



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY



INDUSTRY



HOSIERY



TURKEY
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HOSIERY IN TURKEY

HS No: 6115

Hosiery is an item of clothing worn on the feet. The foot is among the heaviest producers of sweat in the body. Socks help to absorb this sweat and draw it to areas where air can evaporate the perspiration. In cold weather, hosiery decreases the risk of frostbite. Its name is derived from the loose-fitting slipper called “soccus” in Latin, worn by Roman comic actors.

Hosiery is not only the most consumed clothing item but also among the clothing items that have the shortest life-span.

The history of hosiery, though in different shapes and textures, dates back to older times. Two milestones regarding the hosiery sector are; the invention of the knitting machine in 1589, although it was to become common only after the 1800s, and the introduction of nylon in 1935 (introduction to the market in 1938) at a time when socks were commonly made from silk, cotton and wool. After the introduction of nylon, two or more yarns were to be blended. Besides these developments, seamless clothing production was one of the most important technological developments in the last decade.

Hosiery, which is an item of fashion, not only consists of socks in daily use but also medically qualified items like stockings for varicose veins.

Exploration of socks knitted from animal hair in Anatolia in 5th century BC is an indicator of an old hosiery tradition in this part of the world.

PRODUCTION

Textiles and clothing sectors are among the most important industries of Turkish economy in terms of GDP contribution, share in manufacturing, employment, investments and macroeconomic indicators. Having a share of 18,4% in total export volume in 2016, these sectors have a significant role in world trade as well as a capability of meeting high standards and sophisticated preferences. According to ITC Trademap statistics, Turkish clothing industry is the 8th largest supplier in the world. It's also the 3rd largest supplier of the EU in 2016.

As a sub-sector of the large Turkish clothing industry, the hosiery industry started to develop in the 90s. In recent years, pantyhose, tights, stockings, socks and other hosiery production in Turkey has shown a faster growth. The sector exports more than half of its production.

With its advanced production capacity, high technology, design capability and the increase in the number of qualified personnel, the hosiery sector presently has a significant place in world production and exports. It ranks the 2nd in the world hosiery production, following China.

Since it is generally accepted that quality, cost and comfort are the main factors that determine consumer preferences, Turkey has the advantage of relying on production structure. More than half of the hosiery production consists of cotton-knitted hosiery.

The products of Turkish hosiery sector have a good reputation in world markets. Furthermore, with its flexible production structure, the sector can adapt itself to consumers' changing needs and preferences. Today, most of the exporters produce their own designs while almost all of the materials used for export products are obtained from the domestic market.

EXPORTS

The value of hosiery exports increased gradually between the years 2002 and 2014. According to ITC Trademap statistics regarding value, Turkish hosiery industry is the 2nd largest exporter in the world market of US\$ 12.3 billion, with a share of 8,4%, following China in 2016. Turkey's share in the EU market is 17,44%.

In 2016, the value of total Turkish clothing exports was US\$ 14.8 billion while knitted clothing and accessories had an export value of US\$ 8.85 billion with a share of 60% within total clothing exports. The hosiery sector achieved a share of 7,01% in Turkish clothing exports.

Hosiery exports decreased by 1,1% with an export value of 1,036 billion dollars in 2016. However, as an important sub-sector of Turkish clothing industry, the sector generated a foreign trade surplus of US\$ 998,3 million in the same year.

Hosiery Exports of Turkey (US\$ 1,000)

Year	Value	Rate of Change (%)
2002	393.288	
2003	527.489	34,12%
2004	657.095	24,57%
2005	728.370	10,85%
2006	728.370	0,00%
2007	856.369	17,57%
2008	871.863	1,81%
2009	881.063	1,06%
2010	952.721	8,13%
2011	1.056.734	10,92%
2012	991.656	-6,16%
2013	1.151.711	16,14%
2014	1.216.563	5,63%
2015	1.024.528	-15,79%
2016	1.036.342	1,15%

Source: Ministry of Economy

Turkish hosiery industry exports its products to 148 countries worldwide. The EU, with a share of about 84,6%, is the most important market for Turkey's hosiery exports. The UK (28,7%), Germany (25,6%), France (12,6%), Spain (5,46%), Holland (5,36%) and the Italy (3,94%) are the major export markets within the EU.

