

Fast Fashion

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Abstract

The textile industry's revenue per year is about 3000 trillion dollars. This makes it a very profitable industry that is not known for its humanitarian aspects. Most of the clothes bought in first world countries are generally done so through slave labour. Most products are not fair trade. Fair trade is a term which means fair prices are paid to producers in developing countries. What is even more upsetting is that 85% of those textiles/clothes bought, are found in landfills the following year. The term known as "Fast Fashion" is used by clothing collections that use the most recent fashion trends. It also means clothes are bought, used and thrown away regularly. I have developed several visualizations that depict how this industry is more harmful by using JavaScript and D3.js.

1. Introduction

When shopping for materials we need, for example, jeans, we often do not want to overspend. We typically try and find a good deal or a sale of some sort. We often overlook the fact that that mentality contributes to the overwhelming number of slave labourers. Trying to find Fair trade merchandise can be difficult. Also terms like Free Trade, which is international trade left to its natural course without tariffs, quotas, or other restrictions, can be confusing and trick you into thinking you are buying free trade merchandise. Even though it is difficult we should still try and do our best. I attempted to make several visualizations that may warn about the severity of how the textile industry functions.

2. Related Works

This project was inspired by several other visualizations, datasets, articles and the need for a more humanitarian approach in the world we currently live in.

3. Articles

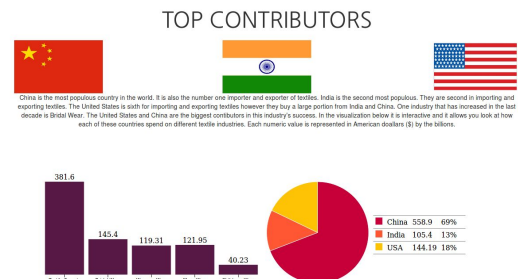
One of the articles I read was Sweatshops and Third World Living Standards by Benjamin Powell, David B. Skarbek in which they discussed how much apparel workers wages earn in developing countries and how it is not enough to cover their living costs [8]. The article, Textile exports by Times of India discussed how the textile industry functioned. Sheth K discussed in his article about the Top Cotton Producing Countries In The World. It discussed the consumption of cotton based products. This was compared with how much how much cotton is exported which Sheth K also wrote[1].

3. Web Page

The purpose of the web page is to provide you with facts, data and data analysis about the textile industry. It is visualized in way that you can understand the severity of the industry and the necessity of Fair Trade.

4. Visualizations

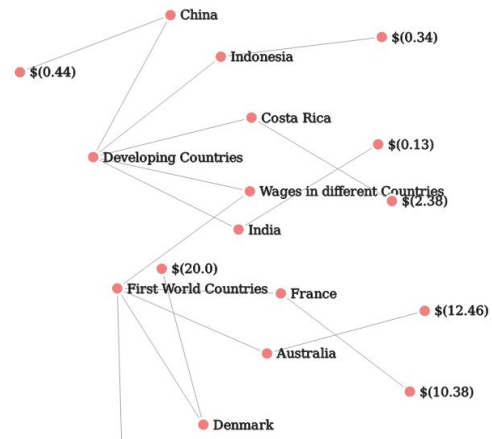
4.1 Top Contributors



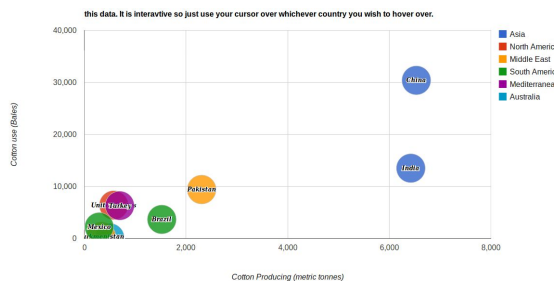
In the first visualization China is the most populous country in the world. It is also the number one importer and exporter of textiles. India is the second most populous. They are second in importing and

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exporting textiles. The United States is sixth for importing and exporting textiles however they buy a large portion from India and China. One industry that has increased in the last decade is Bridal Wear. The United States and China are the biggest contributors in this industry's success. In this visualization it is interactive and it allows you look at how each of these countries spend on different textile industries. Each numeric value is represented in American dollars (\$) by the billions. It allows you to visualize how much money is spent.



4.2 Cotton



This graph represents the correlation between how much cotton is produced and how much is used. The cotton produced is represented by thousand metric tonnes and the use of cotton is represented by bales. A bale of cotton is about 500 pounds. The top ten countries that produce and use cotton have been selected to represent this data. It is interactive and you can use your cursor over whichever country you wish to hover over.

4.2 Wages

The numbers that you see here represent what minimum wage is per hour for apparel workers for the countries selected. They are all represented in American dollars. You will see the disparity between the developing countries and the first world countries. It is interactive and it let's you zoom in and out as well as dragging it around with the cursor.

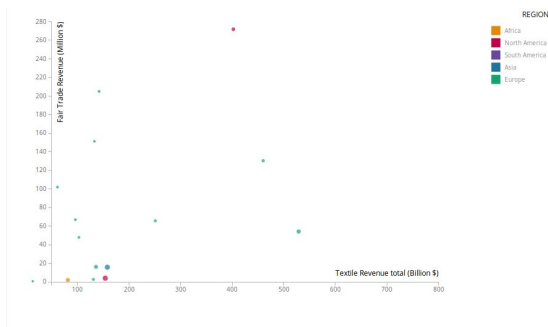
4.2 Waste



Click to see what percentage of clothes end up in landfills each year. The textile market is a 3000 trillion dollar industry. With this percentage of waste that adds up to 13,000,000 tons of clothes wasted a year.

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4.3 Fair Trade



You will see where countries stand with how much they spend on the textile industry versus how much they spend on the Fair Trade textile industry. The textile industry is represented in billion American dollars and the Fair Trade textile industry is represented in million American dollars. You can hover over the circles to see what country you are looking at.

5. Data Analysis

The analysis for some of these datasets are slightly low however some of the data found of this particular subject is scarce. It is not data that textile companies want to promote nor the fact they are using slave labour.

5. Conclusion

The use of developing countries that first world countries take advantage of can only be fixed overtime. It can only be fixed if part of that system breaks on either end and it will have to come from the people who have the means to do so. Also being more aware of what we use and spend is a huge factor that can be tampered with. Also visualizing this data can help someone understand the issue addressed.

Acknowledgements

Dr. Szafir powerpoint slides and teaching.

References

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