Gallup Pakistan Analysis of Punjab Development Statistics (50 Years)

Light Manufacturing & Engineering Industries

PRESS RELEASE

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Punjab's Textile Industry Expands Sharply as Cotton Yarn Production Rises from 150,705 to 976,627 Tons Over 50 Years

Islamabad, May 15th, 2026

Punjab's manufacturing sector has undergone a structural transformation over the past five decades, with traditional, labour-intensive industries showing stagnation or decline, while engineering and electrical sectors have expanded significantly. Analysis of the *Punjab 50 Years Compendium* (Tables 14.15–14.20) reveals diverging trajectories across industries, reflecting shifts in technology, consumer demand, and industrial organization.

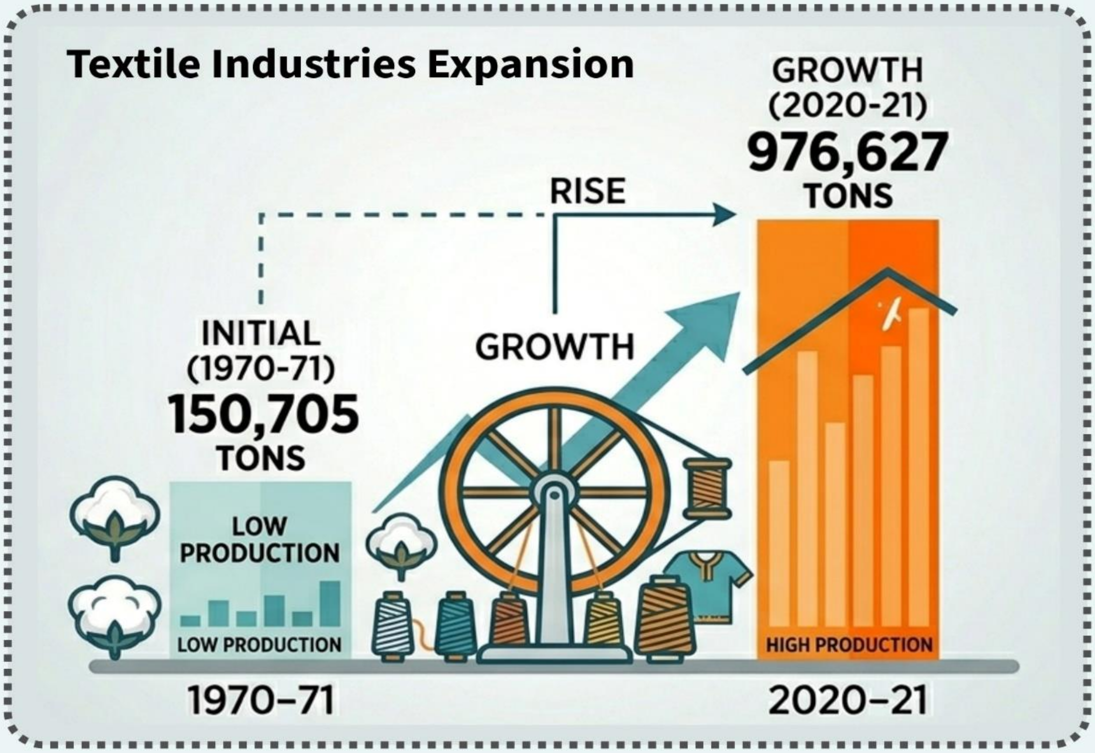
What is the Big Data Analysis Series by Gallup?

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 light manufacturing and engineering industries including textiles, leather, bicycles, tractors, and electrical goods. Indicators include production, installed capacity, number of units, and employment.

