



SUPPORTING SOURCES AND STATISTICS (as of 11 February 2025)

Redress, the Hong Kong-based, Asia-focused environmental NGO accelerating the change to a circular fashion industry, is pleased to provide as a general aid the following selection of statistics and reports to support understanding of the issues and solutions underpinning Redress' work. For further information, please contact Shirley A. Wong, Communications Manager, at shirleyaun@redress.com.hk.

SELECT FASHION INDUSTRY IMPACTS

Economic: The fashion industry global market valued at €1.7 trillion in 2023, is expected to increase by 7.4% annually through 2030, further intensifying its environmental impact unless circular strategies are adopted.¹, or approximately 2 to 2.5% of global GDP².

Environmental impact at global level

- **Greenhouse Gas emissions:** The fashion industry contributed to an estimated 1.8% of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2021. Assuming business-as-usual growth for the apparel sector, emissions are projected to increase 42% by 2030, but to stay within a 1.5°C trajectory the sector would need to reduce by 45% by 2030.³ Textiles production is projected to use a quarter of the world's carbon budget by 2050.⁴
- **Water:** The volume of freshwater consumed by the fashion industry is nearly 79 billion cubic metres, enough to fill nearly 32 million Olympic-size swimming pools. This figure is predicted to increase by 50% by 2030.⁵
- **Waste:** Every second, the equivalent of one rubbish truck of textiles is landfilled or burned.⁶
- **Material usage:** The textile industry significantly contributes to the global material footprint, accounting for over 3% of the total.⁷
- **Biodiversity:** The textile industry significantly contributes to global biodiversity loss, accounting for over 3% of the total.⁸

Social: 1 in 8 people are believed to work in some part of the apparel industry.⁹

¹ McKinsey & Company & The Business of Fashion (BoF), The State of Fashion 2024

² Fashion For Good (2020), Financing the Transformation in Fashion

³ Apparel Impact Institute (2023), Taking Stock of Progress Against the Roadmap to Net Zero

⁴ Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017), A New Textiles Economy: Redesigning Fashion's Future

⁵ Global Fashion Agenda & The Boston Consulting Group (2017), The Pulse of the Fashion Industry

⁶ Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017), A New Textiles Economy: Redesigning Fashion's Future

⁷ Circle Economy, 2024, The circularity gap report, Textiles

The 'material footprint' refers to the resources extracted to support the production and consumption of textiles here.

⁸ Circle Economy, 2024, The circularity gap report, Textiles

⁹ Common Objective (2018), Faces and Figures: Who Makes Our Clothes?; Data from World Bank (2017) Total Labor Force and See Wiegö, Statistics on the Informal Economy; ILO, Informal Economy

THE PROBLEM: FASHION'S LINEAR SYSTEM GENERATES EXCESSIVE WASTE AND CONTRIBUTES TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS. THIS IS SET TO WORSEN

Consumption - and increasing

- The Asia-Pacific region houses some of the biggest apparel markets in the world, including China, India, and Japan.¹⁰
- Global apparel, footwear consumption may rise by 63% in 2030.¹¹

Production and overproduction

- The global fashion industry produces more than 100 to 150 billion items of clothing per year.¹²
- Asia accounts for some 60% of global exports of garments and textiles.¹³
- Between 2015–2022, the world's largest clothing exporters by value remain China, European Union, Bangladesh, Turkey, Vietnam, India.¹⁴
- An estimated 2.5 billion to 5 billion items of excess stock were produced by the fashion industry in 2023, worth between \$70 billion and \$140 billion in sales.¹⁵

Textile Waste - and increasing

- Global: Every second, the equivalent of one rubbish truck of textiles is landfilled or burned.¹⁶
- Global: An estimated 92 million tons of textile waste are created annually from the fashion industry.¹⁷
- Global: Majority of clothing is landfilled or burned at the end of their life.¹⁸
- Global: It is estimated that more than half of fast fashion produced is disposed of in under a year.¹⁹
- In Hong Kong, an average daily quantity of 402 tonnes of textiles were landfilled in 2023.²⁰ This is the equivalent of 17,480 suitcases of textiles landfilled every day.²¹
- Global: Textile waste is estimated to increase by about 60% between 2015 and 2030, with an additional 57 million tons of waste being generated annually, reaching an annual total of 148 million tons, which is equivalent to annual waste of 17.5kg per capita across the planet.²²

