

General Information for the sector

The history of the clothing industry in Albania is strong as it was among the main sectors of the Albanian economy until the 1990s. Operating under the conditions of a centralized economy, the industry not only oversaw the entire chain of production from the raw materials (e.g., raw fibers) to the conclusion of the final products (e.g., fabrics, clothing, and rugs) but even produced locally a considerable amount of the raw material.

Following the economic transformations of the early 1990s, state factories were privatized and both the function of the textile industry and production changed substantially. Albania no longer produces raw materials and the factories no longer produce fabric, but factories have been producing clothing with ordered material, which is then exported (in technical language: production under the inward processing regime), during the past years. Through this regime, hundreds of factories continue to produce clothes for well-known brands in Western European markets. The main partner countries are Italy, Germany and Greece.

The export of the clothing and shoe manufacturing in Albania makes up 40 percent of the general national export for 2019 according to INSTAT (the National Institute of Statistics), which means the sector is very important to the country. Supported by nearly 3 decades of experience in production for important companies in Western Europe, Albanian manufacturing companies have improved their processes as they have transitioned from manufacturers with ordered material to genuine manufacturers. Furthermore, there is a greater number of factories able to offer finalized products (i.e., products that they have produced start to finish).

Relevant Data

The most recent official data from INSTAT show the number of all registered enterprises and the number of employees in this sector up until 2017. Manufacturing of Textile and Leather products have employed 50,858 people in 2017.

Manufacturers	Data	2014	2015	2016	2017
Textile & Wearing Apparel	Number of enterprises	691	821	888	820
	Annual average number of employees	18485	20532	24073	27652
Leather & Leather Products	Number of enterprises	210	257	301	272
	Annual average number of employees	16509	19203	21661	23206

Source: INSTAT Economic indicators by Sector, Type and Year

According to The National Chamber of Clothing and Footwear Manufacturers¹ the number of people employed in the sector is higher. Their data concludes that over 70,000 people work in the sector by the end of October 2019. According to the chamber the companies are predominantly Albanian owned. The sectors of intimo, shirts, pants, workwear, technical and military, knitwear (polo, tshirt), shoes and a few accessories are well developed.

¹ www.fason.al/contact-two

The table below shows the import and exports through the years of textile and leather products. The values are in millions of Euro².

Article	Import/Export	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Articles of leather	Import	8	9	10	10	10
	Export	4	5	7	6	8
Furskins and artificial fur	Import	1	1	1	1	1
	Export					
Wool fine or coarse animal hair	Import	5	5	5	6	7
	Export	1				
Cotton	Import	50	54	54	51	51
	Export			1	1	1
Other vegetable textile fibres, paper yarn and woven	Import	1	2	2	3	3
	Export					
Man-made filaments	Import	30	36	41	45	44
	Export					
Man-made staple fibres	Import	33	34	38	37	38
	Export					1
Wadding, felt and nonwovens, special yarns	Import	13	16	19	20	19
	Export				1	1
Carpets and other textile floor coverings	Import	7	8	8	7	7
	Export					
Special woven fabrics	Import	11	15	17	18	17
	Export					
Impregnated coated covered or laminated textile fabrics	Import	34	40	41	39	40
	Export			1	1	2
Knitted or crocheted fabrics	Import	33	42	50	58	52
	Export		1	1	1	1
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	Import	103	122	141	142	146
	Export	142	171	190	213	211
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories not knitted	Import	112	126	136	132	133
	Export	221	256	281	280	264
Other made up textile articles, sets, worn clothing	Import	21	23	26	27	27
	Export	11	14	17	19	21

Source: INSTAT - Value by Chapters, Import - Export, Type and Year

² Original data in ALL

Exchange rate ALL to EUR: 121.94 as of 27/01/2020

Important companies

Below is a list of some of the most important companies in textile and shoes manufacturing:

Companies in the textile and wearing apparel:

Cotex Textile
C.T.A Distribution
DBS Group
SAM
PELINKU
BLEAD
MARP

Companies in shoes manufacturing:

Mito by Caterina Firenze
ALBACO Shoes
MALI
Gestishoes srl
DONIANNA
IMES ALB