

Union Minister for Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh visits Bhubaneswar

Discusses topics related to silk, handlooms, handicrafts and cotton cultivation with officials from the Central and Odisha Government



Hon'ble Union Minister for Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, visited Bhubaneswar. During the visit, he toured M/s Shahi Exports at Mancheswar Industrial Estate to review ready-made garment manufacturing activities. Additionally, he chaired a meeting at the State Guest House, Bhubaneswar, with officials from the Central and Odisha Government, discussing topics related to silk, handlooms, handicrafts and cotton cultivation. The Hon'ble Minister emphasised on enhancing production capacity, economic growth and market expansion. ■

Furniture gets off to a strong start in 2025 in DOC's latest report

The furniture and home furnishings category outpaced its year-ago performance in January according to the US Department of Commerce's (DOC) advance monthly estimates.

For the month, the DOC's snapshot says the category recorded \$11.57 billion in adjusted advance estimated sales, which beat January 2024's \$11.159 billion by 3.7%. It slipped a bit month-over-

month, as it was off December 2024's \$11.776 billion pace by 1.7%. The year-over-year gain represents a fifth consecutive month of category growth according to the DOC.

The full retail spectrum totaled \$723.853 billion in January, up 4.2% compared with January 2024's \$694.696 billion but 0.9% down vs. December 2024's \$730.30 billion. A key companion to the furniture

industry, building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers reported a modest 0.7% increase year-over-year. Elsewhere, all other categories reported year-over-year gains except for sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument and book stores, which had a 4.1% decline versus January 2024.

The DOC's advance estimates are based on a sub-sample of the U.S. Census Bureau's full retail and food services sample. A stratified random sampling method is used to select approximately 5,500 retail and food services firms whose sales are then weighted and benchmarked to represent the complete universe of more than 3 million retail and food services firms. ■ *Source: Furniture Today*

