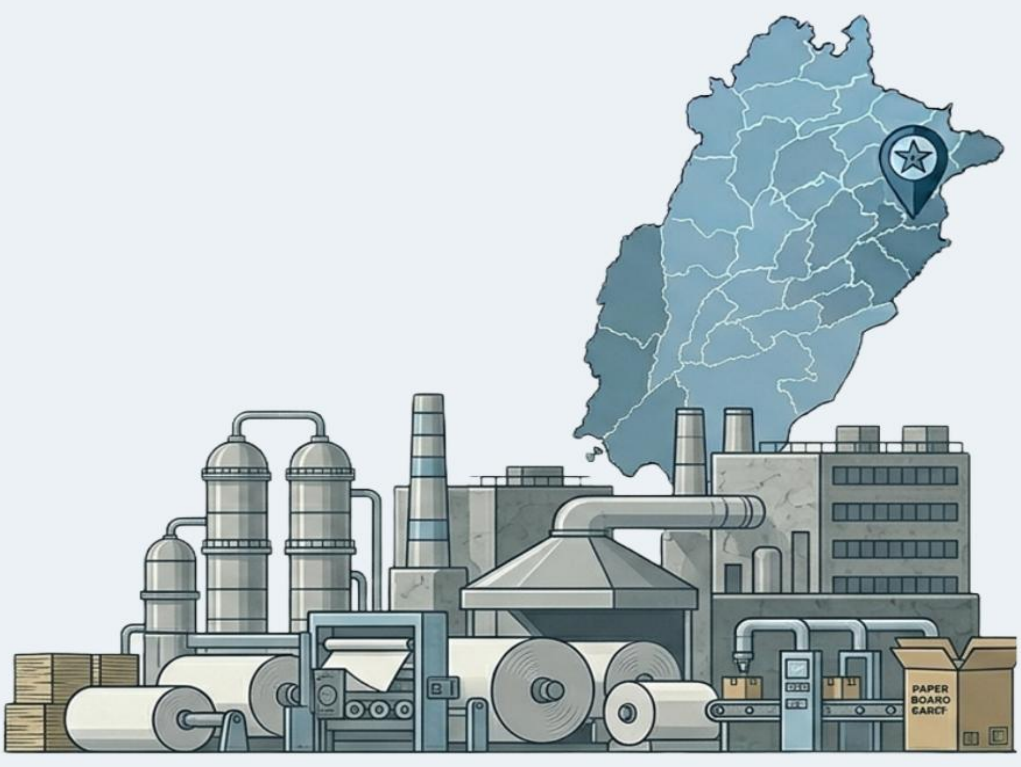
GALLUP PAKISTAN
Affiliated with Gallup International
Pakistan's Foremost Social Research Lab

Gallup Pakistan Analysis of Punjab Development Statistics (50 Years)

Core Manufacturing Industries



PRESS RELEASE

Gallup Pakistan Analysis of Punjab Development Statistics (50 Years)

Cement Production Rises 29x While Sugar Output Expands Over 25x Since 1971: Punjab's Core Manufacturing Shows Strong Long-Term Growth with Uneven Recent Trends

Islamabad, May 13th, 2026

Punjab's core manufacturing industries have undergone substantial expansion over the past five decades, with several sectors showing multi-fold increases in production capacity and output. Analysis of the *Punjab 50 Years Compendium* (Tables 14.1–14.14) shows that key industries such as cement, sugar, and vegetable ghee have expanded significantly since the early 1970s, although recent years indicate uneven trends across sectors. However, despite these gains, several industries show stagnation or decline in recent years, suggesting that long-term industrial expansion has not translated into sustained growth across all sectors.

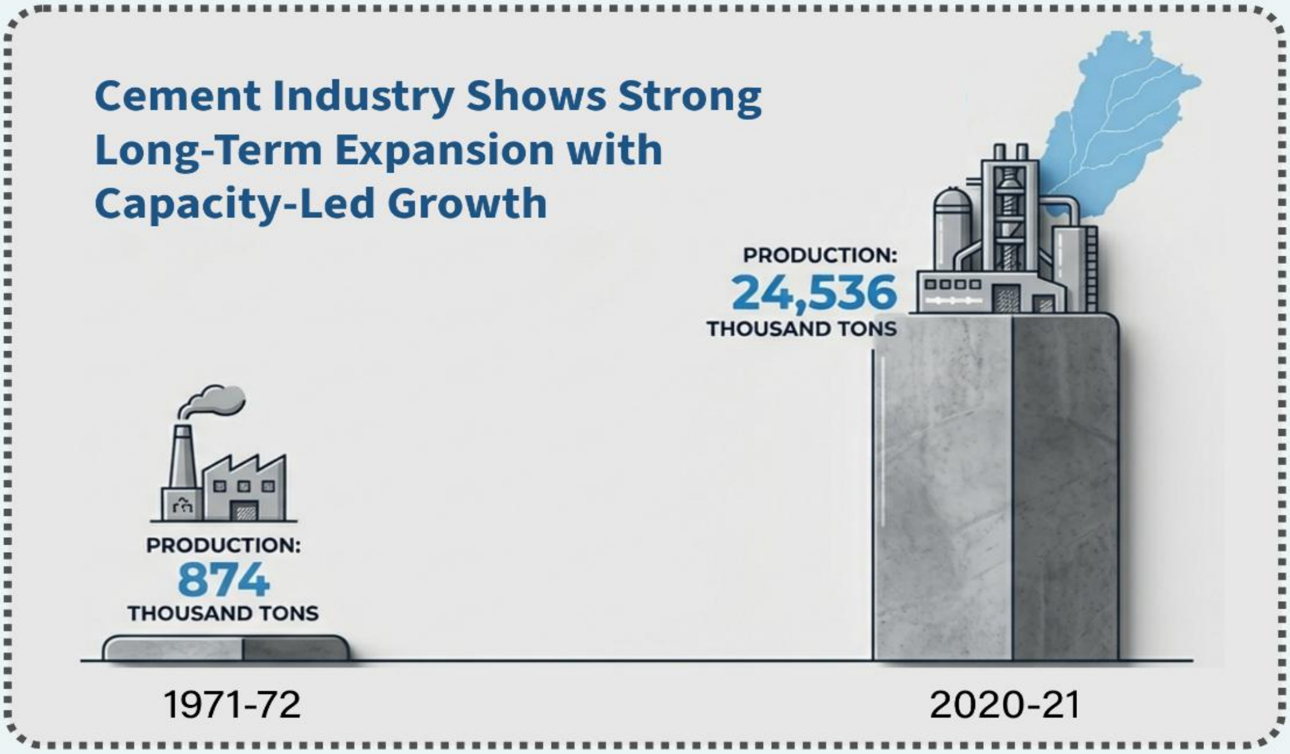
What is the Big Data Analysis Series by Gallup?