Today, Turkish hosiery industry has the capacity of creating its own brands and fashion. With its fashion-oriented and quality products, Turkey has been increasing her share in major markets, especially in the European market which has high standards and sophisticated customer needs.

Major Export Markets in Hosiery (US\$ 1,000)

Country	2014	2015	2016	Change (2015-2016)
United Kingdom	318.172	286.271	251.600	-12,1%
Germany	252.334	207.676	224.073	7,9%
France	127.451	100.271	110.862	10,6%
Spain	58.429	44.526	47.860	7,5%
Netherlands	50.340	46.418	46.982	1,2%
Italy	37.772	31.670	34.557	9,1%
Belgium	34.902	30.747	28.569	-7,1%
Sweden	38.370	25.004	27.524	10,1%
Poland	20.329	18.477	21.190	14,7%
Denmark	24.027	16.106	15.172	-5,8%
List	962.126	807.166	808.389	0,2%
Others	254.438	217.693	227.953	4,7%
TOTAL	1.216.564	1.024.859	1.036.342	1,1%

Source: Ministry of Economy

When hosiery exports are analyzed in terms of 6-digit harmonized codes, it is clearly seen that more than half of the hosiery exports consists of cotton knitted hosiery.

Hosiery Exports of Turkey (US\$ 1,000)

HS	Product	2014	2015	2016	Change (%) 2015/2016
'611595	Full-length or knee-length stockings, socks and other hosiery, incl. footwear without applied ...	671.936	596.891	629.539	5,5%
'611529	Pantyhose and tights of textile materials, knitted or crocheted (excluding graduated compression ...	248.652	158.722	144.050	-9,2%
'611596	Full-length or knee-length stockings, socks and other hosiery, incl. footwear without applied ...	114.151	106.905	112.448	5,2%
'611521	Pantyhose and tights of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted, measuring per single yarn < ...	70.274	60.150	58.197	-3,2%
'611522	Pantyhose and tights of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted, measuring per single yarn >= ...	39.361	45.589	39.020	-14,4%
'611599	Full-length or knee-length stockings, socks and other hosiery, incl. footwear without applied ...	33.496	26.334	24.144	-8,3%
'611530	Women's full-length or knee-length hosiery, knitted or crocheted, measuring per single yarn ...	20.654	16.978	15.545	-8,4%
'611594	Full-length or knee-length stockings, socks and	12.561	8.761	8.716	-0,5%

	other hosiery, incl. footwear without applied ...				
'611510	Graduated compression hosiery [e.g., stockings for varicose veins], of textile materials, knitted ...	5.480	4.529	4.683	3,4%
6115	Total	1.216.565	1.024.859	1.036.342	1,1%

Source: Ministry of Economy

TRADE FAIRS IN TURKEY

To increase the reputation of Turkish fashion in international markets, Turkish companies participate in many fashion shows and international fairs abroad. In addition, Turkish hosiery products are exhibited in international and national fairs organized in Turkey. All the trade fairs organized in Turkey are listed on the “Turkey Fair Guide” in official website of the Union and Chambers of Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) at www.fuarrehberi.org.tr. The major fair to be organized in 2018 is as follows:

- Lineexpo İstanbul, 08-10 Şubat 2018, İstanbul, İstanbul Fuar Merkezi Yeşilköy, Organizer: World Trade Center

USEFUL LINKS

- Socks Manufacturer Association
www.csd.org.tr
- Turkish Fashion and Apparel Federation
mhgf.org.tr
- Turkish Clothing Manufacturers Association
www.tgsd.org
- Aegean Clothing Manufacturers' Association
www.egsd.org.tr
- Turkish Knitwear Industrialists Association
www.trisad.org
- Istanbul Textile and Apparel Exporters' Associations
www.itkib.org.tr
- Aegean Exporters' Associations
www.egebirlik.org.tr
- Uludağ Exporters' Association
www.uib.org.tr
- Denizli Exporters' Association
www.denib.gov.tr
- Mediterranean Exporter Associations
www.akib.org.tr
- Southeast Anatolia Exporters' Associations
www.gaib.org.tr
- United Brands Association of Turkey
www.birlesmismarkalar.org.tr