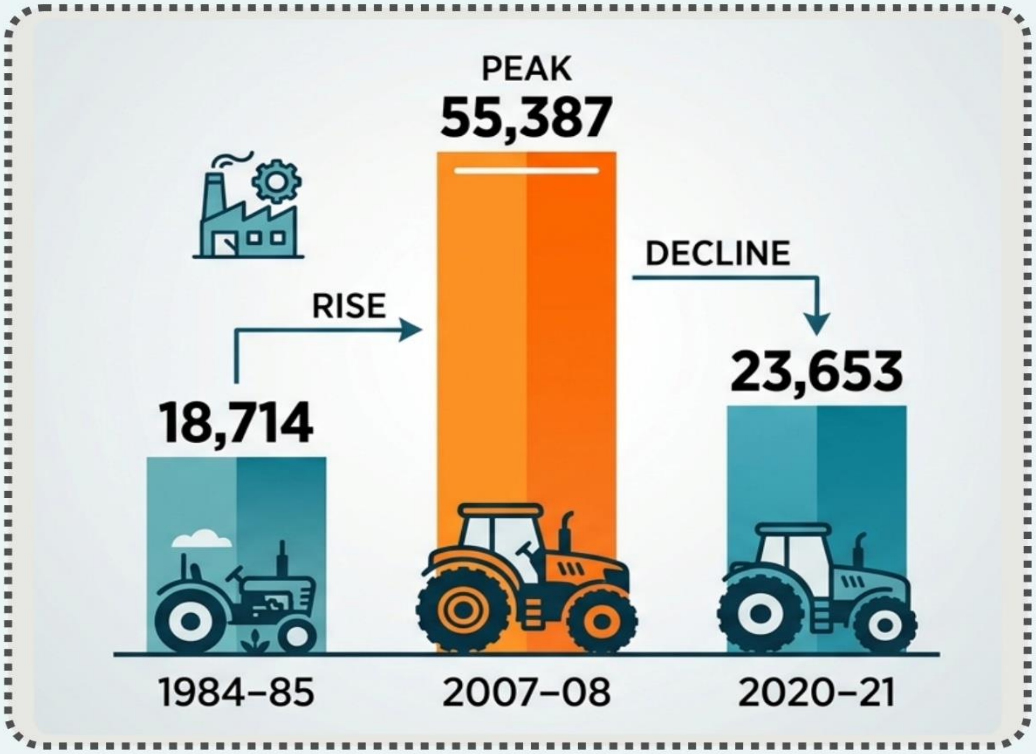
Punjab's Textile Industry Expands Sharply as Cotton Yarn Production Rises from 150,705 to 976,627 Tons Over 50 Years



The textile sector, particularly cotton textiles, shows substantial long-term expansion in industrial scale. The number of units increased from 43 in 1971–72 to 299 in 2020–21, while cotton yarn production rose from 150,705 tons to 976,627 tons. Employment also increased from 861 to 1,519 workers, indicating growth in industrial capacity.

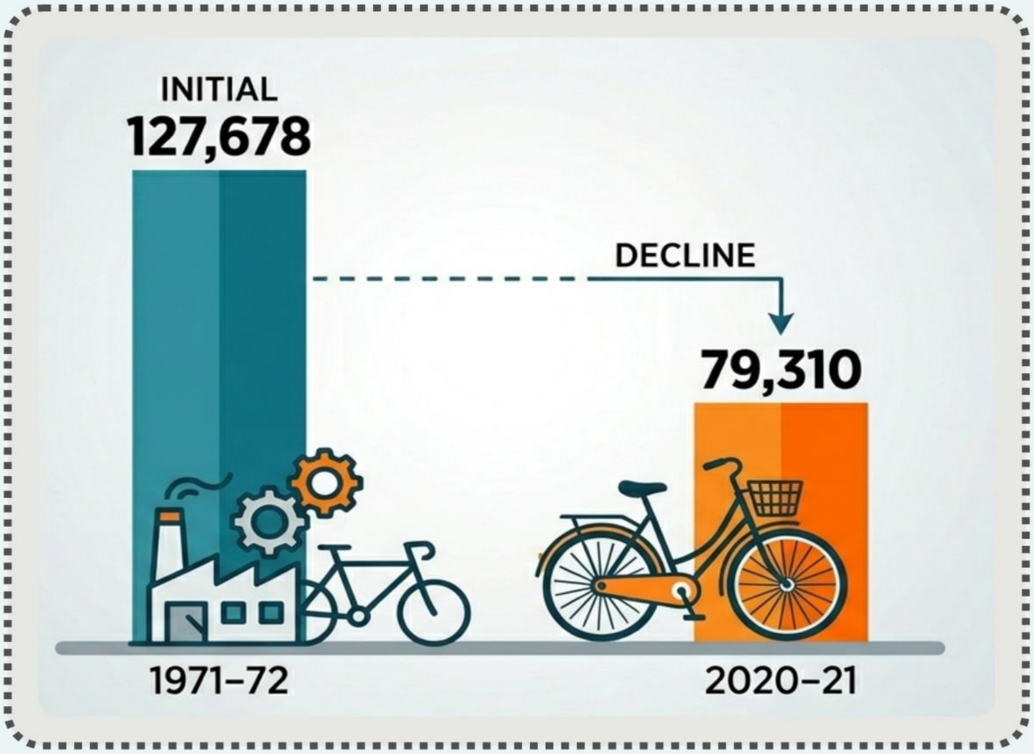
Bureau of Statistics, Planning & Development Board, Government of the Punjab — Punjab Development Statistics for 50 Years (1972–2021).