Gallup Pakistan's Big Data series was initiated by Bilal I. Gilani, Executive Director of Gallup Pakistan. As he explains: *"Pakistan does not suffer from a lack of data, but from limited accessibility and weak translation of numbers into understanding. Gallup Pakistan bridges this gap by analyzing large, often under-used datasets — from PSLM and Labour Force Surveys to Economic Surveys and National Census data — so these statistics can meaningfully inform policy and public discourse."*

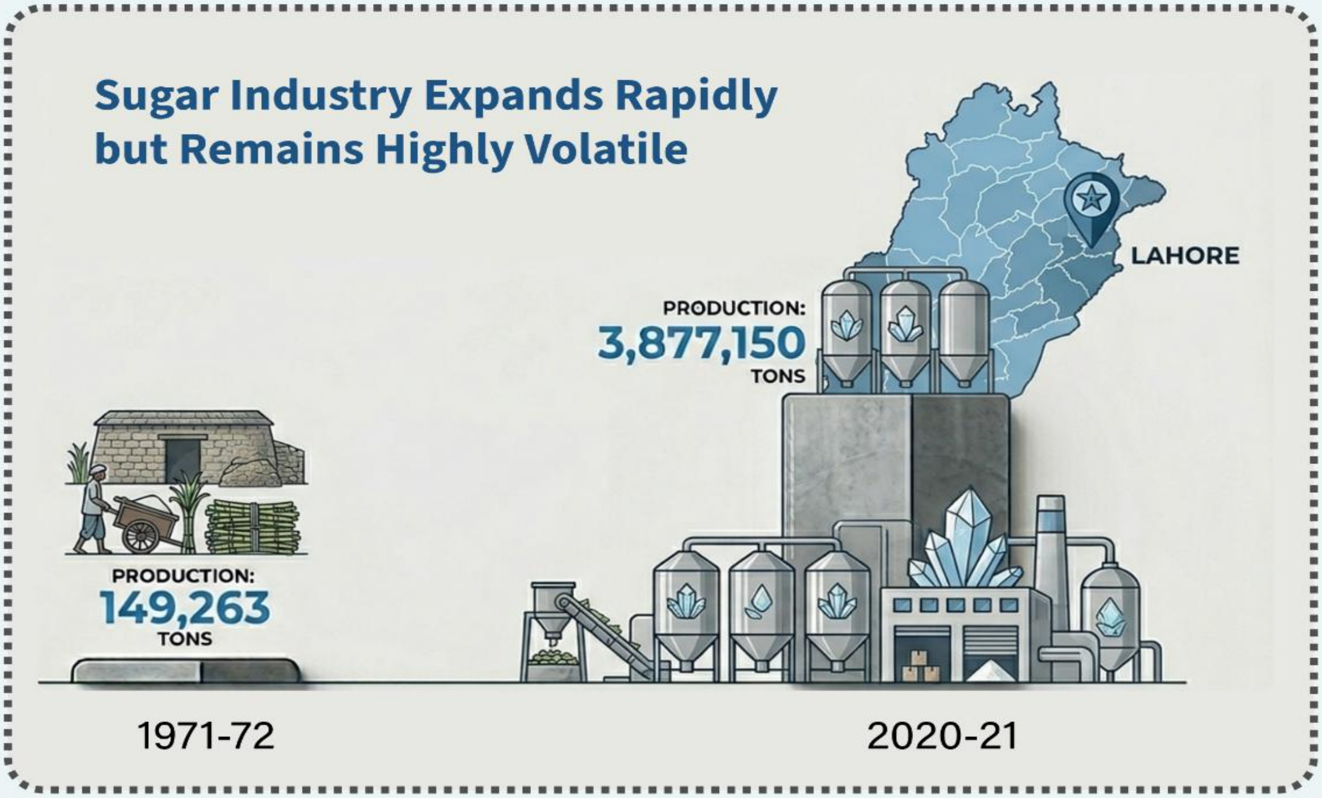
What data points this current edition covers:

This analysis is based on Punjab's 50-year industrial data (1971–2021), focusing on large-scale manufacturing industries including cement, sugar, vegetable ghee, paper, chemicals, fertilizers, and steel. Indicators include production, installed capacity, number of units, and employment.

Cement Production Rises 29x While Sugar Output Expands Over 25x Since 1971: Punjab's Core Manufacturing Shows Strong Long-Term Growth with Uneven Recent Trends

