

PLGMEA

PAKISTAN  
**LEATHER GARMENTS**  
MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS  
ASSOCIATION

**TO GETHER  
FOR  
LEATHER**

January 2026

**Contact Us for Advertisement Packages**

PLGMEA Secretariat

Email: [plgmeaskt@gmail.com](mailto:plgmeaskt@gmail.com)

Phone: 0092-52-3254401, 3254403

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Mr. Zohaib Gul, Vice Chairman (Northern Zone)

Welcome to the January 2026 edition of the PLGMEA Newsletter. This month, we bring together the most important updates from both the domestic leather garment sector and global markets. As regulatory environments evolve, technological innovation accelerates, and sustainability becomes more than a buzzword, PLGMEA continues to actively support its members by facilitating compliance, knowledge-sharing, and international trade. In this issue, we cover key developments such as the EU's Digital Product Passport regulation, AI in leather manufacturing, government reforms, and much more.

## Chairman's Message

Dear Members,

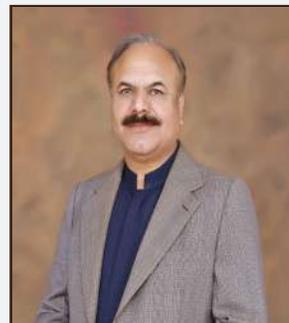
The leather garments industry is at a turning point. Global buyers are demanding greater transparency, sustainability, and traceability. At PLGMEA, we recognize these shifts and are committed to helping our industry adapt. We are launching initiatives to support compliance with upcoming international regulations, encourage technology adoption, and improve our competitiveness in global markets. Together, we will build a more resilient, modern, and sustainable leather products export ecosystem.



Syed Nadeem Abbas  
Chairman (Central)



Mr. Abrar Hussain  
Chairman (Northern Zone)



Mr. Farooq Ahmed  
Chairman (Southern Zone)

# Leather Manufacturing in the Digital Age: The Role of Technology in the Industry

Leather goods manufacturing has been an essential industry for centuries, supplying materials for fashion such as leather handbags, leather purses, leather tote, leather messenger bag, leather laptop bags, leather sling bag, leather crossbody, soft leather purses, Italian handbags and automotive, furniture, and various other sectors. However, like many traditional industries, leather production is undergoing a digital transformation. In the USA, Australia, and Mexico, technological advancements are reshaping the leather industry, improving efficiency, sustainability, and product quality.



## The Impact of Technology on Leather Manufacturing

### 1. Automation and Robotics

Automation has streamlined many stages of leather manufacturing, from tanning to finishing. Robotic arms and automated machinery have replaced manual labor in many factories, leading to increased precision, reduced production costs, and improved worker safety.

### 2. Digital Design and 3D Modeling

Technology has introduced digital design and 3D modeling tools, allowing manufacturers to create virtual prototypes before production. This minimizes waste, optimizes material usage, and accelerates product development.

### **3. Sustainable Leather Production**

Sustainability is a growing concern in the leather industry. Innovations such as waterless tanning, bio-based tanning agents, and eco-friendly chemicals are reducing the environmental impact of leather processing. Additionally, waste management technology helps recycle leather scraps into new materials.

### **4. Smart Manufacturing and IoT Integration**

The Internet of Things (IoT) is transforming the leather industry by enabling real-time monitoring of production processes. Sensors track temperature, humidity, and chemical levels, ensuring optimal leather quality and reducing defects.

### **5. AI and Machine Learning in Quality Control**

AI-driven quality control systems use machine learning algorithms to detect imperfections in leather. Automated scanning systems identify inconsistencies, allowing manufacturers to maintain high standards and reduce waste.

### **6. Blockchain for Transparency and Traceability**

Consumers and brands are increasingly concerned about ethical sourcing. Blockchain technology helps track leather from farm to finished product, ensuring transparency in sourcing, production, and ethical labor practices.

## **Leather Manufacturing in the USA, Australia, and Mexico**

### **USA**

AI-driven quality control systems use machine learning algorithms to detect imperfections in leather. Automated scanning systems identify inconsistencies, allowing manufacturers to maintain high standards and reduce waste.

