



Associazione costruttori
italiani macchine
ed accessori
per la lavorazione del legno

*Italian woodworking
machinery and tools
manufacturers' association*

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ACIMALL: GROWTH IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2015, BUT NOT ENOUGH...

Unfortunately, the first quarter 2015 did not confirm the “health status” of Italian woodworking technology, a topic that had characterized the trend survey at the end of 2014. The domestic market is still clearly weak, while export is showing positive signs, although there is no widespread benefit apart from big organizations and companies offers high-end solutions.

As reported in the survey by Acimall’s Studies Office for the first three months of 2015, “...*although figures are largely positive, industry operators expected a better start, especially on the domestic market*”.

Here are the figures: the January-March 2015 period closed with an overall order growth by 13.5 percent compared to the same period of last year. Export recorded a strong plus 19.1 percent, while Italy went down by 10.3 percent.

So, the lively trend of the domestic market in 2014 has stopped, most probably due to the end of positive effects triggered by the act called “Sabatini bis”. In general terms, export does not seem to be excessively impacted by dropping sales in Russia and other markets due to unstable political and economic conditions.

Survey data – traditionally collected from a statistic sample that represents the entire wood and wood-based materials technology industry – indicate an **order book** covering three months (versus 2.5 months in the previous quarter), while **prices** increased by 0.9 percent.

According to the **quality survey**, 27 percent of the interviewed companies indicate a positive production trend, 55 percent stable and 18 percent decreasing. **Employment** is stationary according to 68 percent of the sample, increasing for 14 percent, decreasing for 23 percent.

Available stocks are stable according to 59 percent of the interviewees, decreasing for 18 percent and increasing for 23 percent.

The **forecast survey** reveals some trends for the future: according to 45 percent of the sample, **orders from abroad** will record an increase, while 50 percent predict stability and 5 percent expect a decrease (positive balance plus 40). Less optimistic outlook for the **domestic market**: 18 percent expect further shrinkage, 59 percent substantial stability and 23 percent believe that business will expand. The balance is positive by 5 points, while in the previous quarter it was negative by 16: at least a touch of optimism...

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