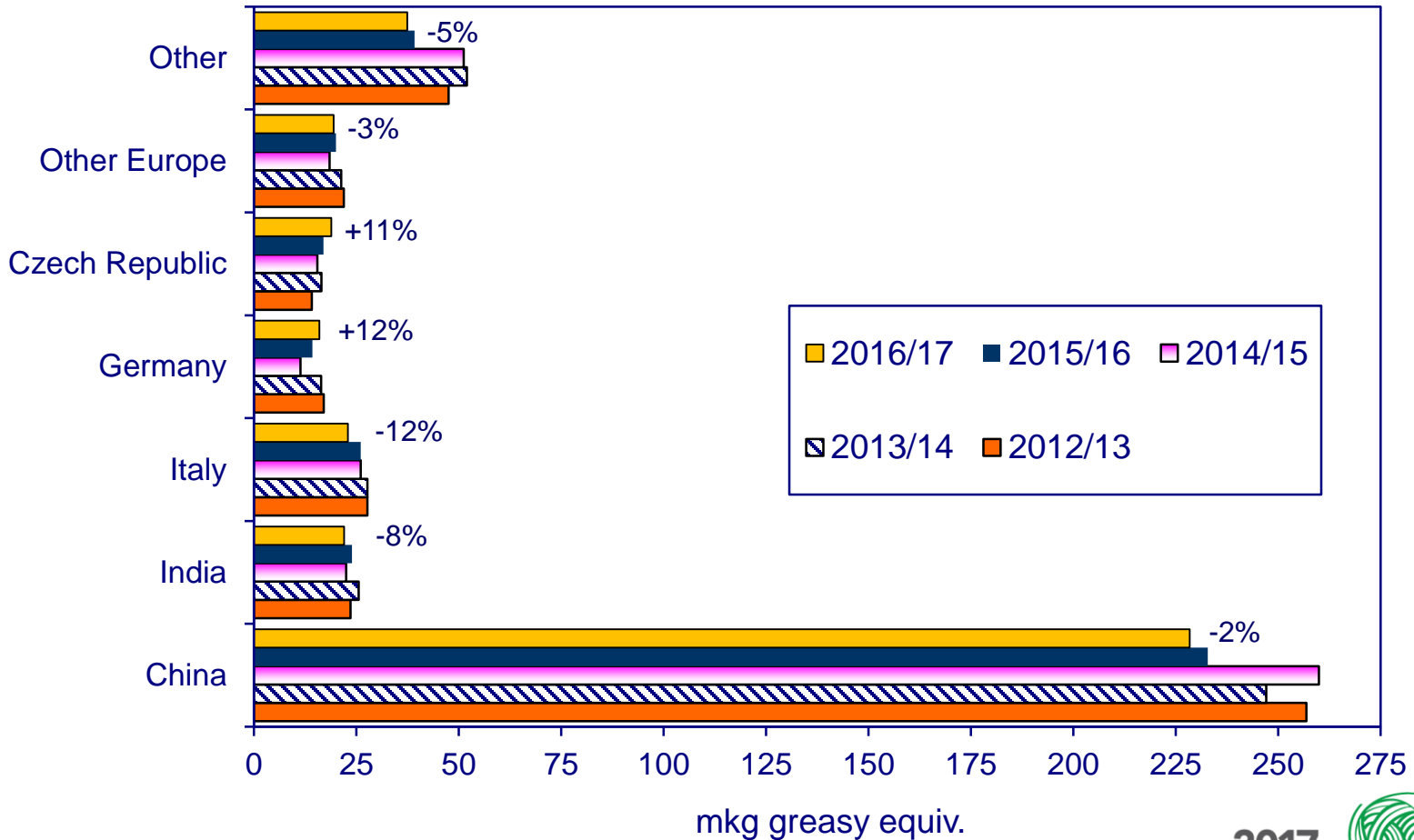
Diverging Results for Wool Exports by Major Exporting Countries Financial Year to February



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, FLA, SUL, Capewools, Beef + Lamb NZ



Wool Imports by Major Processing Countries Financial Year to February



Note: From the five major exporting countries (Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa)