Asia: contributing to and suffering from the climate crisis

- Asia is hit hardest by climate change²³
- Asia produces 50% of the annual global GHG emissions²⁴

¹⁰ Revenue of the apparel market worldwide by country in 2023, Statista Market Insights

¹¹ Global Fashion Agenda & The Boston Consulting Group (2017), The Pulse of the Fashion Industry

¹² More than 100 billion according to McKinsey & the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2015. The World Economic Forum & ShareCloth state that 150 billion garments are produced in a year, 2016.

¹³ World Trade Organisation, World Trade Statistical Review 2023

¹⁴ World Trade Organisation, World Trade Statistical Review 2023

¹⁵ McKinsey & Company & Business of Fashion, 2024, The State of Fashion 2025

¹⁶ Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017), A New Textiles Economy: Redesigning Fashion's Future

¹⁷ Global Fashion Agenda and The Boston Consulting Group (2017), Pulse of the Fashion Industry

¹⁸ Global Fashion Agenda and The Boston Consulting Group (2017), Pulse of the Fashion Industry

¹⁹ McKinsey & Company, Style that's sustainable: A new fast fashion formula (2016)

²⁰ Environmental Protection Department, HKSAR. 2024. Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong: Waste Statistics for 2023.

²¹ Estimation by Redress, based on a 23kg suitcase.

²² Global Fashion Agenda and The Boston Consulting Group, Inc. (2017), Pulse of the Fashion Industry

²³ World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) 2024-Climate change and extreme weather impacts hit Asia hard

²⁴ Climate Watch, Historical GHG Emissions, 1990–2020

- By 2030, extreme weather events could jeopardise \$65 billion worth of apparel exports and eliminate nearly one million jobs in four economies (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Pakistan and Vietnam) that are among the most central to the global fashion industry.²⁵

THE SOLUTION: URGENT SHIFT TO CIRCULAR FASHION SYSTEM. BUT WE ARE FAR FROM ACHIEVING THIS

Circular economies are not well developed - textile recycling failing

- The global economy is now only 7.2% circular. Rising material extraction has shrunk global circularity: from 9.1% in 2018, to 8.6% 2020, and now 7.2% in 2023. This leaves a huge Circularity Gap: the globe almost exclusively relies on new (virgin) materials.²⁶
- The global textile industry is 0.3% circular: of the 3.25 billion tonnes of materials it consumes each year, over 99% come from virgin sources.²⁷
- When it comes to the fashion industry, less than 1% of material used to produce clothing is recycled into new clothing.²⁸
- Of the total fibre input used for clothing, 87% is landfilled or incinerated, representing a lost opportunity of more than US\$100 billion annually.²⁹
- More than US\$500 billion of value is being lost annually due to clothing under-utilisation and lack of recycling.³⁰

Benefits of the circular economy:

- **Environmental:** As an example, a comprehensive circular economy approach for the plastic sector has the potential to reduce [...] greenhouse gas emissions by 25%.³¹ Every 1% increase in market share, circular business models can reduce emissions by 13 million tons.³²
- **Economic:** Four business models (resale, rental, repair, and remaking) – all of which have the potential to decouple revenue streams from production and resource use – currently represent a \$73 billion market. Collectively, they have the potential to grow from 3.5% of the global fashion market today to 23% by 2030, representing a \$700 billion opportunity.³³
- **Social:** International Labour Organisation estimates that transitioning towards a circular economy across all sectors around the world could create a net total of between 7 and 8 million new jobs by 2030, compared to a business-as-usual scenario.³⁴

***Select* factors needed to transition towards a circular economy include the need to:**

- **Educate and empower designers**
 - Around 80% of a product's environmental impact is locked in at design stage.³⁵

