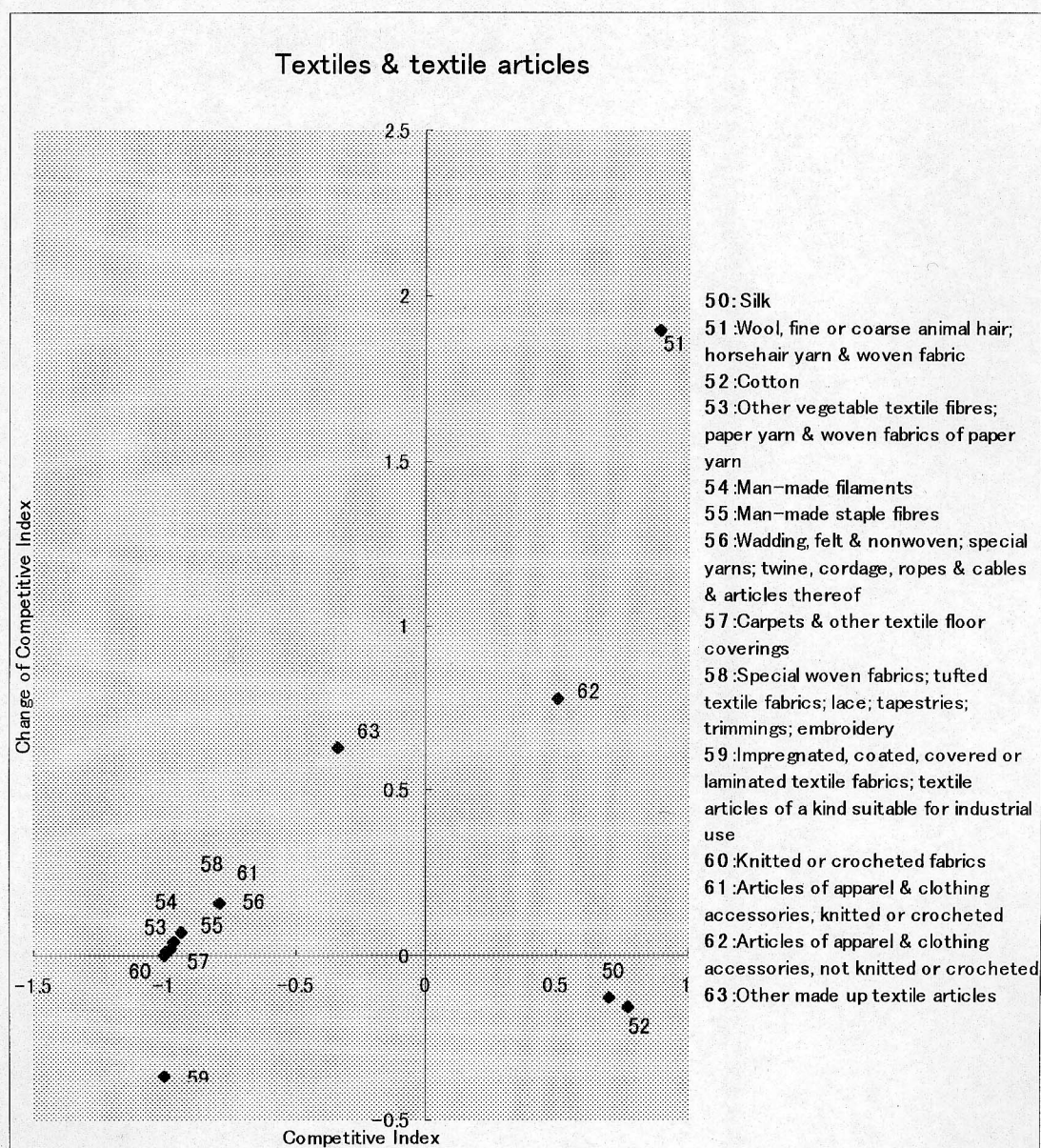


Figure 26 Textile, Textile Products



Most silk used to be exported in cocoon form. In 1997, however, cocoon exports stopped and silk thread exports emerged. The export amount has been increasing smoothly ever since. The export of cotton products hit its peak in 1995. The amount has declined since then due to shortage of raw materials. Not only cotton, but also cotton yarn and woven fabrics of cotton have decreased in export amount. It is clear that the recovery of raw material production is an important task. In the case of knit fabrics, imports are still higher than exports. However, export competitiveness is rising gradually. Besides knit fabric, the export of clothing for men (suits, shirts and so on) is rising rapidly. This is a promising industry for a Maquiladora. In addition, bed linen, table linen and packaging bag exports have increased since 1997.