

ITALIAN TANNING INDUSTRY - 2019

2019 was a year characterised by widespread and generalised decreases for the Italian tanning industry. While sectoral **production** recorded an overall decrease of 6.1% in value and 8.9% in volume of finished leather (-2.4% for sole leather), detailed analyses show that the downward trend, although with different intensity, affected all the main production segments (by animal typology, destination of use, price range) and all the most important regional districts.

The variation in **exports** was also negative (-8.2%), which represent 73% of Italian tanning industry turnover and in 2019 reached 119 Countries. More specifically, in terms of export results towards the main foreign Countries, exceptions to the general negative picture are quite rare. The Chinese area, the main destination for exports of Italian tanned leather with a share of 11% of the total, still appeared to be suffering, with a loss of 22.1%. In Europe, exports to France (-3.6%) and Portugal (-6.3%) were substantially limited, while trade with other relevant EU partners recorded double-digit losses (Romania -16%, Germany -14.5% and Spain -11.4%). In general, only exports to Vietnam bucked the trend: +3.2% in the period.

The causes of the contraction were mainly due to the strong general uncertainties in the international economic framework and the cost reduction policies implemented by some important client segments. These affected all the main leather producing Countries indiscriminately and the economic situation was therefore negative on average for the entire sector at a global level. In this difficult context, the Italian tanning industry has nevertheless managed to maintain (and in some areas even strengthen) its **international leadership**.

You can consult and download a free infographic presentation of the results of the Italian tanning industry at the following [link](#).

Source: UNIC – Italian Tanneries