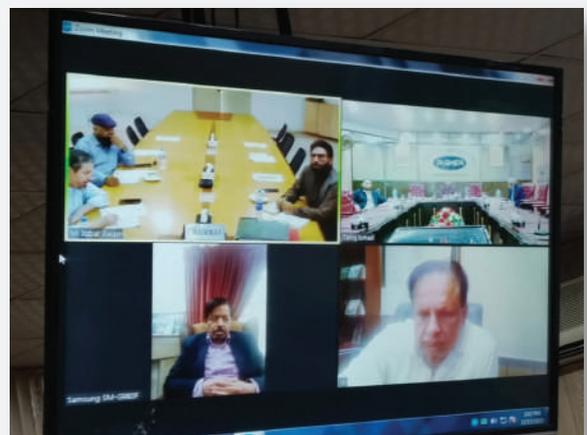
### **Australia**

Australia's leather sector is focused on sustainability, leveraging technology to improve waste management and reduce water consumption. The use of biodegradable tanning chemicals and advanced recycling techniques is helping the industry become more environmentally friendly.

### **Mexico**

Mexico is a major player in leather production, particularly in the footwear sector. The country is investing in automation and digital tracking systems to enhance productivity and global competitiveness. Additionally, efforts to modernize tanneries with sustaina-

The 2nd meeting of 22nd Central Executive Committee of Pakistan Leather Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association Held on December 13, 2025 at PLGMEA Central Office, Karachi and PLGMEA Northern Zone Office Conference Hall, Sialkot through Zoom.



# Meeting with Collector IOCO Dr. Sadia Sadaf and his team held on January 7, 2026.



## Central & Southern Zone

📍 ST#20, Central Avenue, Sector  
7/A Korangi Industrial Area, Karachi  
☎ 0092-21-35116821, 36022403  
☎ 0092-21-35116822  
✉ [plgmea.iq57@yahoo.com](mailto:plgmea.iq57@yahoo.com)

## Northern Zone

📍 BASF Building, Main Defence  
Road Sialkot, Pakistan  
☎ 0092-52-3254401, 3254403  
✉ [plgmeaskt@gmail.com](mailto:plgmeaskt@gmail.com)

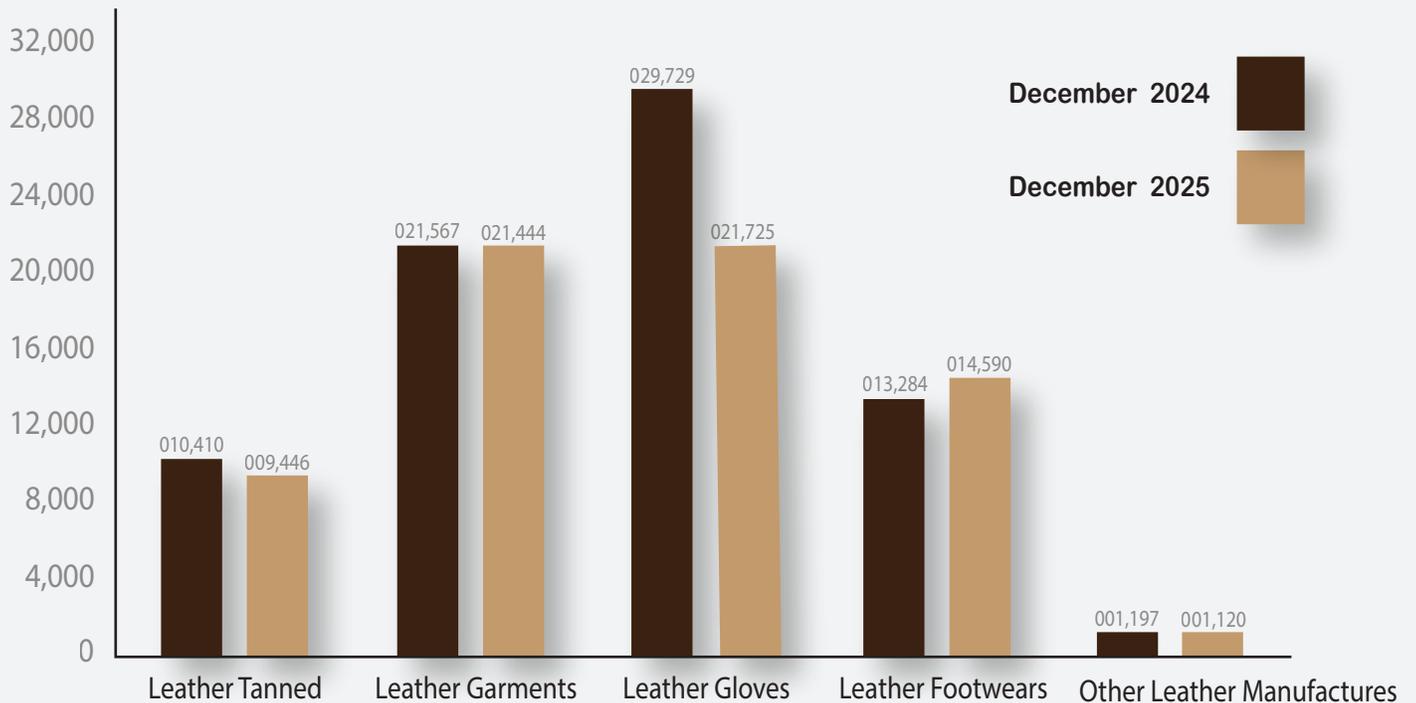
🌐 [www.plgmea.pk](http://www.plgmea.pk)  
📘 [www.facebook.com/PLGMEA](https://www.facebook.com/PLGMEA)  
📷 [www.instagram.com/plgmea](https://www.instagram.com/plgmea)