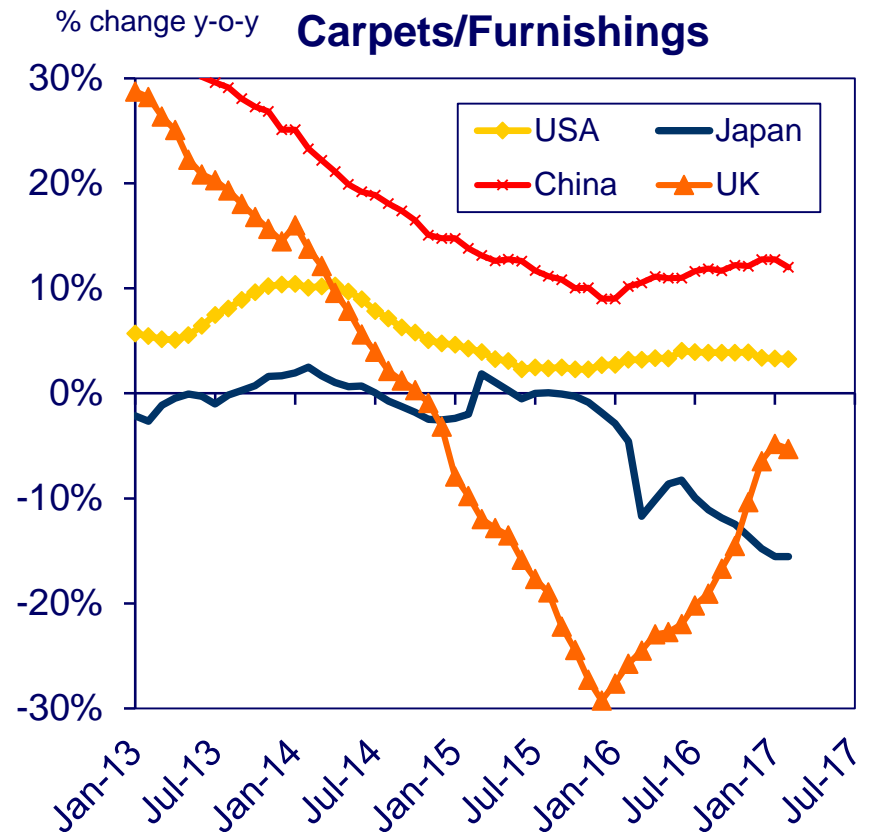
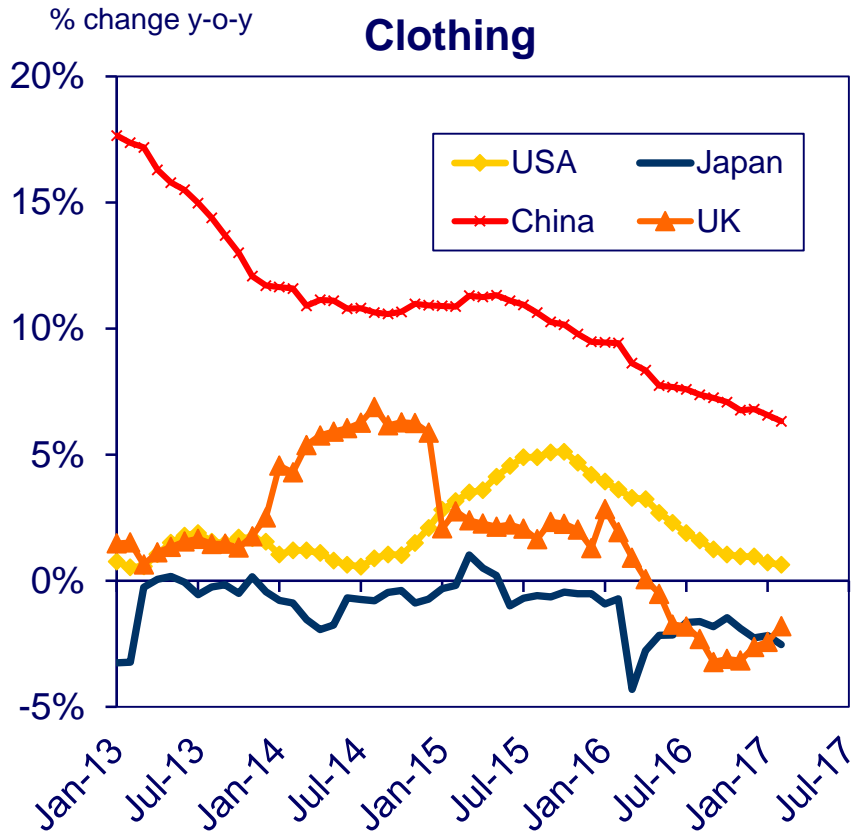
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, FLA, SUL, Capewools, Beef + Lamb NZ





