**BATHROOM FURNITURE - EUROPEAN MARKETS BACK TO GROWTH. CHINA SPRINTS**

**Development of exports and building renovations are the two elements that have mainly sustained the work of Italian companies in the sector**

The **trend in the bathroom furniture market in the early months of** 2014 was substantially in line with the pattern seen in 2013. **Two** **factors** in particular **have sustained companies** in a complex economic scenario marked by continuing distress in the internal market - the development of overseas markets and the always positive trend in building renovations in Italy. According to the most recent data released by the *Centro Studi Federlegno Arredo Eventi*, in the first quarter 2014, **exports in bathroom furniture** showed an **increase of 1.3%** in comparison with the same period of the previous year, giving an overall turnover of Euro 213.10 million. **Mauro Guzzini, chairman of Assobagno**, underlined, *“Italian bathroom furniture companies are strongly pushing to increase internationally. In the early months of the year, we recorded encouraging signs from the EU markets in particular, like Germany, Spain, Belgium, Poland and The Netherlands. Although not yet a relevant marketplace in absolute terms, China is showing, month by month, that it is a particularly receptive market for the quality of our products, with growth of more than 20% in the first quarter in particular.”*

**In the internal market**, good news has come mainly from the **building renovation** front, the only construction sector in Italy to have shown a positive trend in recent years (+20% in 2008-2014). **Growth in extraordinary maintenance of 3%** is expected

for the current year, data which confirms the positive impact of the tax measures adopted in recent years and especially the **Bonus of 65% for energy streamlining** and the **Furniture Bonus of 50%**.

**Italian exports by country of destination January-March 2014**

% variation compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. 2014 data provisional, 2013 data revised.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **COUNTRY** | **Euros (millions)** | **Var. %** | **Tonnes** | **Var. %** |
| 1 | France | 35.59 | -7.4% | 6,818 | -9.9% |
| 2 | Germany | 31.77 | 14.0% | 7,545 | 11.1% |
| 3 | United Kingdom | 16.45 | 0.5% | 3,812 | -7.1% |
| 4 | Switzerland | 10.94 | 3.0% | 1,681 | -4.9% |
| 5 | Russia | 9.70 | 2.0% | 1,027 | -1.4% |
| 6 | United States | 9.13 | 2.5% | 2,574 | 6.5% |
| 7 | Spain | 8.43 | 7.7% | 1,920 | 1.2% |
| 8 | Belgium | 5.76 | 8.1% | 974 | 4.3% |
| 9 | Poland | 5.58 | 17.0% | 2,645 | 31.7% |
| 10 | Austria | 4.14 | -17.0% | 873 | -35.7% |
| 13 | China | 3.45 | 20.7% | 1,101 | 30.7% |
|  | **TOTAL Bathroom furniture** | **213.10** | **1.3%** | **46,461** | **-0.4%** |

*Source: Centro Studi Federlegno Arredo Eventi calculations based on ISTAT data*

*Bologna, 22 September 2014*