# Leather Sector Exports

During the Month of Dec. 2024 & Dec. 2025

Value = (US Dollars in Thousands)

	Dec. 2024	Dec. 2025	% Change
Leather Tanned	010,410	009,446	- 10.20 %
Leather Garments	021,567	021,444	- 00.57 %
Leather Gloves	029,729	021,725	- 36.84 %
Leather Footwear	013,284	014,590	- 08.95 %
Leather Manufactures	001,197	001,120	- 06.87 %
Total Leather Products	076,187	068,325	- 11.50 %



## Pakistan Leather Garments Export Overview

In FY 2024, Pakistan's leather garments exports reached approximately USD249 million, forming a significant part of the country's overall leather export portfolio. This represented an 11% decline compared to the previous year, mainly due to rising production costs, strong regional competition, and fluctuations in global demand. Despite this, Pakistan remained recognized for its high-quality leather apparel, including jackets, vests, coats, and motorcycle gear.

During 2025, the leather garments sector continued to actively supply international markets, particularly the USA, European Union, and UK, where Pakistani leather is valued for craftsmanship and competitive pricing. Data from the first half of 2025 shows exports of leather vests alone worth around USD2.03 million, with over 161,000 units shipped to nearly 29 countries, reflecting consistent global interest in premium and customized leather apparel products.



While leather garments exports are modest compared to textiles, they remain an important value-added segment. The 2025 trends show some months with slower growth due to global inflation and production cost pressures, but overall, the sector demonstrates steady demand in niche markets. Pakistani exporters continue to leverage quality, design, and specialized product offerings to maintain relevance and growth opportunities in the international leather garments markets.

## Pakistan Textile Exports – FY 2024 vs FY 2025

Pakistan's textile industry continued to play a central role in the country's export economy through 2025, remaining the largest export earning sector. In FY2023-24, textile and apparel exports stood at approximately USD16.66billion, driven by strong demand for knitwear, readymade garments, and bedwear.

In FY2024-25, the sector posted a 7.39% year on year increase, with total textile exports reaching around USD17.88billion, reflecting recovery across key value added categories despite global economic headwinds.

Value added segments remained the backbone of this growth in 2025. Knitwear exports surged, readymade garments saw solid increases, and bedwear continued to contribute significantly to total export value.