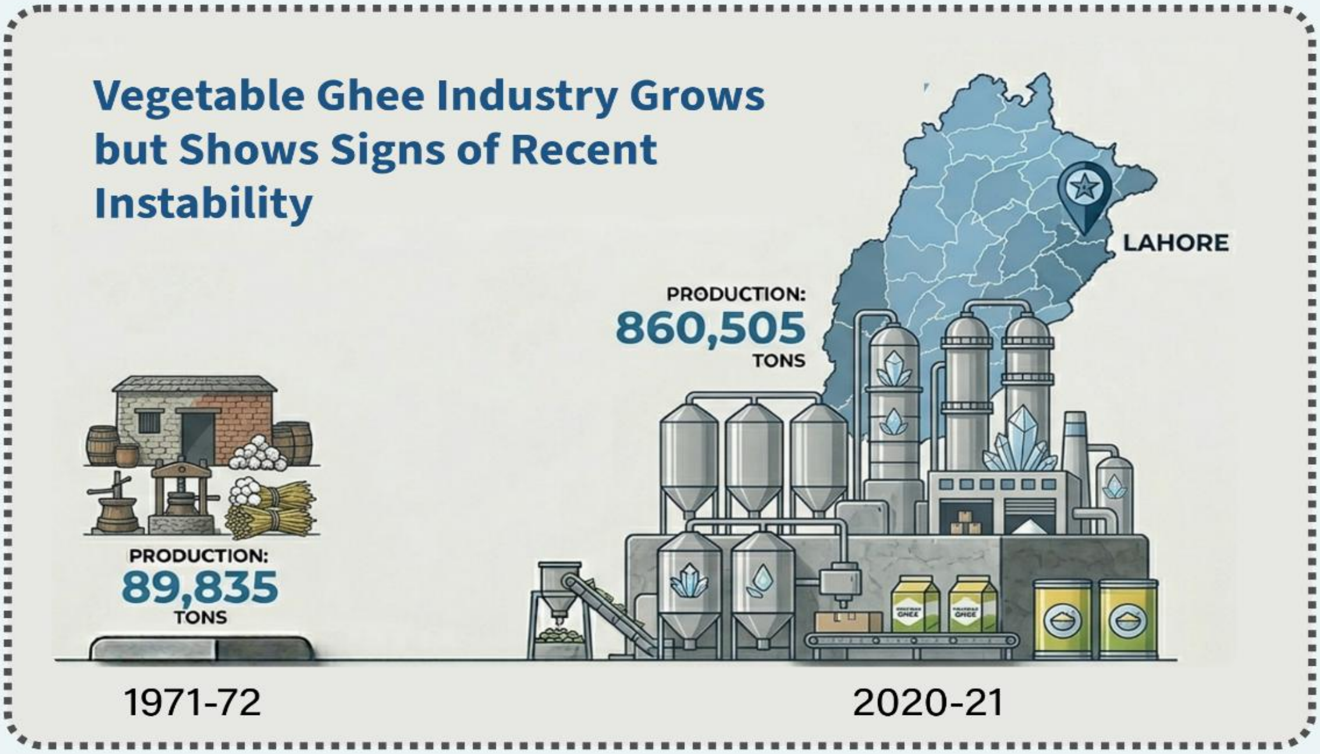


The cement industry stands out as one of the strongest performers over the 50-year period, with production increasing from 874 thousand tons in 1971–72 to 24,536 thousand tons in 2020–21. This expansion is closely matched by a sharp rise in installed capacity, which grew from 1,275 thousand tons to 25,128 thousand tons.

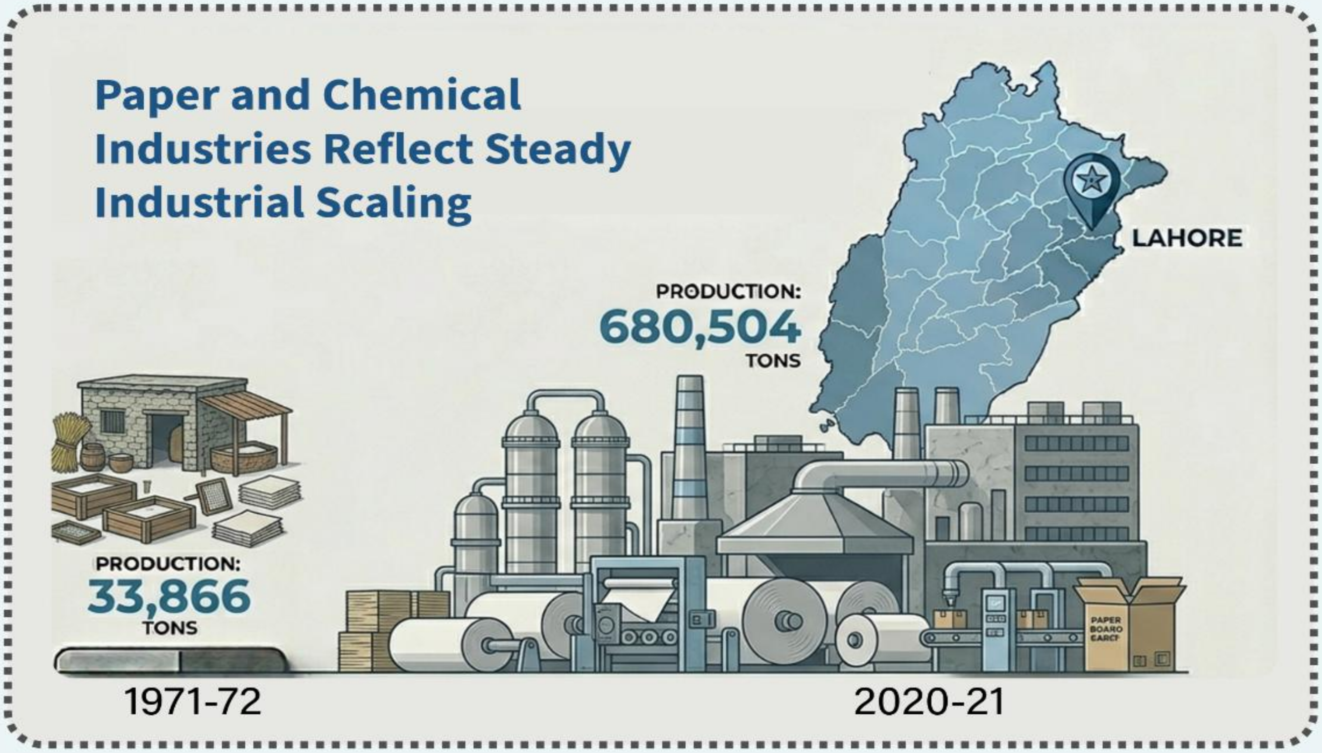


The sugar industry has experienced one of the largest absolute increases in production, rising from 149,263 tons in 1971–72 to 3,877,150 tons in 2020–21. This growth is accompanied by an increase in the number of units from 11 to 44 and a substantial rise in employment from 7,759 to 27,571 workers, reflecting both industrial expansion and labour absorption.

