
prepared for: Mensch&Büro

World consumption of office furniture (valued at production prices, excluding markup) is worth about US$ 48 billion. This estimate is based on processing by CSIL of data from industry and official sources, both national and international, that cover the 60 most important countries.

The largest markets are the United States, China, Japan, Germany and India, which account for 25%, 22%, 7%, 6% and 4% of world consumption respectively. Other major markets are Brazil, Canada, the United Kingdom, France and Australia.

Office furniture accounts for about 11% of total world furniture consumption, which is worth about US$ 455 billion.

World consumption of office furniture (at production prices, excluding markup) reached US$ 48.3 billion in 2014, still below the pre-recession level.


Source: CSIL
Note: Consumption means apparent consumption at production prices, excluding markup

Over two thirds of world office furniture consumption takes place in ten large markets: the United States, China, Japan, Germany, India, Brazil, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia.

About 63% of world consumption for office furniture in value takes place in High Income countries (including 47% in the seven major industrial economies (G7) which in order of consumption are the United States, Japan, Germany, Canada, United Kingdom, France, Italy and 16% in other high income countries). The balance (37%) is consumed in Middle and Low Income countries, among which the largest consumers are China, India, and Brazil.

While total consumption is changing slowly worldwide, there are major variations in the composition of consumption in almost all major markets. Imported furniture has been growing (except during the recent recession).

Source: CSIL from industry and official data 2015:preliminary

The largest importer is U.S., with more than US$ 2 billion of office furniture imports. The growth of imports in 2015 over 2014 is estimated at about 8%. The largest supplier to the Unite States is China, followed by Canada, Mexico, Taiwan and Malaysia.

Imports penetration is high in the United Kingdom, France and Spain and low in the United States, Germany and Italy. For the world as a whole, growth of the imports/consumption ratio has grown until 2008, has fallen in 2009 and is presently still below the pre-recession level.

World production of office furniture is worth about US$ 50 billion, including about US$ 40 billion for local consumption in the manufacturing country and US$ 10 billion for exports, which constitute international office furniture trade.

Leading office furniture manufacturers are spread all over the world, with companies/groups having headquarters both in high income countries (eg. Japan, the US, and some EU countries) and in middle and low income countries (eg. China, India and South Africa).

About 57% of world office furniture is manufactured in high income countries (including 43% in the seven large industrial economies which in order of office furniture production are the US, Germany, Japan, Canada, Italy, the United Kingdom and France, and 14% in other high income countries). The balance (43%) is manufactured in middle and low income countries among which the largest producers are China and Brazil.

The major producing countries are China (US$ 14.4 billion), US (US$ 10.4 billion), Germany (US$ 3.2 billion), Japan (US$ 2.9 billion) and Canada (US$ 2.1 billion).
The main exporting countries are: China, Germany, Canada, Italy, the United States, and Sweden.

About 54% of office furniture exports come from high income countries. The percentage decreased substantially in ten years (it was 72% in 2005). Conversely, the share of office furniture exports from middle and low income countries increased from 28% to 46%.

In particular China increased its share from 14.6% in 2005 to 36.4% in 2014. The World Office Furniture Indicators show some changes in the ranking of office furniture exporting countries between 2005 and 2014.
Forecasts for 2016 by geographical regions show that the growth of demand for the 60 countries combined is forecasted at about 3%. The outlook is for recession in South America and growth in all other regions, particularly in Asia.

Source: CSIL

CSIL report ‘Office Furniture: World Market Outlook 2016’ contains an overview of the world office industry. Part I reviews the world market, the major producing countries and the status and prospects of world trade of office furniture including a world trade matrix. CSIL forecasts of growth of demand in 2016-2017 by country and by regional groupings are also included. Part II includes the Office Furniture Indicators (divided into World Tables and Country Tables, covering the 60 most important countries for office furniture production, consumption and trade). The country tables include a ten-year series of data on production, exports, imports, consumption, import penetration and export ratio for office furniture. Economic indicators also include data on fixed broadband internet connections to give an idea of the status of modern office technology in each country. Part III includes the profiles of selected major office furniture manufacturers worldwide.

More information about CSIL report “Office Furniture: World Market Outlook 2016” at: csil@csilmilano.com

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