²⁵ McKinsey & Company, The State of Fashion 2024

²⁶ Circle Economy (2023), Circularity Gap Report 2023

²⁷ Circle Economy (2024), Circularity Gap Report 2024, Textiles

²⁸ Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017), A New Textiles Economy: Redesigning Fashion's Future

²⁹ Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017), A New Textiles Economy: Redesigning Fashion's Future

³⁰ Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017), A new textiles economy: Redesigning fashion's future

³¹ Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2021), Unlocking the value of the circular economy

³² McKinsey and GFA (2020), Fashion on Climate

³³ Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2021), Circular Business Models - Redefining Growth for a Thriving Fashion Industry

³⁴ Skills for a greener future. Key findings International Labour Office – Geneva: ILO, 2019

³⁵ EU Science Hub (2018), Sustainable Product Policy

- **Involve more fashion stakeholders:**
 - 12.5% of the global fashion industry has committed to circularity. Since its launch at the Copenhagen Fashion Summit 2017, 94 companies, representing 12.5% of the global fashion market, have signed and committed to focus on four key areas of circular fashion: design, collection, reuse and recycling.³⁶
 - Only 18% of fashion executives rank sustainability as a top three risk to growth in 2025, compared to 29 % for 2024.³⁷
- **Increase investment:** Developments in the circular economy are too slow with lack of investment identified. In order to disrupt and scale new business models and innovations, a yield of \$20 billion to \$30 billion in financing per year is needed to capitalise on sustainability by 2030.³⁸

CONSUMERS EXPECT BETTER PRACTICES – MORE CONSUMER ACTION NEEDED

Consumers expect better

- 98% of consumers think brands have a responsibility to make positive change in the world.³⁹
- 71% of consumers are indicating a shift towards investments in higher quality garments and a deepened interest in circular business models such as resale, rental or refurbishment.⁴⁰

Consumers not willing to pay more for sustainability

- 71% of global consumers are concerned about sustainability in fashion, only 3% of them are willing to pay a premium for it.⁴¹

Greenwashing concerns remain amongst consumers

- 79% of global Gen Z consumers and 66% of Millennials said they had the perception that brands are never honest, or not honest enough about how sustainable their products are, nor willing to pay a premium for it.⁴²
- Following a screening of websites, the European Commission revealed that national consumer protection authorities had reason to believe that in 42% of cases of companies making 'green' claims, the claims were 'exaggerated, false or deceptive'.⁴³

IMPENDING GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION FOR CIRCULARITY

- France: 2020 New anti-waste law enacted, banning incineration of unsold clothing inventory, and requiring manufacturers, distributors, and stores to donate or recycle.⁴⁴

³⁶ Global Fashion Agenda 2018

³⁷ McKinsey & Company & Business of Fashion, 2024, The State of Fashion 2025

³⁸ Boston Consulting Group and Fashion for Good (2020), Financing the Transformation in the Fashion Industry

³⁹ Futerra (2019), The honest generation are here. Are you ready?

⁴⁰ Global Fashion Agenda (2020), CEO Agenda 2020: COVID-19 Edition

⁴¹ Sanghi et al. 2022

⁴² Futerra (2019), The honest generation are here. Are you ready?

⁴³ European Commission (2021), Screening of websites for 'greenwashing': half of green claims lack evidence

⁴⁴ Library of Congress (2020), France: New Anti-Waste Law Enacted



- China aims to recycle a quarter of all its textile waste and wants to produce 2 million metric tons of recycled fibre annually by 2025. By 2030, aims to be able to recycle 30 % of its textile waste and produce 3 million tons of recycled fibre annually.⁴⁵
- The European Union 'Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles' is in consultation with the goal that by 2030 textile products placed on the EU market are long-lived and recyclable, to a great extent made of recycled fibres, free of hazardous substances and produced in respect of social rights and the environment.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ 14th Five-Year Plan (2021–2025) for National Economic and Social Development and Vision 2035 of the People's Republic of China

⁴⁶ European Commission (2022), EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles