

INDIAN FOOTWEAR & LEATHER INDUSTRY – OVERVIEW, EXPORT PERFORMANCE & PROSPECTS

- The Indian Leather, Leather Products and Footwear Industry holds a prominent place in the Indian economy. This sector is known for its consistency in high export earnings and it is among the top ten foreign exchange earners for the Country.
- The export of footwear, leather and leather products from India was to the tune of US \$ 5.60 billion during 2024-25.
- The industry is bestowed with an affluence of raw materials as India is endowed with 20% of world cattle & buffalo and 11% of world goat & sheep population. Added to this are the strengths of skilled manpower, innovative technology, increasing industry compliance to international environmental standards, and the dedicated support of the allied industries.
- The leather industry is an employment intensive sector, providing job to about 4.42 million people, mostly from the weaker sections of the society. Women employment is predominant in leather products sector with about 40% share.
- India is the second largest exporter of Leather Garments and Saddlery & Harness and 5th largest exporter of Leather Goods in the world.
- The major production centers for footwear, leather and leather products in India are located in the States of **Tamil Nadu** - Chennai, Ambur, Ranipet, Vaniyambadi, Vellore, Pernambut, Trichy, Dindigul and Erode; **West Bengal** – Kolkata; **Uttar Pradesh** – Kanpur, Agra, Noida, Saharanpur; **Maharashtra** – Mumbai; **Punjab** – Jalandhar; **Karnataka** – Bengaluru; **Telengana** Hyderabad; **Haryana** - Ambala, Gurgaon, Panchkula, Karnal and Faridabad; **Delhi**; **Madhya Pradesh** – Dewas; **Kerala** – Kozhikode and Ernakulam / Cochin; **Rajasthan**; Jaipur; **Jammu & Kashmir**; Srinagar.

Strengths of Indian leather sector

- Own raw material source – About 3 billion sq ft of leather produced annually
- Some varieties of goat / calf / sheep skins command premium position
- Strong and eco-sustainable tanning base

- Modernized manufacturing units
- Trained / skilled manpower at competitive wage levels
- World-class institutional support for Design & Product Development, HRD and R & D.
- Presence of support industries like leather chemicals and finishing auxiliaries
- Presence in major markets – Long Europe experience
- Strategic location in the Asian landmass

Emerging strengths

- Design development initiatives by institutions and individuals
- Continuous modernization and technology up-gradation
- Economic size of manufacturing units
- Constant human resource development programme to enhance productivity
- Increasing use of quality components
- Shorter prototype development time
- Delivery compliance
- Growing domestic market for footwear and leather articles

Highlights of Product Segments of Indian Leather and Footwear Industry

Tanning Sector

- Annual availability of leathers in India is about 3 billion sq.ft.
- India accounts for 13% of world leather production of leathers.
- Indian leather trends/colors are continuously being selected at the MODEUROPE Congress.

Footwear Sector

- India is Second largest footwear producer after China, with Annual Production of 3 billion pairs (2024).
- India is also the second largest consumer of footwear after China, with a consumption of 2.86 billion pairs (2024)
- Footwear (leather and non-leather) export accounts for about 40.5% share in Indian leather and footwear industry's export (2024-25).

Leather Garments Sector

- India is the second largest global exporter of Leather Garments.
- Accounts for 6.34% share of India's total export from leather sector (2024-25).

Leather Goods & Accessories Sector including Saddlery & Harness

- India is the fifth largest global exporter of Leather Goods & Accessories and second largest exporter of Saddlery and Harness items.
- Accounts for 23.66% share of India's total export from leather sector (2024-25).

INDIA'S EXPORT OF LEATHER & LEATHER PRODUCTS 2024-25 vis-a-vis 2023-24

MILLION USD

PRODUCTS	2023-24	2024-25	% share (2024-25)
FINISHED LEATHER	445.41	445.32	7.99%
LEATHER FOOTWEAR	2002.38	2007.76	36.00%
FOOTWEAR COMPONENTS	258.92	244.17	4.38%
LEATHER GARMENTS	339.47	353.82	6.34%
LEATHER GOODS	1232.84	1319.6	23.66%
SADDLERY AND HARNESS	182.17	205.39	3.68%
NON-LEATHER FOOTWEAR	226.56	252.91	4.53%
NON LEATHER GOODS	688.26	740.71	13.28%
FUR & FUR PRODUCTS	11.86	7.23	0.13%
TOTAL	5387.87	5576.91	100.00%

Source : DGCI&S

Future Outlook

Considering the immense potential for increasing exports and also the increasing consumer base in the country, the footwear and leather industry aims to reach an overall turnover of USD 50 billion by 2030 (which includes domestic industry turnover of USD 36 billion and export turnover of USD 14 billion), from the present turnover of USD 24.60 billion (which includes domestic industry turnover of USD 19 billion and export turnover of USD 5.60 billion).
