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RMG export to US rises by 26.81pc in Jan-June

[Staff Correspondent](#) | Published: 22:27, Aug 08,2021

Bangladesh's readymade garment export to the United States in January-June of 2021 witnessed a strong rebound with a 26.81-per cent growth, thanks to an increased demand for the apparel items in the market after a massive vaccination programme in the US to prevent the Covid pandemic. Apparel import from Bangladesh by the US in the first half of 2021 increased by \$662 million to \$3.13 billion from \$2.45 billion in the same period of 2020, according to the US Department of Commerce's Office of Textiles and Apparel data.

Exporters said that both the export orders and the inquiries from the US buyers had increased in recent months as the country opened its business after massive Covid vaccination.

The OTEXA data showed that in terms of value, Bangladesh's apparel export to the US market in June 2021 grew by 139 per cent while it increased by 133 per cent in volume compared with that in the same month of the past year.

Apparel export to the US, the largest export destination for Bangladesh, in June 2021 grew by \$317.28 million to \$545.21 million from \$227.93 million in June 2020.

India gained more share in the US market as its RMG export to the destination increased by 32.28 per cent to \$2.03 billion in January-June of 2021 from \$1.53 billion in the same period of 2020.

'The demand for apparel products has increased in the US market for the last few months as the US government withdrew Covid restrictions on business and movement after a massive vaccination programme,' Mahmud Hasan Khan Babu, managing director of Rising Group, told New Age.

He said that the massive vaccination curbed the infection rate in the US and people started buying their necessary cloths after a long time.

In view of the increased demand from the consumers, the US buyers increased their volume of orders in Bangladesh and inquiries as well, Mahmud Hasan said.

Mahmud Hasan, also a former vice-president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said that India would be the main competitor for Bangladesh in the US market in future as the country (India) would grab a portion of US orders that would be shifted from China.

'It's true we are getting an increased number of orders and inquiries from the US but it is important to manage the orders properly to sustain the export growth in the market,' he said.

The data showed that the total apparel imports by the US from different countries in the first half of 2021 increased by 26.92 per cent to \$35.37 billion from \$27.87 billion in the same period of the previous year.

The US apparel import from China in January-June of 2021 grew by 26.77 per cent to \$7.31 billion from \$5.77 billion in the same period of the previous year.

Vietnam's RMG export to the US in the first half of 2021 grew by 20.45 per cent to \$6.81 billion from \$5.65 billion in the same period of 2020.

RMG import by the US from Cambodia in January-June of 2021 increased by 13.85 per cent to \$1.42 billion from \$1.24 billion in the same period of the previous year, the data showed.