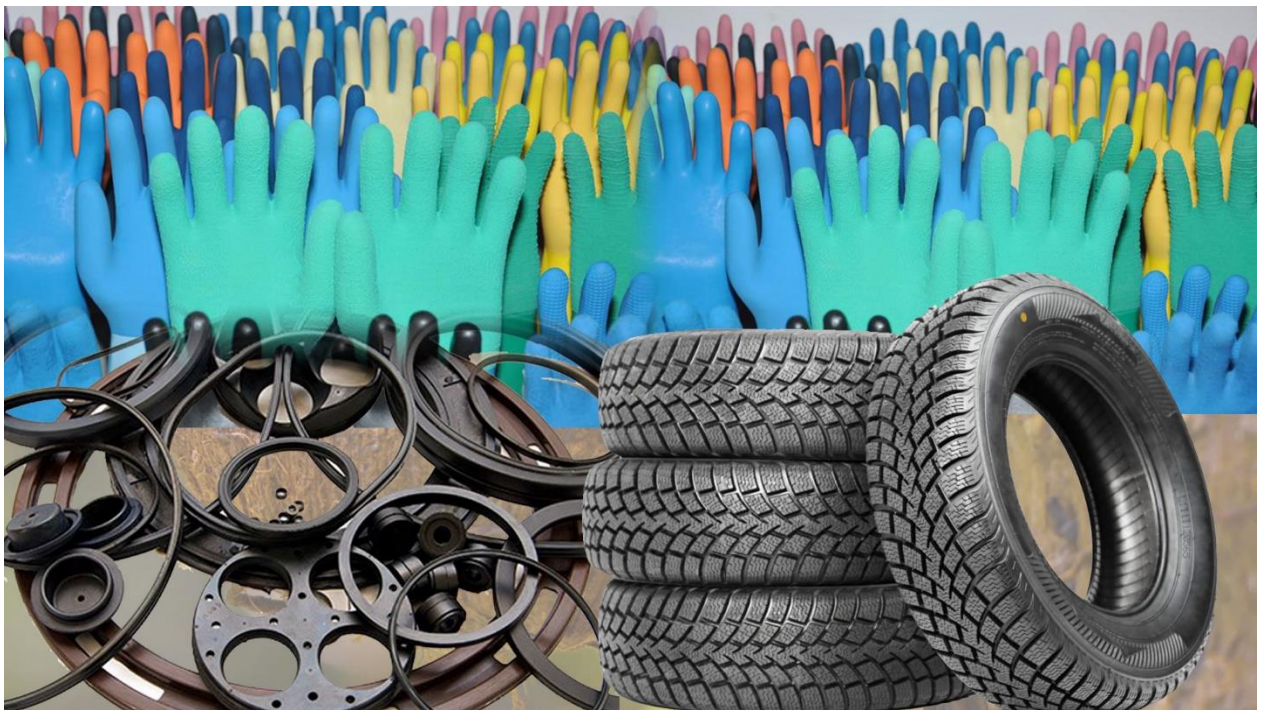




INDUSTRY CAPABILITY REPORT



Rubber & Rubber Based Products

Prepared by:
Export Development Board (EDB), Sri Lanka
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01. INTRODUCTION

Sri Lanka pioneered the Asian Rubber industry in 1876 by planting rubber trees at the Henerathgoda Botanical Gardens in Gampaha. Rubber Product manufacturing, pioneered by tire re-trading, began in the 1950s and expanded rapidly after free trade policies and investment promotion zones were introduced in the late 1970s. In the last two decades, privately owned and operated Sri Lankan industries have entered global markets for value-added rubber products.

Sri Lanka prides itself on manufacturing several value-added rubber products by processing raw rubber. These range from extrusion products like rubber bands, beadings, latex products such as medical, industrial, and household gloves, industrial products like hoses, auto parts, industrial components, tyres, tubes, automotive tyres, and general rubber products like floor mats, carpets, sports goods, hot water bottles, and related components.

The Rubber Product industry is the 4th largest export-earning industry, accounting for 8% of total national exports, and has established a reputation for its quality and reliability internationally. The rubber products exports show a 6% decreasing in 2025 when compared to 2024. The average growth rate is approximately 3%. Compared to the last five years. Major markets for Rubber products are the USA, Germany, Italy, Belgium, France, Canada, and the UK.

02. TYPES OF PLAYERS

There are manufacturers and exporters of rubber products under the large-scale category as well as small & medium scale category. Most of the export-oriented rubber factories are large and medium scale and they are scattered mainly in the Western Province.

03. KEY PRODUCTS AND VARIETIES

Rubber products exported from Sri Lanka is currently dominated by solid tyres, which is over 25% of the global market demand. Other products are pneumatic tyres, latex gloves, rubber flooring, mats, automatic components, sealing rings, rubber bands, straps, hoses and hot water bottles for the export market.

04. SPECIALTIES ASSOCIATED WITH PRODUCTS

The main types of rubber produced in Sri Lanka are Ribbed Smoked Sheets (RSS), Latex Crepe, Sole Crepe, brown crepe, technically specified Rubber (TSR), and Centrifuged Latex. For its unique properties, Sri Lanka's Natural Rubber has a high demand in the world market.

Currently, Sri Lanka is the only manufacturer of the best quality Latex crepe rubber in the world, and also the largest exporter of the same. Latex Crepe is the highest quality natural rubber and is generally considered the Rolls-Royce of rubber and fetches a premium price over all other types and grades. This is the purest form of natural rubber and is ideal for manufacturing products that come into contact with food items, in pharmaceutical applications, and in light coloured articles.

05. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION ACROSS THE COUNTRY & KNOWN CLUSTERS IF ANY

Most of the Rubber Products manufacturing firms are situated in the Western and Southern provinces of the country.

The following associations support the rubber products sector by addressing the sector related issues through coordination with the government institutions.

- Sri Lanka Association of Manufacturers and Exporters of Rubber Products (SLAMERP)
- Colombo Rubber Traders' Association (CRTA)
- Planters' Association of Ceylon (PA)
- Sri Lanka Association of Small & Medium Rubber Products Manufactures. (SLASMRPM)

06. SIZE IN TERMS OF PRODUCTION (VALUE/QUANTITY)

Sri Lanka's total production of natural rubber in the year 2025 was 66,492 MT. In 2025 rubber finished products industry earned an export income of US\$ 915 Mn which is a 6% decrement over the previous year. Sri Lanka is the leading solid tyre exporter in the world currently recording a 25% of the world demand. Sri Lanka also well-known for latex based gloves in the global market. Presently Sri Lank has increased demand for rubber gloves after Covid 19 Pandemic situation in the world and Tyre industry slow growing sector in the last year with comparing previous years due to external issues created in the world.

07. KEY PLAYERS IN THE SECTOR

- Michelin Lanka (Pvt) Ltd (Camsol Loadstar)
- Ansell Lanka (Pvt) Ltd
- Eu Retec (Pvt) Ltd
- Yokohama TWS Lanka (Pvt) Ltd
- Global Rubber Industries (Pvt) Ltd
- Lalan Rubbers (Pvt) Ltd
- Ferentino Tyre Cooperation (Pvt) Ltd
- Dipped Products PLC
- Midas Safety Lanka (Pvt) Ltd
- Samson Rubber Industries (Pvt) Ltd

08. NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN THE SECTOR

The industry provides direct and indirect employment opportunities to over 300,000 persons.

09. TOTAL INVESTMENT IN THE SECTOR IN LAST FIVE YEARS

Foreign direct investments & joint ventures are successful operations in Sri Lanka, which assist in the expansion & development of the sector. There are around 75 export companies registered under the Board of Investment (BOI) and the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB) for the rubber product manufacturing sector.

10. GOVERNMENT POLICY AND SUPPORT AVAILABLE IN THE SECTOR

The government support is extended through several institutions for the development and promotion of the Rubber & Rubber Products industry. Government Agencies include Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure, Rubber Development Department, Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka, Ministry of Industries and Entrepreneurship Development, Industrial Development Board (IDB), Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB) etc. are involved in the development of the sector by implementing different product and market development strategies.

11. R&D AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES AVAILABLE

Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka (RRISL) is the major government agency which conducts research and development for increasing raw rubber productions and the development of manufactured rubber products. Other than RRISL several universities and Sri Lanka Institute of Nano Technology (SLINTEC) are engaged in R & D projects with Private sector involvement.

12. AVAILABILITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND SKILLED LABOUR

Sri Lanka has veteran rubber technologists and trained workforce.

The Plastic and Rubber Institute of Sri Lanka (PRISL) is the only institution that conducts graduate, diploma, and certificate programmes for the Rubber sector-related workforce.

13. TOTAL EXPORTS OF PRODUCTS IN SELECTED CATEGORIES OF THE SECTOR

The products within the rubber sector are categorized in the following table.

EXPORTS (VALUE IN US\$ Mn)

| Product Sub Categories | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Pneumatic & Retreated Rubber Tyres & Tubes | 424 | 595 | 597 | 590 | 599 | 522 |
| Industrial & Surgical Gloves of Rubber | 248 | 365 | 296 | 226 | 278 | 293 |
| Gaskets, Washers, Seals etc. of Hard Rubber | 91 | 65 | 62 | 57 | 56 | 52 |
| Rubber Plates, Sheets Rods of Vulcanized or Unhardened Rubber | 21 | 23 | 20 | 26 | 40 | 44 |
| Other Rubber Products | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Hygienic or Pharmaceutical Articles | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total: | 786 | 1050 | 977 | 902 | 976 | 915 |

14. GROWTH IN LAST 5 YEARS IN EXPORTS AND MAIN IMPORTING COUNTRIES

| Rubber Products (US\$ Mn) | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | % Avg. Growth |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|---------------|
| Total: | 1050 | 977 | 902 | 976 | 915 | 2.8% |

Main Importing Countries are USA, Germany, Italy, Belgium and France.

15. POTENTIAL FOR EXPANSION IN THE SECTOR

- Availability of uninterrupted natural rubber to manufacture rubber products
- Availability of trainable skilled workforce helps to meet the needs of the international Markets
- Development of Infrastructure facilities
- Government policies to attract foreign direct investments.

16. STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE SECTOR

| Strengths | Weaknesses |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Established Industry in Sri Lanka as well as world wide• Availability of Natural Rubber• Trained workforce in the products industry.• Incentives to attract foreign investment• Availability of labour force• Compliance with labour standards and ethical practices• Rubber is environmentally friendly raw material• Government support to develop and promote the sector | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inadequate raw material and the price fluctuations• Insufficient Research and Development• High cost of testing and certifications• High cost of machinery and technology transfer• High cost of energy• High Cost of production |

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