Lacklustre Retail Sales: Clothing and Carpets/Furnishings

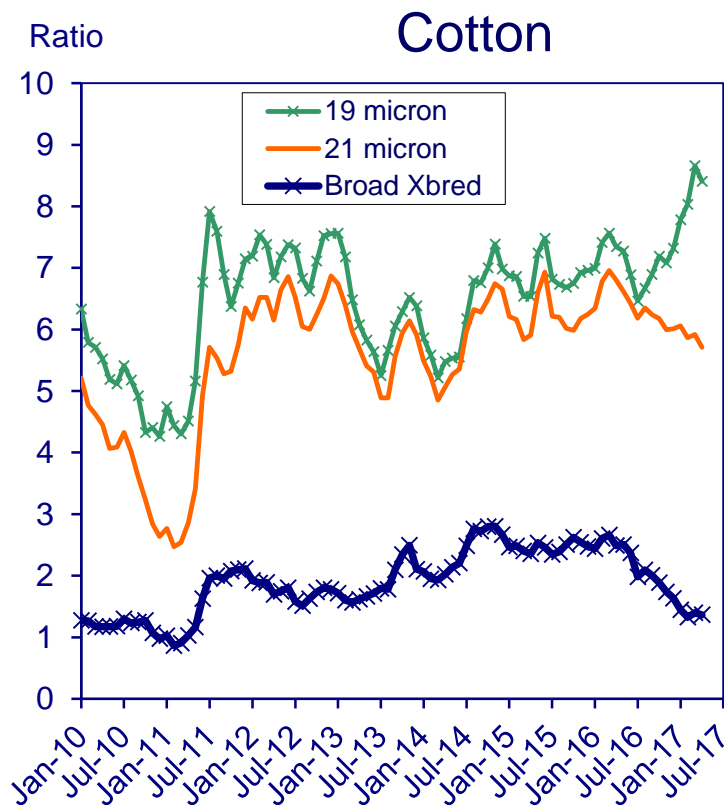
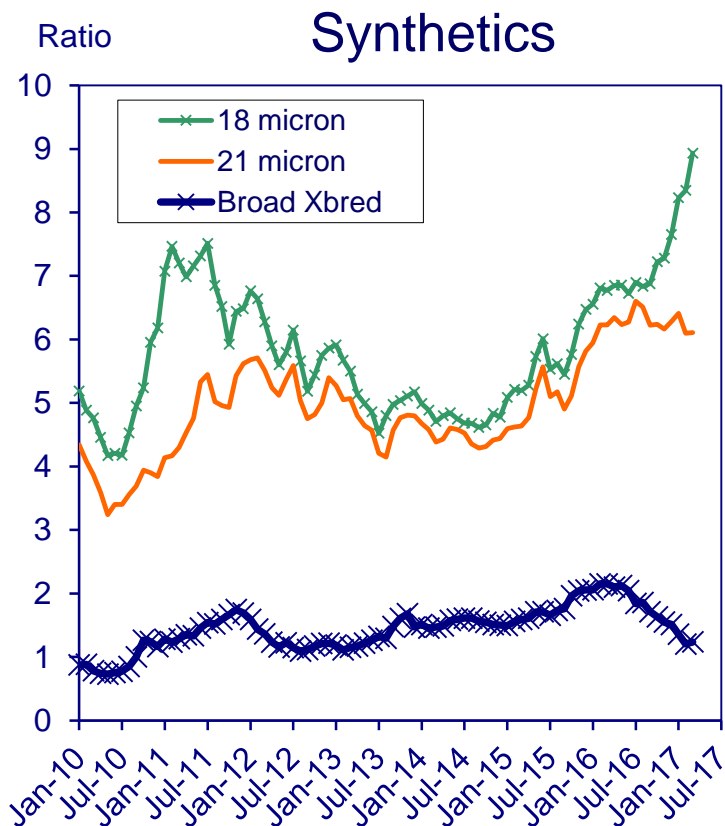
12 month moving aggregate - % change



