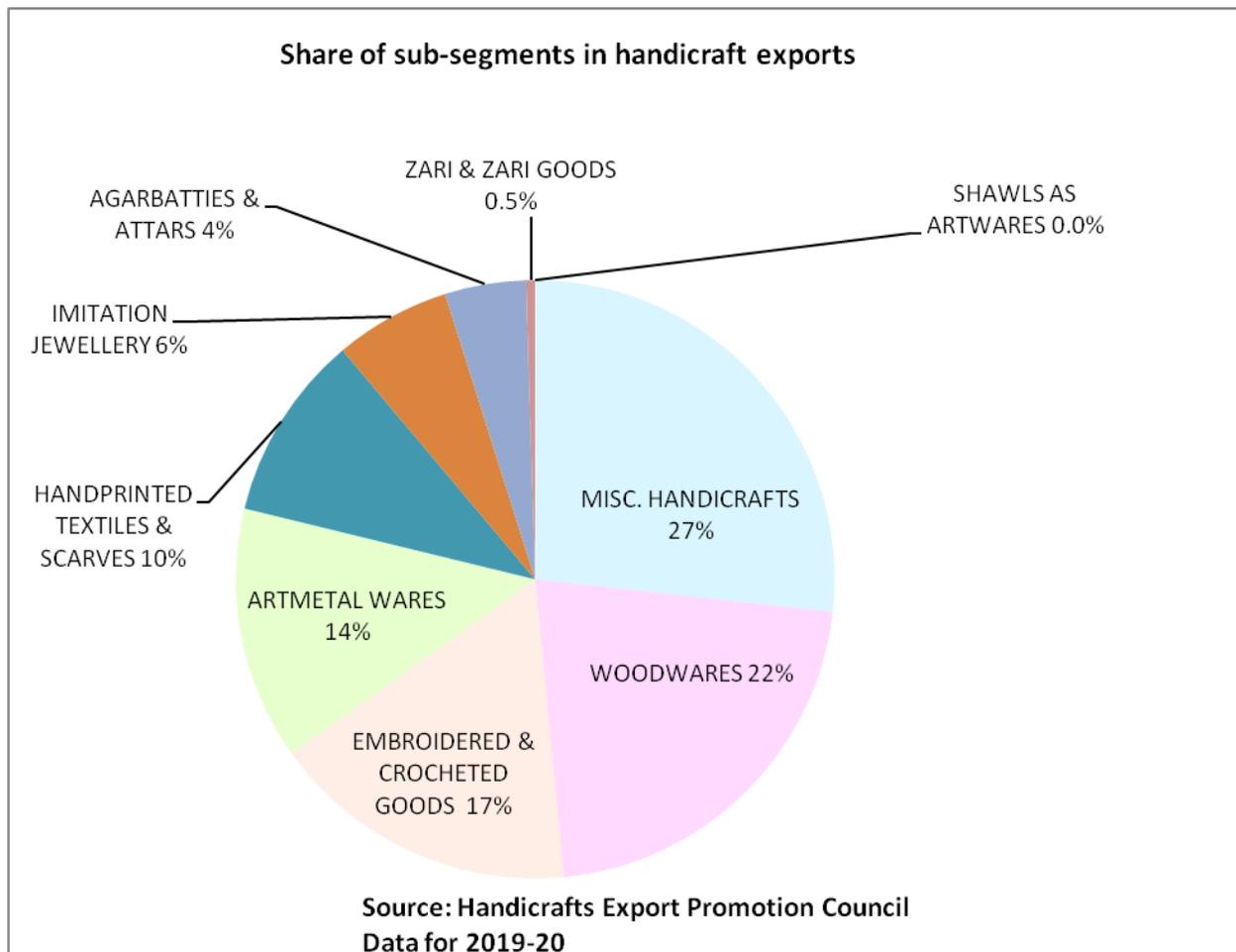


Handicrafts industry supports seven million artisans

Handicrafts is a diverse industry that includes housewares, lamps, lightings, home furnishings, handcrafted garments, carpets, fashion jewellery, bamboo products, bags, luggage & leather goods, ethnic crafts, arts & frames, among others.

India's handicraft industry is a major source of employment for artisans and women in rural and urban areas of India. The industry supports seven million regional artisans, besides hundreds of workers employed with more than 67,000 exporters or export houses. With an export value of USD 3.35 billion in 2019-20, the industry accounted for hardly 1% of India's overall merchandise exports. The Indian Handicrafts & Gifts Fair, that is being held twice a year in Delhi since 1994, is a popular trade event that connects local handicraft exporters to global market.

India exports woodwares, embroidered and crocheted textiles, artmetal wares, handprinted textile, imitation jewellery, agarbatties (incense sticks) and other items under handicraft category. Woodwares, embroidered & crocheted goods account for almost 40% of handicraft exports. Woodwares include wooden furniture, wooden dolls, wooden frames, kitchenware, marquetry etc. Embroidered materials include badges, motifs, quilt embroidery, Kantha embroidery and other embroidered textile. Crocheted items include bed spreads, other home furnishing items, crocheted wool, crocheted hats and other headgear.



Handicraft exports declined 2.47% in 2019-20, in line with the contraction in overall merchandise exports. However, exports of agarbatties, embroidered or crocheted goods grew around 10%, while shipment of woodwares grew 2% during the year. Export of hand printed textile, imitation jewelery, zari & zari goods and miscellaneous handicrafts contracted in 2019-20. USA, UK, UAE, Germany and Netherlands are major destinations for India's handicraft exports. Share of USA stood at 35%, while that of UK, Germany and UAE was 6.5% each. The Netherlands account for 4.51% of India's exports, followed by France (3.81%) and Australia (2.36%).

As with other sectors, the handicraft sector has also been severely affected by COVID pandemic. Exports of Indian handicrafts declined 40% during April-September 2020-21. Globally, demand for handicrafts may be muted in the near future because of the adverse impact of the pandemic on consumer spending. However, with focused intervention, the handicraft industry can recover from the pandemic-led contraction in exports. India should position itself as a reliable supplier of handicraft products in the global market as countries look for alternative supply chains in the post COVID world. Government of India's policy efforts to boost global competitiveness of domestic agarbatties and toys sector will also support revival of the industry.

Notifications

PIB

BRICS nations to collaborate on issues related to labour force

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1663547>

Export of essential agro commodities grow 43% in April-September 2020

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1663362>

DGFT

Permission to export Bangalore Rose Onions and Krishnapuram Onions

<https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/7a0518d8-8e63-48e5-b428-373fa8a96209/Noti%2039%20Eng.pdf>

CBIC

Countervailing duty on Flat rolled products of stainless steel imported from Indonesia

<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-others2020/csot02-2020.pdf>