



**TO GETHER  
FOR  
LEATHER**

**March 2026**

**PLGMEA**

**PAKISTAN  
LEATHER GARMENTS  
MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS  
ASSOCIATION**

**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,

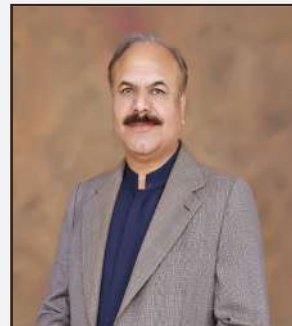
The leather garments industry is at a turning point. Global buyers are demanding greater transparency, sustainability, and traceability. At PLGMEA, we recognize these shifts and are committed to helping our industry adapt. We are launching initiatives to support compliance with upcoming international 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)

## **Redefining Leather Manufacturing in 2026:**

### **Digital Transformation, Sustainable Innovation & Export Growth**

The global leather industry is undergoing a significant transformation driven by rapid technological advancements, sustainability imperatives, and evolving consumer preferences. Digitalization is enabling manufacturers to enhance operational efficiency, minimize waste, and comply with increasingly stringent international standards. Pakistan's leather sector, supported by Pakistan Leather Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association, is strategically positioned to capitalize on these developments and strengthen its global competitiveness.

### **Digital Transformation in Leather Manufacturing**

The integration of advanced technologies is reshaping traditional leather production processes. Artificial intelligence is now being utilized to improve quality inspection and detect defects with greater accuracy, while automated cutting systems are significantly reducing material wastage. In addition, smart production planning tools are enhancing overall operational efficiency. These advancements are enabling manufacturers to achieve higher precision, consistency, and cost-effectiveness in their operations.



### **Advanced Product Development & 3D Innovation**

The adoption of digital design technologies, such as CLO 3D, is transforming the product development landscape.

Manufacturers are increasingly relying on virtual prototyping to reduce the need for physical samples, thereby saving both time and cost. These tools also facilitate faster communication with international buyers and offer greater flexibility in customization, allowing businesses to respond more effectively to market demands.

## **Emergence of Bio-Based & Next-Generation Materials**

Innovation in material science is introducing new alternatives within the leather industry. Bio-based and lab-grown leather materials are being developed to reduce environmental impact and address sustainability concerns. Additionally, plant-based materials such as mushroom and cactus leather are gaining traction as viable alternatives. Although these technologies are still evolving, they represent a significant step toward more sustainable and responsible manufacturing practices.

## **Sustainability & Global Compliance Requirements**

Sustainability has become a critical requirement for accessing international markets. Global buyers are increasingly demanding environmentally friendly tanning processes, full supply chain transparency, and compliance with international environmental and safety regulations. Manufacturers who align their operations with these requirements are more likely to secure long-term business relationships and expand their export footprint.

## **Digital Supply Chain & Smart Operations**

The implementation of digital supply chain systems is enhancing efficiency and reliability across the leather industry. Real-time inventory tracking, improved production planning, and better coordination with suppliers are enabling manufacturers to meet delivery timelines more effectively. These improvements not only streamline operations but also strengthen trust and credibility with international partners.

## **Global Market Trends & Export Opportunities (2026)**

The global market for leather products continues to evolve, with increasing demand for high-quality leather garments in key international markets. At the same time, there is a growing preference for sustainable and alternative materials. The expansion of global B2B e-commerce platforms such as Alibaba and Amazon is further facilitating international trade and providing new avenues for exporters to reach global buyers.

## **Strategic Recommendations for Industry Stakeholders**

To remain competitive in the evolving global landscape, industry stakeholders are encouraged to invest in advanced machinery and automation technologies, adopt digital marketing and e-commerce strategies, and focus on innovation-driven product development. Ensuring compliance with international standards and certifications is essential, along with building strong branding and maintaining long-term relationships with global clients.

Vice Chairman PLGMEA (Northern Zone), Mr. Zohaib Gul, accompanied by members, attended the SBP Sialkot seminar on “Understanding Digital Payment Frameworks” on 10 February 2026 at the SBP Building, Sialkot.



The 4th Meeting of PLGMEA Building / Project implementation (Northern Zone) for the year 2024-26 held on March 04, 2026 at PLGMEA Conference Hall, Sialkot.