Monthly performance also showed resilience: for example, textile exports in June 2025 reached about USD1.53billion, up from the previous year, and July 2025 saw a strong 32% year on year jump to roughly USD1.68billion.

While Pakistan's textile export figures in 2025 still fell short of the record USD19.3-billion achieved in FY2021-22, the sector's steady performance through FY2024-25 highlights its continued importance to the national economy.

Growth was led by value added textile products, even as some intermediate goods like cotton yarn faced uneven demand.



## Top Countries (Destinations) for Pakistan's Leather Garments

Based on recent export figures (HS Code 420310 – Articles of apparel of leather or composition leather), the main countries Pakistan exports leather garments to are:

**Germany:** largest market by value and volume for leather apparel.

**United States:** strong demand, especially for jackets and finished garments.

**Russia:** significant importer for leather garments from Pakistan.

**Netherlands:** important European buyer.

**Spain:** notable export destination as well.

**France, United Kingdom, Poland, Italy and Canada** also key markets.

## Most Exported Leather Products from Pakistan

Pakistan's leather export sector includes several key categories. For leather garments and related products, the major exports are:

### 1. Leather Garments:

Includes leather jackets, coats, and leather apparel.

### 2. Leather Gloves:

Often exported in great volume to Europe and North America.

Gloves are one of the highest valued leather export segments

### 3. Leather Footwear:

Shoes and sandals exported to European markets.

### 4. Accessories & Others:

Includes belts, bags, wallets, and other leather accessories. These are smaller but growing export lines.

## Advertise in the PLGMEA Newsletter!

Reach key stakeholders across Pakistan's leather garments industry through the PLGMEA Monthly Newsletter. Promote your products, services, announcements, or opportunities directly to manufacturers, exporters, suppliers, and industry professionals.

### Available Paid Advertisements:

- Material Sourcing & Supply
- Machinery & Equipment
- Job Placements & HR Announcements
- Material Requirements / Demand Notices
- Business Services & Collaborations
- Product Launches & Brand Promotions

Contact Us for Advertisement Packages

PLGMEA Secretariat

Email: [plgmeaskt@gmail.com](mailto:plgmeaskt@gmail.com)

Phone: 092-52-3254401, 3254403

# Upcoming Trade Shows related to Leather & Textile

## **TEXTILLEGPROM 2026**

Date: March 03 - 05, 2026

Country: Moscow (Russia)

Sector: Leather & Fur, Fashion - Clothing, Fabrics - Clothing Textiles

---

## **FUTURMODA 2026**

Date: March 04 - 05, 2026

Country: New York, NY (USA)

Sector: Fashion - Clothing, Leather & Fur

---

## **CHIC 2026**

Date: March 11 - 13, 2026

Country: Shanghai (China)

Sector: Fashion - Clothing, Leather & Fur

---

## **APLF ASEAN 2026**

Date: March 12 - 14, 2026

Country: Hong Kong (Hong Kong)

Sector: Fashion - Clothing, Leather & Fur

---

## **APLF LEATHER + MATERIALS 2026**

Date: March 12 - 14, 2026

Country: Hong Kong (Hong Kong)

Sector: Fashion - Clothing, Leather & Fur

---

## **FASHION ACCESS 2026**

Date: March 12 - 14, 2026

Country: Hong Kong (Hong Kong)

Sector: Fashion - Clothing, Leather & Fur

---

## **HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL FUR & FASHION FAIR 2026**

Date: March 12 - 14, 2026

Country: Hong Kong (Hong Kong)

Sector: Leather & Fur, Fashion - Clothing

---

## **IGATEX PAKISTAN 2026**

Date: April 08 - 11, 2026

Country: Lahore (Pakistan)

Sector: Leather & Fur, Fashion - Clothing

---

## Closing Thoughts:

PLGMEA remains dedicated to guiding its members through this new era of regulation, sustainability, and technology. By embracing digital tools, aligning with global compliance, and leveraging government support, our industry can not only survive but thrive. We encourage all members to stay engaged, participate in our initiatives, and capitalize on the emerging global leather opportunity.

Let's keep building a future where Pakistan's leather garments are known not just for quality, but also for innovation, transparency, and responsibility.