Tractor Industry Shows Growth Followed by Recent Decline



The tractor industry shows strong expansion in earlier decades, with production rising from 18,714 units in 1984–85 to a peak of 55,387 units in 2007–08. This growth reflects increasing mechanization in agriculture and rising demand for farm equipment.

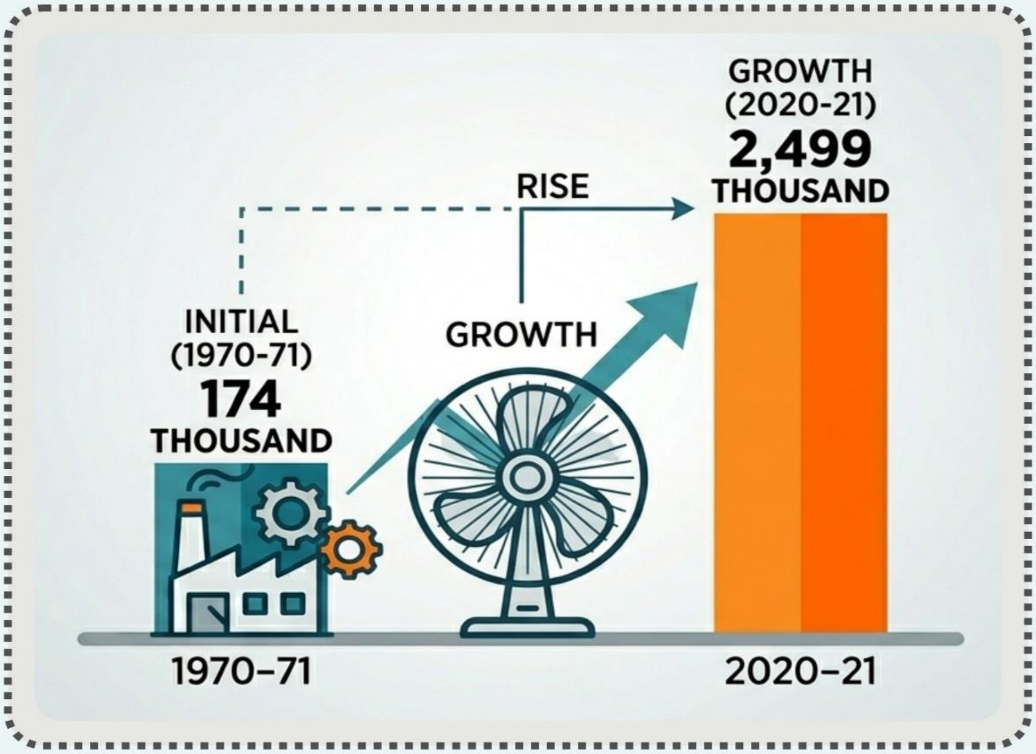
Bicycle Industry Shows Clear Long-Term Decline



The bicycle industry illustrates a clear contraction over time. Production declined from 127,678 units in 1971–72 to 79,310 units in 2020–21, while the number of units covered fell from 4 to 3. Employment also dropped sharply from 2,490 to 686 workers.