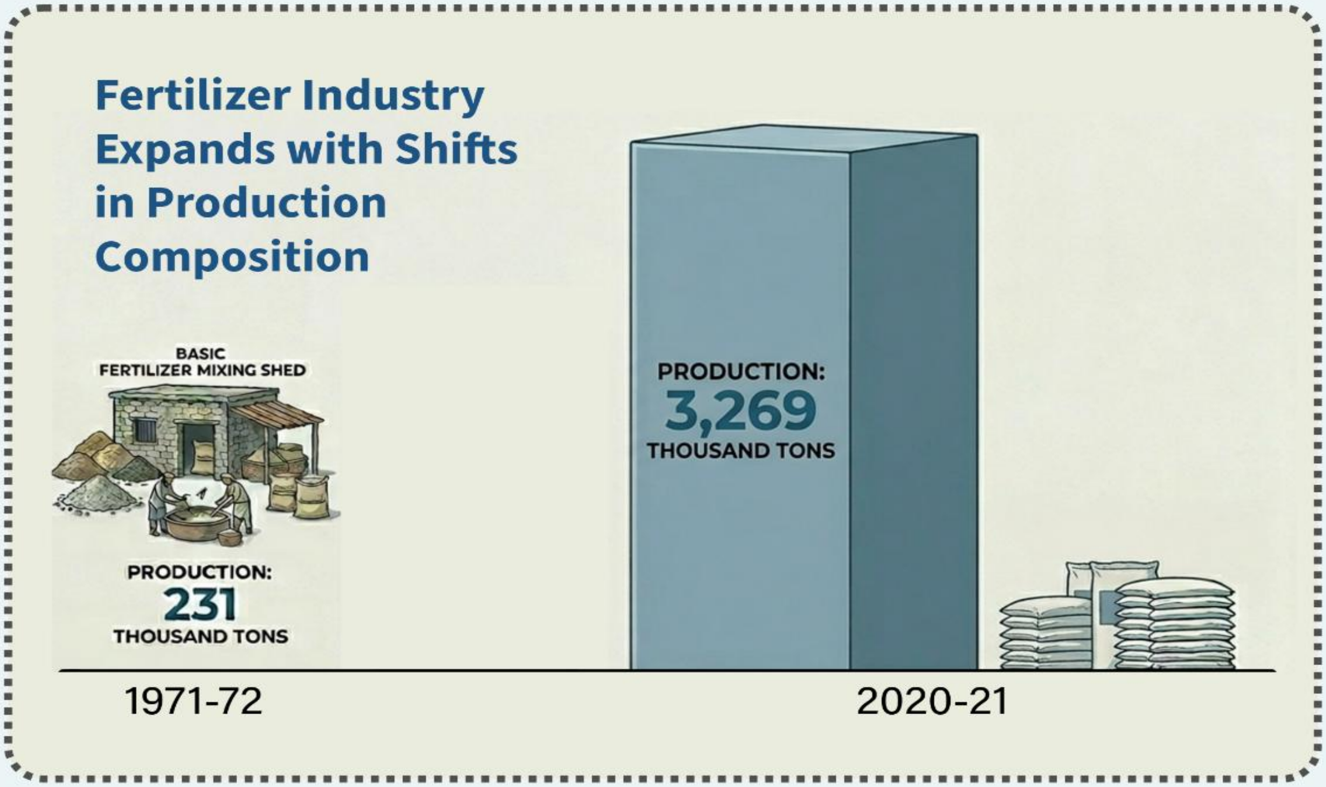
Gallup Pakistan Analysis of Punjab Development Statistics (50 Years)



The vegetable ghee industry expanded from 89,835 tons in 1971–72 to 860,505 tons in 2020–21, with the number of units increasing from 14 to 50. This reflects long-term growth in food processing and edible oil consumption.



The paper and paper board industry shows a consistent upward trajectory, with production increasing from 33,866 tons in 1971–72 to 680,504 tons in 2020–21. The number of units expanded from 6 to 46, while employment rose from 1,439 to 5,101 workers.



The fertilizer industry has seen significant growth, particularly in urea production, which increased from 231 thousand tons in 1971–72 to 3,269 thousand tons in 2020–21. Employment also rose from 3,388 to 5,700 workers, reflecting expansion in the sector.

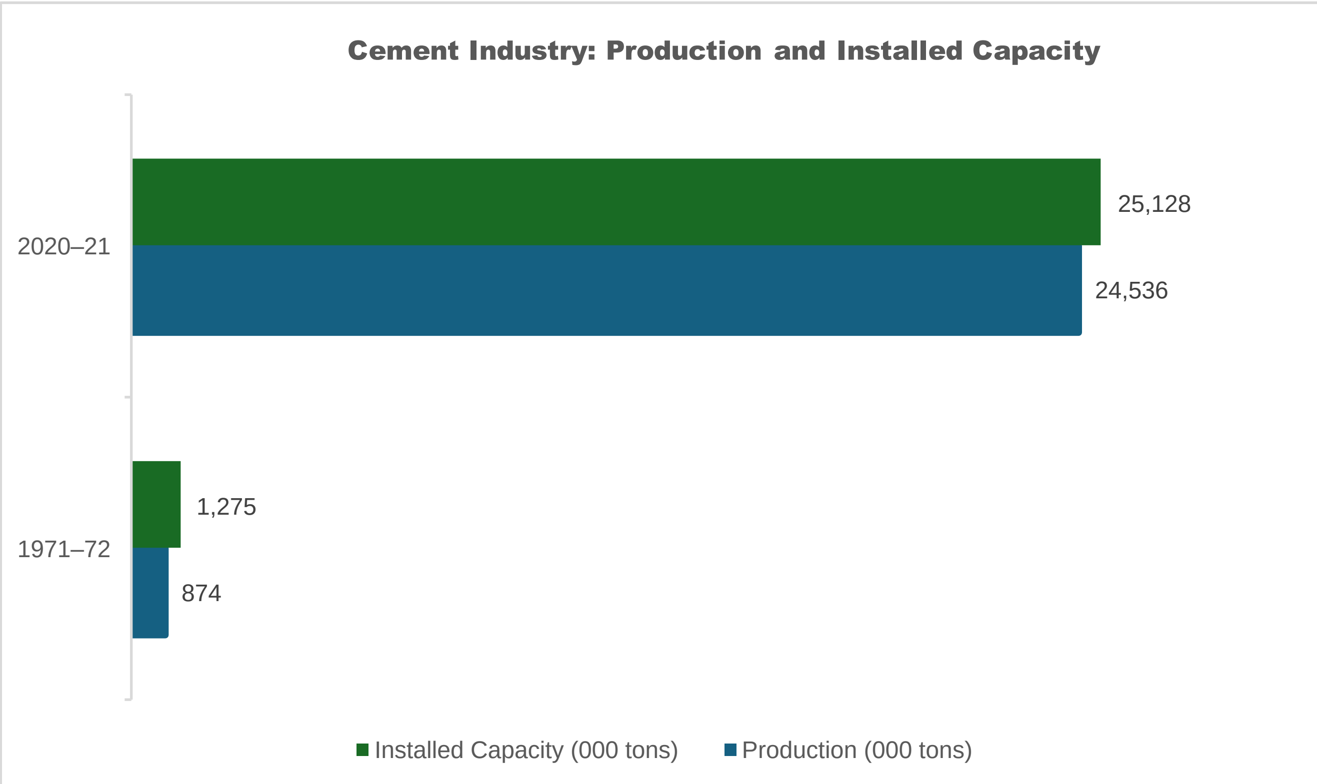
Key Findings:

1. Cement production increased from 874 thousand tons to 24,536 thousand tons, with installed capacity expanding nearly 20 times
2. Sugar production rose from 149,263 tons to 3.87 million tons, with units increasing fourfold
3. Vegetable ghee production grew from 89,835 tons to 860,505 tons, peaking before declining in recent years
4. Paper production expanded from 33,866 tons to 680,504 tons, reflecting steady industrial scaling
5. Fertilizer (urea) production increased from 231 to 3,269 thousand tons, alongside structural shifts in product mix
6. Re-rolled steel production grew more than fivefold, while employment declined over time
7. Across sectors, production growth has outpaced employment, indicating structural and efficiency changes
8. Several industries show volatility or slowdown in recent years despite strong long-term expansion

1. Cement Industry Shows Strong Long-Term Expansion with Capacity-Led Growth

The cement industry stands out as one of the strongest performers over the 50-year period, with production increasing from 874 thousand tons in 1971–72 to 24,536 thousand tons in 2020–21. This expansion is closely matched by a sharp rise in installed capacity, which grew from 1,275 thousand tons to 25,128 thousand tons, indicating sustained capital investment and scaling of operations. The number of units increased from 5 to 12, while employment rose from 2,727 to 7,912 workers.

However, the growth trajectory is not uniformly smooth. While long-term expansion is clear, production levels show fluctuations in later years, suggesting sensitivity to market demand, input constraints, or cyclical factors. The widening gap between capacity and output in some years also points to potential underutilization, indicating that expansion alone has not guaranteed stable output growth.

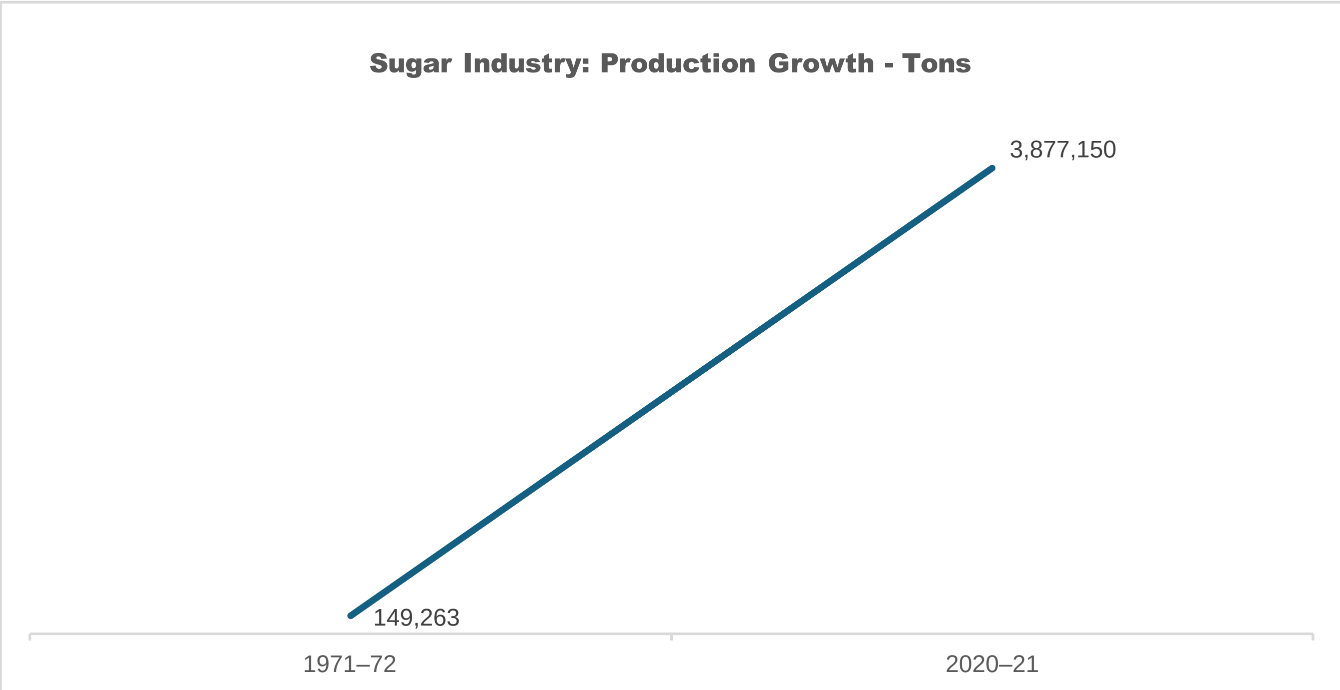


***Source**: Bureau of Statistics, Planning & Development Board, Government of the Punjab — Punjab Development Statistics for 50 Years (1972–2021).*

2. **Sugar Industry Expands Rapidly but Remains Highly Volatile**

The sugar industry has experienced one of the largest absolute increases in production, rising from 149,263 tons in 1971–72 to 3,877,150 tons in 2020–21. This growth is accompanied by an increase in the number of units from 11 to 44 and a substantial rise in employment from 7,759 to 27,571 workers, reflecting both industrial expansion and labour absorption.

Despite this growth, the industry exhibits significant year-to-year volatility. Production levels fluctuate sharply across the time series, and footnotes in the table indicate that declines are often linked to reductions in sugarcane acreage. This highlights the sector's continued dependence on agricultural inputs, making it structurally vulnerable to changes in crop production rather than purely industrial dynamics.

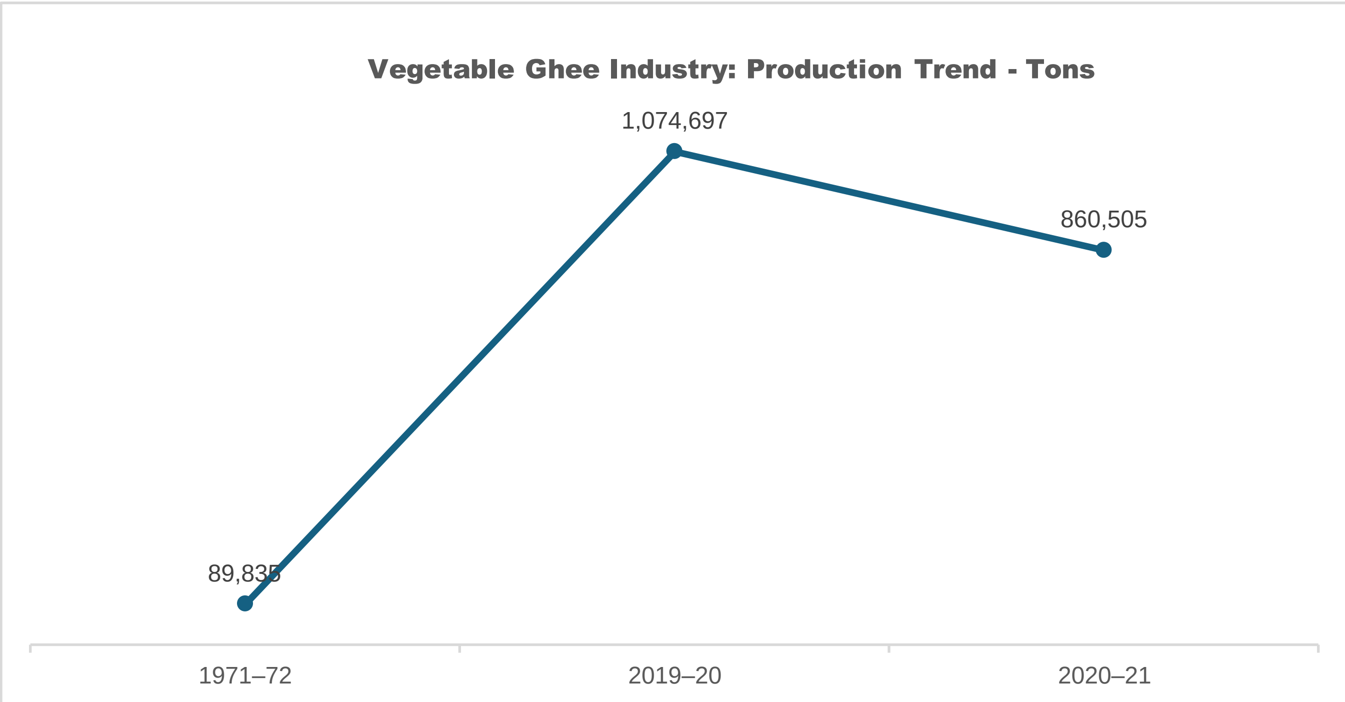


***Source**: Bureau of Statistics, Planning & Development Board, Government of the Punjab — Punjab Development Statistics for 50 Years (1972–2021).*

3. Vegetable Ghee Industry Grows but Shows Signs of Recent Instability

The vegetable ghee industry expanded from 89,835 tons in 1971–72 to 860,505 tons in 2020–21, with the number of units increasing from 14 to 50. This reflects long-term growth in food processing and edible oil consumption.

However, unlike the steady upward trend seen in some industries, the ghee sector shows signs of recent instability. Production reached a high of 1,074,697 tons in 2019–20 before declining sharply in the following year. The table notes that production fluctuations are linked to the availability of edible oils at lower rates, indicating strong exposure to international commodity prices and import dynamics. This suggests that while the industry has expanded structurally, it remains sensitive to external supply conditions.

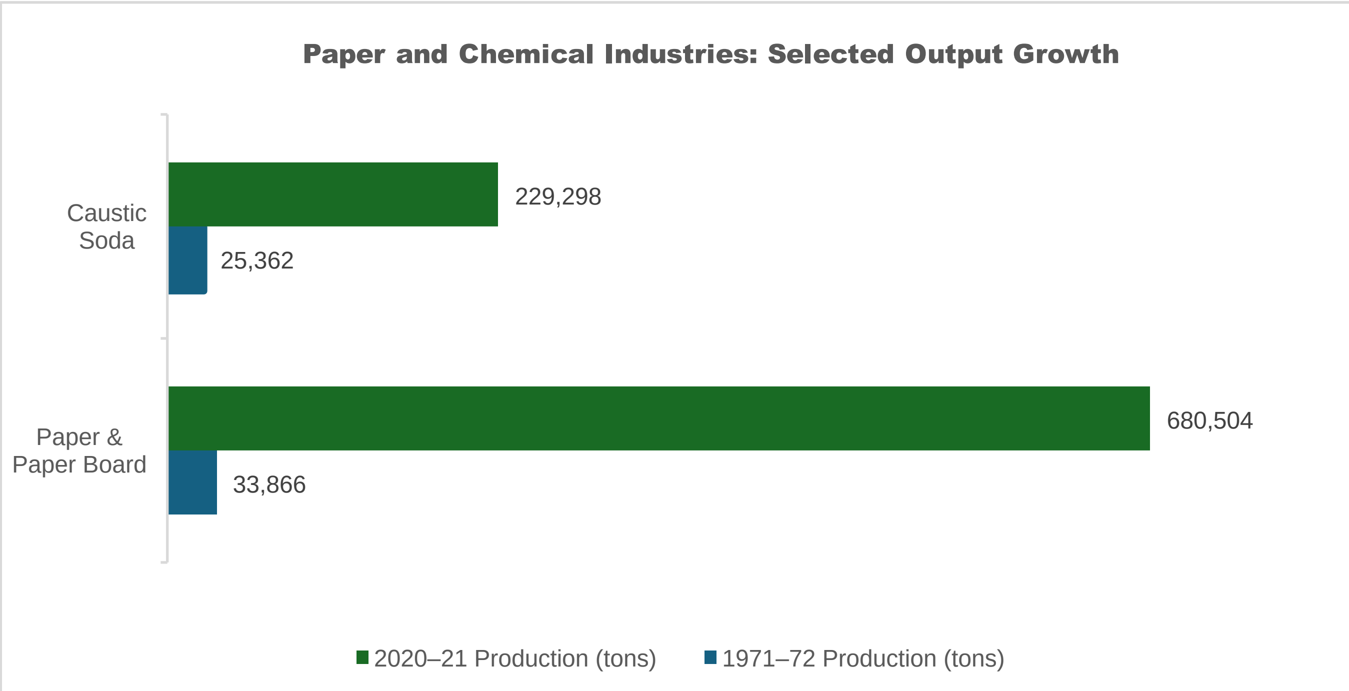


***Source**: Bureau of Statistics, Planning & Development Board, Government of the Punjab — Punjab Development Statistics for 50 Years (1972–2021).*

4. Paper and Chemical Industries Reflect Steady Industrial Scaling

The paper and paper board industry shows a consistent upward trajectory, with production increasing from 33,866 tons in 1971–72 to 680,504 tons in 2020–21. The number of units expanded from 6 to 46, while employment rose from 1,439 to 5,101 workers. This steady growth indicates gradual industrial scaling rather than rapid expansion.

Similarly, the chemical industry shows growth in both production and employment. Caustic soda production increased from 25,362 tons to 229,298 tons, while sulphuric acid production reached 45,473 tons in 2020–21. Employment rose from 861 to 2,626 workers. However, the data also reflects structural changes, including closures noted in footnotes, suggesting that growth has occurred alongside consolidation and reconfiguration within the sector.

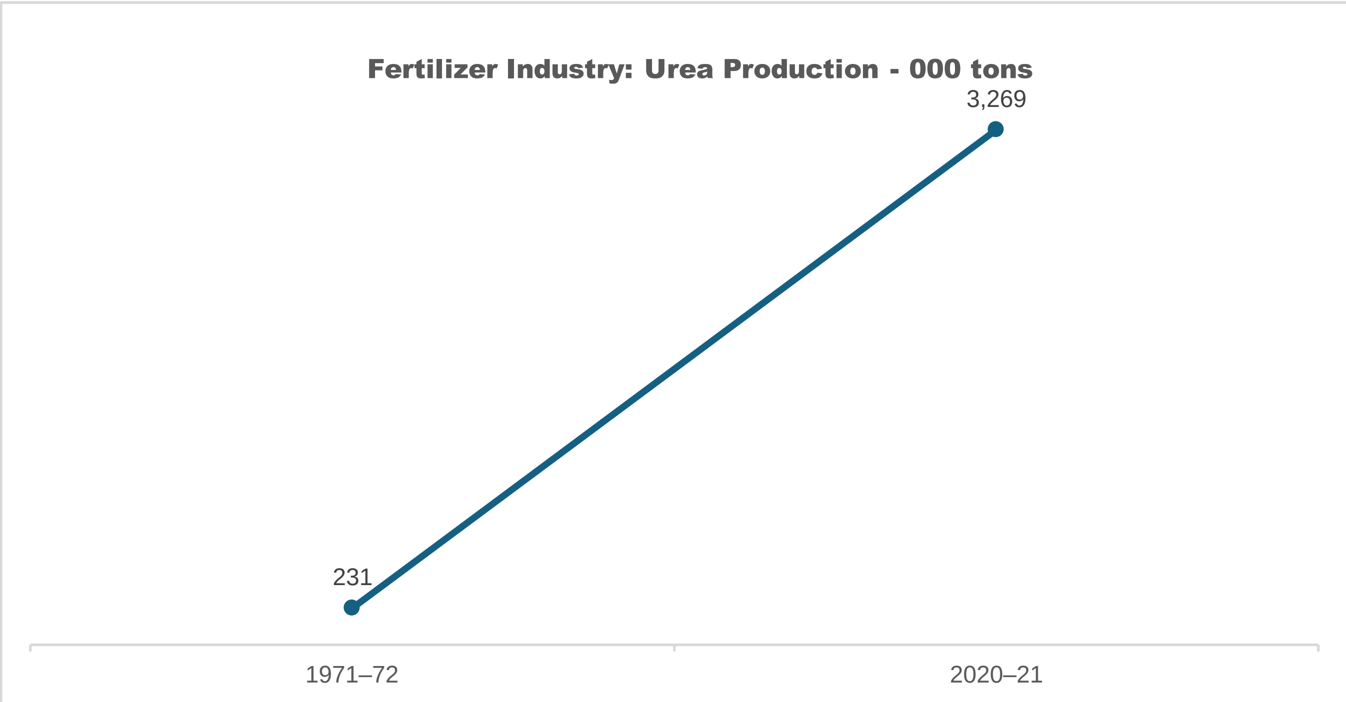


***Source**: Bureau of Statistics, Planning & Development Board, Government of the Punjab — Punjab Development Statistics for 50 Years (1972–2021).*

5. Fertilizer Industry Expands with Shifts in Production Composition

The fertilizer industry has seen significant growth, particularly in urea production, which increased from 231 thousand tons in 1971–72 to 3,269 thousand tons in 2020–21. Employment also rose from 3,388 to 5,700 workers, reflecting expansion in the sector.

At the same time, the composition of production has changed over time. Some fertilizer categories decline or disappear in later years, and footnotes indicate closures of specific plants due to financial constraints. This suggests that while overall output has increased, the industry has undergone structural adjustments, with growth concentrated in certain products rather than evenly distributed across all segments.



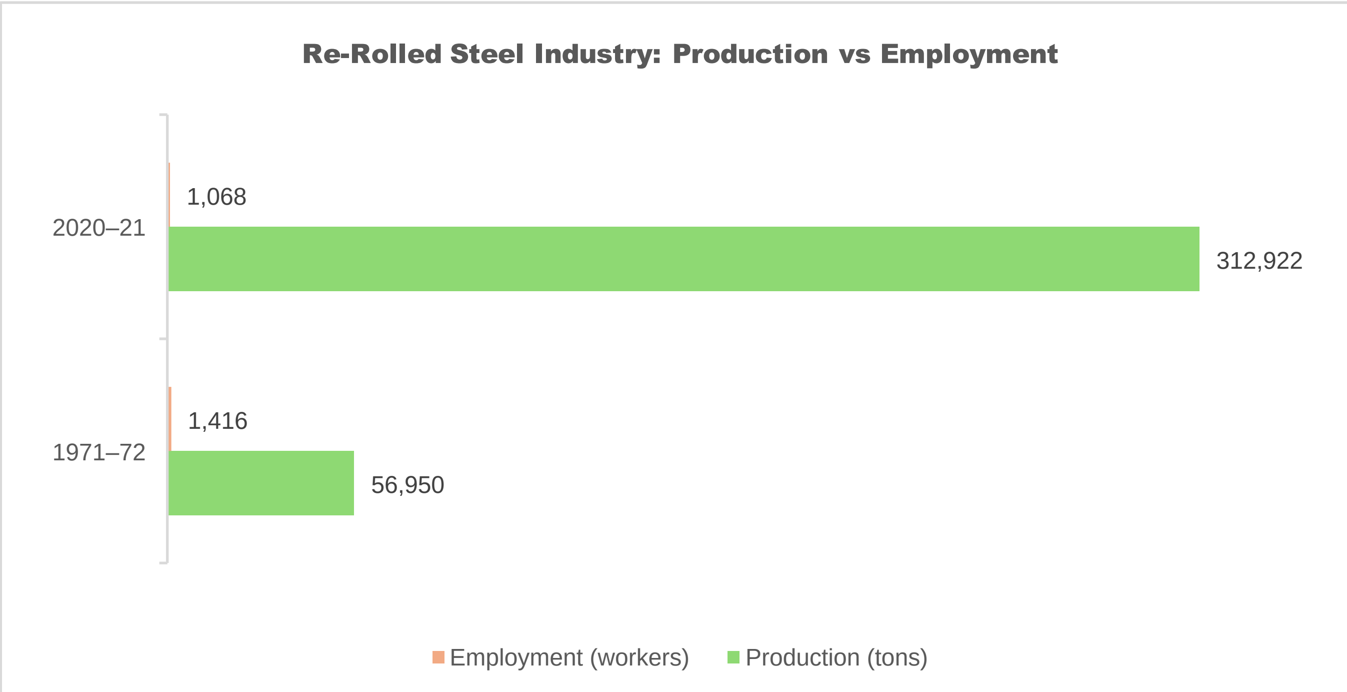
\

***Source**: Bureau of Statistics, Planning & Development Board, Government of the Punjab — Punjab Development Statistics for 50 Years (1972–2021).*

6. Re-Rolled Steel Industry Expands but Becomes Less Labour-Intensive

The re-rolled steel industry shows a clear increase in production, rising from 56,950 tons in 1971–72 to 312,922 tons in 2020–21, alongside a significant increase in installed capacity. The number of units increased from 29 to 41, indicating expansion in industrial coverage.

In contrast, employment declined from 1,416 workers to 1,068 workers over the same period. This divergence between production and employment suggests increased mechanization or efficiency improvements within the industry. Footnotes also point to closures due to raw material shortages and operational constraints, indicating that expansion has occurred alongside structural challenges and consolidation.



***Source**: Bureau of Statistics, Planning & Development Board, Government of the Punjab — Punjab Development Statistics for 50 Years (1972–2021).*

7. Industrial Growth Has Been Strong but Uneven Across Sectors

Across all core industries, the data shows substantial long-term growth in production, capacity, and number of units. However, this growth has not been uniform. Some industries, such as cement, show relatively stable expansion, while others, like sugar and ghee, exhibit volatility driven by external factors.

A consistent pattern across sectors is that production growth has outpaced employment growth, indicating structural changes in how industries operate. In several cases, recent years show stagnation or decline despite strong long-term gains, suggesting that sustaining industrial growth has become more complex. The overall picture is one of expansion combined with increasing variability and sector-specific constraints.

8. Conclusion

Punjab's core manufacturing industries have expanded significantly over the past five decades, reflecting a broad strengthening of the industrial base. However, the data also highlights uneven performance across sectors, with some industries facing volatility, structural shifts, and slowing growth in recent years. The findings suggest that while industrial capacity has grown substantially, maintaining consistent and stable output across sectors remains an ongoing challenge.

Wish to Contribute to Gallup Big Data Analysis?

Gallup Pakistan is looking for collaboration with researchers to expand the Big Data Analysis project. If you have any ideas, please write to Bilal I Gilani, Project Director, Big Data Analysis at Gallup Pakistan.

 This series, and many such initiatives, are internally funded by Gallup Pakistan and Gilani Research Foundation. No outside country or local funding has been received for this current activity.

Gallup Pakistan is not related to Gallup Inc. headquartered in Washington D.C. USA. We require that our surveys be credited fully as Gallup Pakistan (not Gallup or Gallup Poll). We disclaim any responsibility for surveys pertaining to Pakistani public opinion except those carried out by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association.

Contact Details:
Islamabad : +92 51 2655630
Email: isb@gallup.com.pk
www.gallup-international.com