Source: Government statistical services. Includes data on retail sales or private expenditure on clothing and on carpets or furnishings
Data to February 2017



Fine Merino Wool Price Ratio at Highs; Broad Wool Price Ratio at Lows US\$ terms



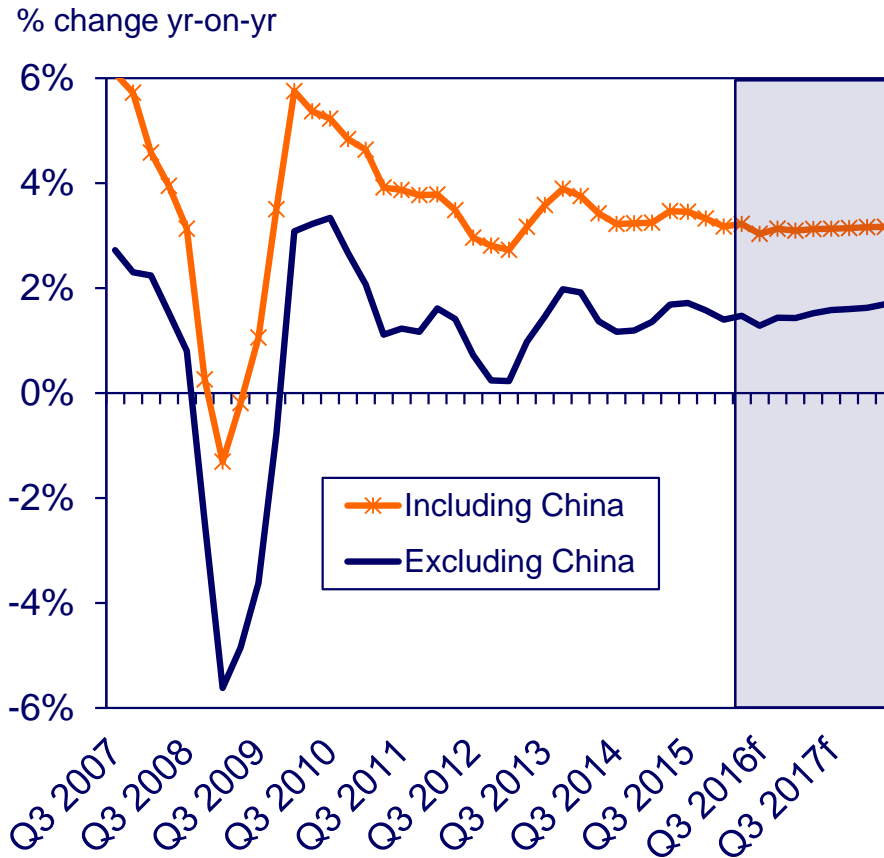
Source: AWEX, Cotton Outlook, PCI Fibres, CIRFS, Woolmark, Poimena Analysis, Wool Services International NZ
Data to March 2017

Note: For 18 micron and 21 micron wool it is Australian wool
For Broad Crossbred wool it is New Zealand wool and the ratio is against acrylic fibre





Economic Growth Recovers in Major Wool Consuming Countries (% change year on year)



- Improved forecasts for US, Germany, France, Italy and Korea
- Economic growth in China moderates
- UK economy forecast to weaken due to Brexit
- Japan's economy drifts sideways

Source: IMF, Consensus Forecasts, International Wool Textile Organisation and Poimena Analysis
Note: Economic growth in China, Japan, USA, UK, Germany, Italy, France and South Korea, weighted by wool consumption



Drivers and Prospects for 2017/18

Positives

- World economic growth strengthening
- High consumer confidence in US, Europe & Japan
- Positive conditions and outlook in major wool processing countries
- Wool textile industry stocks under control
- Low price ratio for broad wool against cotton and synthetic fibres

Negatives

- Disappointing retail sales for clothing and carpets/furnishings
- High price ratio for fine Merino wool against cotton and synthetic fibres
- Weak demand for broad wool
- Higher global production of “interior textiles” wool





Thank You!

