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Woodworking Machinery

VDMA Woodworking Machinery: Production reaches new peak in 2018

Hannover, February 5th, 2019 – In 2018, the German manufacturers of woodworking machinery broke a production record of 3.4 billion euros with an increase of 8 percent according to preliminary figures.

Germany thus remains by far the largest manufacturer of woodworking machinery. In the five years from 2014 to 2018, German production increased from 2.4 billion euros to 3.4 billion euros. This growth has pushed many companies to their capacity limits; delivery times have in some cases increased to more than a year. “Despite the emerging economic slowdown in several international markets, we expect to maintain this high level in 2019” said Pekka Paasivaara, Chairman of VDMA Woodworking Machinery, during the LIGNA Preview in Hannover, Germany.

Exports rise by 4 percent

In the first three quarters of 2018, the value of exports of German woodworking machinery increased by 4 percent year-on-year to 1.7 billion euros. With a share of 58 percent, the European market accounts for the majority of the machines (980 million euros, plus 5 percent). The two most important overseas export regions were Asia (348 million euros, minus 7 percent) and North America (273 million euros, plus 20 percent).

USA once again the largest export market for woodworking machinery made in Germany

On a country-by-country basis, USA comes first in the export ranking (252 million euros, plus 20 percent) and the PR China second (241 million euros, plus 7 percent). Three countries of the European Union follow: Poland (115 million euros, plus 25 percent), France (77 million euros, minus 30 percent) and Austria (70 million euros, plus 2 percent).

Digital platforms for the wood industry

LIGNA 2019, the world's leading trade fair for machinery, plant and tools for the woodworking and furniture industry, will again be strongly influenced by the topic of digitization. A core issue: prominent manufacturers of woodworking machines and their customers worldwide are relying on the use of digital platforms to achieve simplified operation and better networking of machines and tools.

VDMA and the European association EUMABOIS are currently developing a standard on the basis of OPC UA (Open Platform Communications Unified Architecture). This pre-competitive standardization can also lead to a considerable increase in efficiency in digital machine communication on an international scale and will give new momentum to modern wood processing, in which many segments are technologically mature to a large extent. Even smaller units will be connected with little effort and thus become intelligent, highly flexible mini-factories.

The VDMA represents more than 3200 companies in the medium-sized mechanical and plant engineering sector. With 1.35 million employees in Germany and a turnover of 226 billion euros (2017), the sector is the largest industrial employer and one of Germany's leading industrial sectors overall