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**WOOD AND FURNITURE TECHNOLOGY: AN EXTRAORDINARY SEMESTER**

The development of the pandemic has certainly impacted all the economic trends, including the machines, tools and equipment for woodworking and furniture production. This trend has some “peculiarities” that have been clearly identified in the analysis by the **Studies Office** of **Acimall**, the association of industry companies, about the **first half 2021**.

In the January-June 2021 period, the orders of wood-furniture machinery and tools increased by **100.3 percent** compared to the same semester of 2020. The demand from **international markets** – reaffirming the industry's traditional export vocation – recorded an 88.7 percent increase, while the **domestic market** was even livelier, with orders up by 190.8 percent. These results are quite significant, but we have to consider that they compare with the first half of 2020, i.e. the period when the Covid 19 pandemic had its strongest impact on the world's entire economic and production system. Nevertheless, this growth trend is significant, not just a simple "rebound" but a significant structural expansion.

On a **semester-on-semester** basis, the first half 2021 showed a positive trend compared to the previous six months, from **July to December 2020**, with orders growing by 42.2 percent (plus 31.9 percent for international demand, plus 49.2 percent in Italy).

*“These figures are encouraging and help us forget the troubles we have been going through in our industrial and economic life”,* said **Luigi De Vito**, president of Acimall. *“If we add that the January-June 2021 period recorded a 40.2 percent growth* ***compared to the first half 2019****, we cannot really this this is just a "rebound", but an organic and structural trend, witnessing to the global competitiveness of our industry and our role of reference partner for the Italian manufacturing industry, an established model of style and quality”. “Unfortunately, there are still a few doubts about the near future, mostly due to the scarcity of raw materials, components and aggregates. This situation is negatively affecting the lead time of material supplies, a problem that must be solved as soon as possible to stop the rising trend of prices”*, De Vito concluded.

The furniture wood machinery industry and the furniture industry has overcome this very difficult season thanks to **solid engineering, industrial, financial and business foundations** to support the rally of recent months. This result has also been supported by the incentives of the new Italian plan 4.0 Transition, and similar measures introduced in many countries. The Italian industry keeps offering very advanced technology, as a result of its capacity to innovate and make business, which has always distinguished the players of "made in Italy".

*For more information:*

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