



Portugal: 2021 was ‘best year ever’ for textile, clothing exports – association

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Portuguese textile and clothing exports in 2021 recorded a record 5.419 billion euros, up 16.5% compared to 2020 and 3.9% above the pre-pandemic year of 2019, the sector association announced on Wednesday.

According to the Textile and Clothing Association of Portugal (ATP) in a statement, “contributing to this excellent result were the exports of knitted garments and home textiles”.

Knitted garments exported €2.336 billion, up €193 million (+9%) compared to 2019, while home textiles exported €763 million, up €112 million compared to 2019, representing growth of 17%.

In contrast, woven garments “failed to recover from the effects of the pandemic”, exporting €796 million, down €189 million compared to 2019, registering a 19% drop.

In terms of export destinations for the sector, France reinforced its second place in the ‘ranking’ and was the market with the largest increase in absolute terms, with an increase of 119 million euros (equivalent to +18%).

The French market now accounts for 15% of total textiles and clothing exports.

The US was the non-EU destination that grew the most, with an increase of 107 million Euros (+31.5%), and now represents 8% of the sector’s total exports.

Conversely, Spain, although continuing to lead the table of the sector’s main export destinations, was the one that suffered the biggest drop: minus 220 million euros, or -14%.

If, in 2019, the Spanish market represented 31% of the total, in 2021 its weight fell to 25%.

According to the ATP, whose analysis is based on international trade in goods data released today by Portugal’s National Statistics Institute (INE), in 2021 the sector’s trade balance had a positive balance of 1.168 billion euros, with a coverage rate of 127%.