

TOBACCO SECTOR OF PAKISTAN

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PRODUCT PROFILE

Tobacco refers to several plant species of the genus *Nicotiana* within the Solanaceae family, cultivated primarily for their leaves. The dominant commercial species is *Nicotiana tabacum*. After harvesting, leaves are cured and processed into products such as cigarettes, cigars, shisha tobacco, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, and nicotine-based industrial raw materials.

Globally, tobacco remains a high-value economic crop with wide industrial applications. Despite strict health regulations, it continues to be a driver of rural employment, industrial revenue, and export earnings.

TOBACCO TYPES GROWN IN PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN MAINLY CULTIVATES THE FOLLOWING FIVE COMMERCIAL TOBACCO TYPES:		
Tobacco Type	Key Characteristics	Major Use
Flue Cured Virginia (FCV)	High quality, light colored, low sugar, cured with controlled heat	Cigarette manufacturing (dominant export category)
Dark Air Cured (DAC)	Strong flavor, air dried in shaded barns	Chewing tobacco, snuff, local blends
Light Air Cured (LAC)	Mild aroma, naturally dried	Cigarette blends, hand-rolling tobacco
Light Sun Cured (LSC)	Sun dried, moderate nicotine	Local cigarettes, indigenous products
White Patta / Semi-Oriental (WP)	Aromatic, thin leaves, traditional variety	Local cigarettes, hookah/shisha mixes

Major Production Zones in Pakistan

Tobacco cultivation is concentrated in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to its ideal climate and soil.

Key districts:

- Charsadda
- Mardan
- Swabi
- Nowshera
- Buner (emerging cluster)
- Mansehra & Haripur (limited cultivation)

KP alone contributes more than 90% of Pakistan's tobacco production, particularly FCV.

Exportable Tobacco Products from Pakistan

Pakistan exports both raw tobacco and processed tobacco products, including:

Raw / Semi-Processed

- Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) leaf tobacco (primary export product)
- Sun-cured and air-cured tobacco variants
- Cut rag tobacco (processed but not manufactured into cigarettes)
- Tobacco stems for nicotine extraction

Manufactured / Value-Added

- Hand-rolling tobacco
- Hookah / shisha tobacco (flavored and unflavored)
- Cigarettes (exported selectively based on bilateral trade markets)
- Industrial nicotine extracts (limited, emerging segment)

PRODUCTION ('000' TONS)

Year	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	Total
2021-22	64.9	0.0	67.5	1.3	133.7
2022-23	61.8	0.0	88.8	1.3	151.9
2023-24	87.6	0.0	97.4	1.3	186.3

Source: MNFSR

TOP IMPORTING COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD

Importing Countries	Import Value (USD Billion)
World	59.3
Germany	6.3
Japan	4.7
USA	3.4
Italy	3.3
China	2.5

Source: ITC, Trade Map

EXPORTS FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS (USD MILLION)

HS Code	Product	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Grand Total		79.79	77.61	182.48
2401	Unmanufactured tobacco; tobacco refuse	59.01	51.62	161.73
2402	Cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes	16.03	13.17	12.24
2403	Manufactured tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes, "homogenised" or "reconstituted"	4.75	12.52	4.73
2404	Products containing tobacco, reconstituted tobacco, nicotine		0.30	3.79

TOP EXPORT DESTINATIONS

1. BELGIUM
2. UAE
3. INDONESIA
4. GREECE
5. SAUDI ARABIA



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