## 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

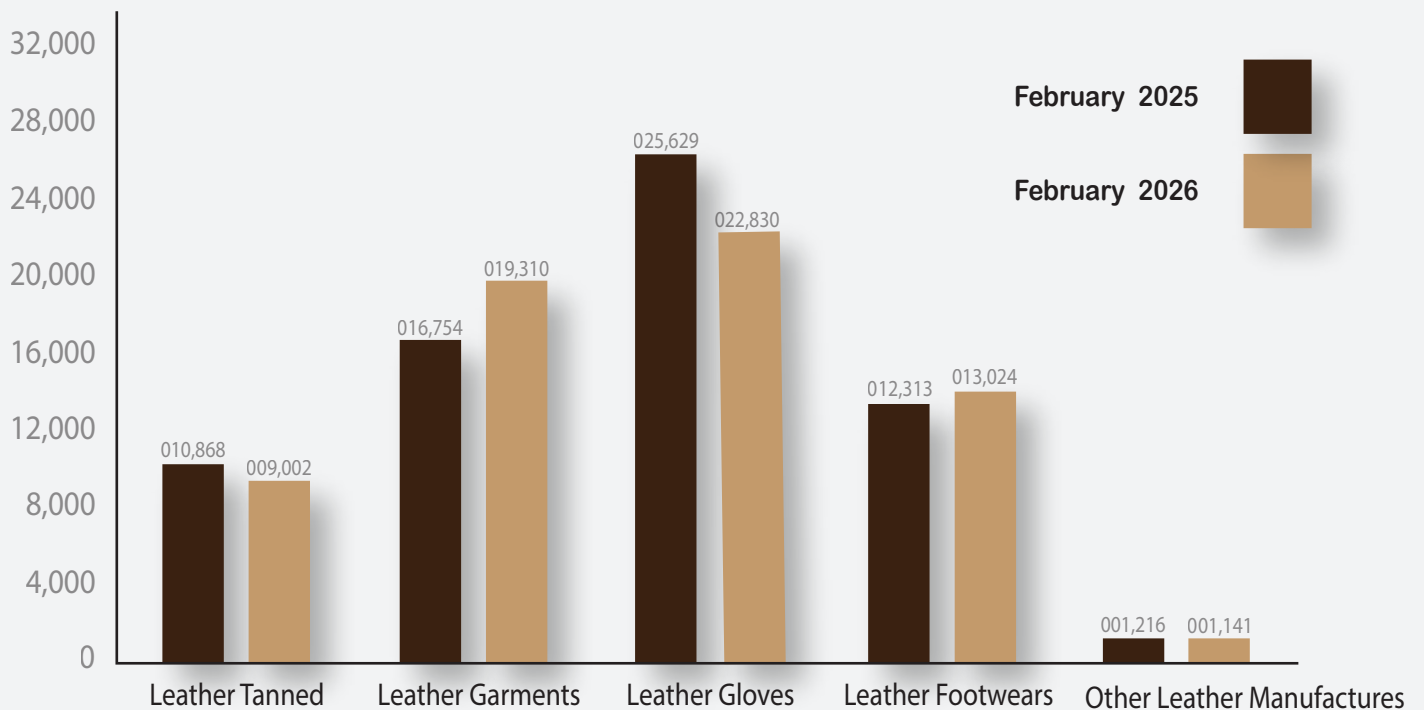
Contact Us for Advertisement Packages  
PLGMEA Secretariat  
Email: [plgmeaskt@gmail.com](mailto:plgmeaskt@gmail.com)  
Phone: 092-52-3254401, 3254403

# Leather Sector Exports

During the Month of Feb. 2025 & Feb. 2026

Value = (US Dollars in Thousands)

	Feb. 2025	Feb. 2026	% Change
Leather Tanned	010,868	009,002	- 17.17 %
Leather Garments	016,754	019,310	15.57 %
Leather Gloves	025,629	022,830	-10.92 %
Leather Footwear	012,313	013,024	05.77 %
Leather Manufactures	001,216	001,141	- 06.17 %
<b>Total Leather Products</b>	<b>066,780</b>	<b>065,3207</b>	<b>- 01.21 %</b>



## Pakistan Leather Garments Export Overview

Pakistan's leather garments sector is one of the most important value-added segments of the country's leather industry and plays a vital role in export earnings. As part of Pakistan's second-largest export-oriented sector after textiles, leather garments contribute significantly through high-quality products such as jackets, coats, and fashion apparel, mainly supplied to international markets.

In FY2025, the sector has shown moderate recovery and stability following the slow-down observed in previous years. Exports of leather apparel and accessories are estimated to reach approximately USD 565–580 million, reflecting a growth of around 3–6% compared to FY2024, when exports stood near USD 545 million. This improvement is supported by easing global inflation, recovery in demand across key markets, and improved export orders.

On a monthly basis, leather garments exports have remained relatively consistent, averaging around USD 22–27 million, with recent months showing stronger performance. This indicates a positive trend and gradual strengthening of Pakistan's position in international markets.



Pakistan's leather garments are primarily exported to developed economies, with the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, Spain, and Canada being the leading destinations. These markets account for a major share of exports due to their strong demand for premium leather products and fashion apparel.

## Pakistan textile exports reach \$12.25 billion in eight months of FY26

Pakistan's textile exports during July–February of FY2025–26 rose slightly by \$32 million, or 0.3%, reaching \$12.249 billion compared with the same period last year, according to "Trade Outlook of Pakistan – July–February 2025–26," compiled by the Pakistan Textile Council (PTC).

However, exports from the sector slowed on a monthly basis. Textile shipments in February declined by \$102 million, or about 7%, compared with January, with exports recorded at \$1.315 billion.

PTC data shows that the sector has maintained overall stability during the current fiscal year but has shown signs of monthly slowdown.

