

FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY OF SRI LANKA

The footwear industry provides high end products to Mark & Spencer, Bata France, H.H. Browns, Clarks, Aerosoles and Nike. A diverse range of shoes including canvas and rubber boots, thongs, sport shoes, and leather shoes are produced, using a variety of raw materials.

The country's total production capacity is estimated to be in the range of 20 - 30 Mn pairs per year. This figure excludes the supply capacity for rubber thongs which by itself is estimated to be 27-30 Mn pairs per year. The industry at present employs about 20,000 people directly and indirectly and includes 10 large export companies, 30 medium scale companies and about 3000 small scale manufacturers.

One of the key advantages enjoyed by the footwear industry is the local availability of high quality natural rubber including sole crepe, Sri Lanka is the only country which makes sole crepe. Several manufacturers have facilities for producing a variety of moulded rubber soles and some factories have facilities for producing soles of rubber PVC, TPR & PU. With regard to leather, at present, there are about 11 tanneries producing leather. Most of the footwear manufacturers import their requirement of good quality leather from countries such as India, Pakistan, Italy, Japan, Turkey and Brazil for their production.

The value of exports of footwear & leather products from Sri Lanka was US\$ 51 Mn in 2013. Sri Lanka's major export markets for footwear & leather products are Germany, Australia, Viet Nam, Italy and China. Sri Lanka adheres to excellent ethical and environmental compliances in the manufacturing of products. A well developed regular shipping service to all major destinations and the good compliance has greatly facilitated the export of footwear from Sri Lanka.

Following are the major footwear export companies of Sri Lanka.

	Company	Website
1.	Lanka Leather Fashion Ltd	www.srilankaexporters.lk
2.	Michelangelo Footwear Ltd	www.michelangroup.com
3.	Palla and Company (Pvt) Ltd	www.pallacompany.com
4.	D Samson Industries (Pvt) Ltd	www.dsifootwear.com
5.	Workwear Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	www.midassafety.com
6.	Sara OS Leather (Pvt) Ltd	www.saraaosl.com
7.	S and S Lanka Gloves (Pvt) Ltd	www.bslatex.com
8.	Global Baggage (Pvt) Ltd	www.globalbag.com
9.	Lanka Naigai (Pvt) Ltd	www.naigailk.com
10.	Lakpa Footwear (Pvt) Ltd	www.lakaf footwear.com