During the eight-month period, agriculture and food exports were recorded at \$3.58 billion, down 32% compared with the same period last year. Manufacturing and energy sector exports increased marginally by 0.2% to \$3.995 billion, while mining exports rose 22% to \$567 million.

Exports to the Middle East increased by 7% to \$2.37 billion, while shipments to the United States rose 2% to \$3.97 billion. Exports to South America also grew by 11%.

However, several other markets recorded declines. Textile exports to the European Union fell 2% to \$6.01 billion, while shipments to the United Kingdom declined 3%. Exports to ASEAN dropped 44%, exports to Central Asian Republics and Afghanistan fell 53%, South Asia declined 18%, and Africa recorded an 11% decrease.

Pakistan's broader external trade data also indicated growing pressure on the trade balance. According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), total exports during July–February FY26 stood at \$20.462 billion, down 7.3% compared with \$22.073 billion in the same period last year.

Imports during the period increased by 8.06% to \$45.504 billion, up from \$42.110 billion a year earlier. As a result, the trade deficit widened to about \$25.04 billion compared with \$20.04 billion in the previous year.

On a year-on-year basis, exports in February 2026 fell 8.76% to \$2.272 billion compared with \$2.490 billion in February 2025. Imports also declined slightly by 1.61% to \$5.253 billion.

On a month-on-month basis, exports dropped 25.63% from \$3.055 billion recorded in January 2026, while imports decreased 9.51% from \$5.805 billion during the previous month, according to PBS data.



# Pakistan Leather Garments Export Destinations Overview

## ● Export Market Overview

Pakistan's leather garments industry is a key contributor to the national economy, with exports primarily concentrated in Europe, while the United States and emerging Asian and Middle Eastern markets are steadily growing. The sector is recognized for quality craftsmanship, catering to both premium and mid-range segments worldwide.

## ● Key European Markets

- **Germany:** Largest market, strong demand for high quality fashion garments.
- **Netherlands:** Distribution hub for EU wide re-exports.
- **United Kingdom:** Stable demand for branded and fashion oriented products.
- **Italy & France:** Luxury segment markets importing premium quality leather garments.
- **Spain:** Emerging mid range market with growing demand.

## ● United States Market

The United States is the largest non European market, offering high-margin opportunities in premium jackets, coats, and motorcycle apparel. Consistent demand and strong purchasing power make it a strategic market for Pakistani exporters.

## ● Emerging & Re-export Markets

- **China & Vietnam:** Important as processing and re-export hubs in Asia.
- **United Arab Emirates:** Strategic gateway to Middle East and African markets, widely used for re-export.
- **Russia:** Growing demand in high fashion and outerwear segments.
- **Australia & Canada:** Niche markets for premium quality leather products.
- **Saudi Arabia & Kuwait:** Emerging Middle Eastern buyers, mostly for luxury and value added products.

### Central & Southern Zone

- 📍 ST#20, Central Avenue, Sector 7/A Korangi Industrial Area, Karachi
- ☎ 0092-21-35116821, 36022403
- ☎ 0092-21-35116822
- ✉ plgmea.iq57yahoo.com

### Northern Zone

- 📍 BASF Building, Main Defence Road Sialkot, Pakistan
- ☎ 0092-52-3254401, 3254403
- ✉ plgmeaskt@gmail.com

### Contact Us for Advertisement Packages

- PLGMEA Secretariat
- Email: plgmeaskt@gmail.com
- Phone: 0092-52-3254401, 3254403

- 🌐 [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)

# Upcoming Trade Shows related to Leather & Textile

## **EXPO RIVA SCHUH AND GARDABAGS 2026**

Date: June 13 - 16, 2026  
Country: Riva del Garda (TN) (Italy)  
Sector: Fashion - Clothing, Leather & Fur

---

## **LESHOW MOSCOW 2026**

Date: June 23 - 25, 2026  
Country: Moscow (Russia)  
Sector: Fashion - Clothing, Leather & Fur

---

## **FASHION GOODS & ACCESSORIES EXPO - TOKYO - SUMMER 2026**

Date: June 24 - 26, 2026  
Country: Tokyo (Japan)  
Sector: Fashion - Clothing, Leather & Fur

---

## **SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL SHOE EXPO 2026**

Date: June 26 - 28, 2026  
Country: Shanghai (China)  
Sector: Fashion - Clothing, Leather & Fur

---

## **ASIA FASHION (THAILAND) SHOW 2026**

Date: July 09 - 11, 2026  
Country: Bangkok (Thailand)  
Sector: Fashion - Clothing, Leather & Fur, Fabrics - Clothing Textiles

---

## **PREMIÈRE VISION NEW YORK 2026**

Date: July 14 - 15, 2026  
Country: New York, NY (USA)  
Sector: Fashion - Clothing, Leather & Fur

---

## **PREMIÈRE VISION NEW YORK DESIGNS 2026**

Date: July 14 - 15, 2026  
Country: New York, NY (USA)  
Sector: Leather & Fur, Fashion - Clothing

---

## **CENTRAL ASIA FASHION 2026**

Date: July 27 - 29, 2026  
Country: Almaty (Kazakhstan)  
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.