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

Electrical Industries Show Steady and Sustained Expansion



Electrical manufacturing industries—including electric fans, motors, and transformers—demonstrate consistent long-term growth. Electric fan production increased from 174 thousand units in 1971–72 to 2,499 thousand units in 2020–21, while the number of units covered expanded from 39 to 126.

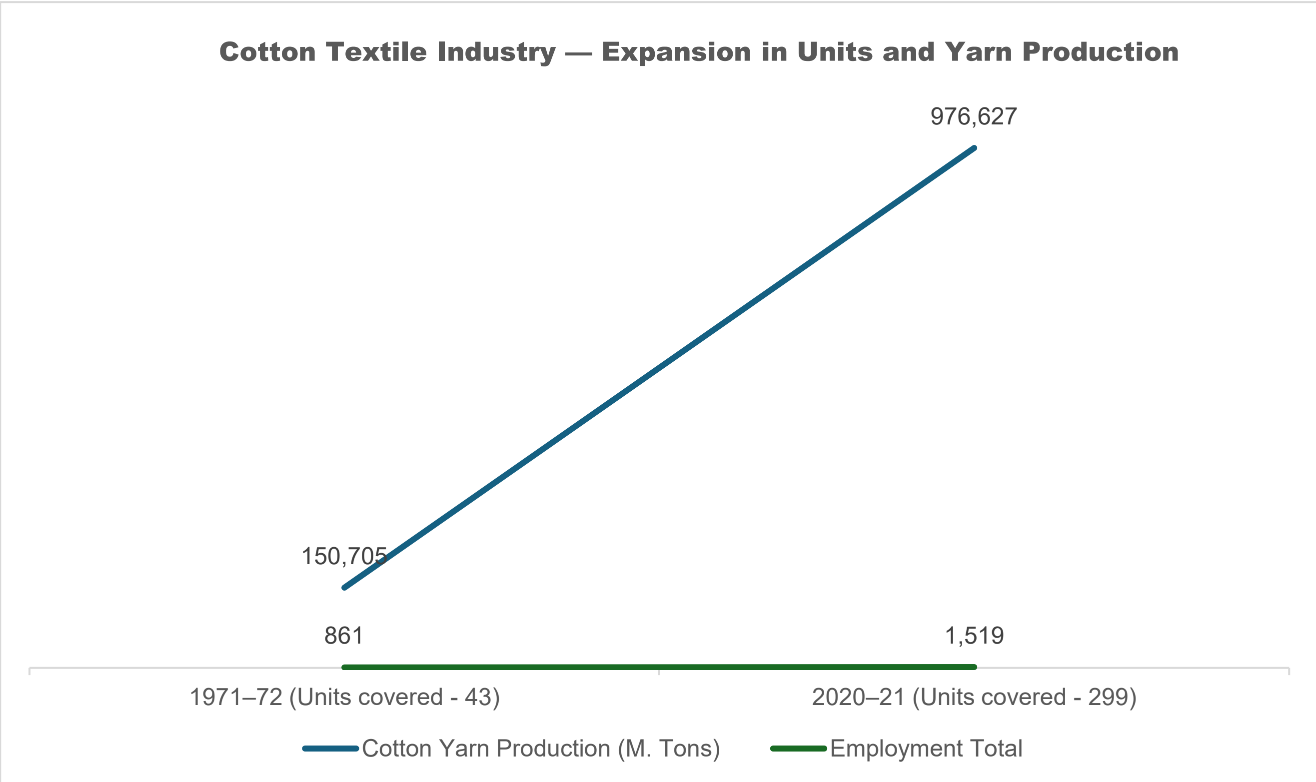
Key Findings:

1. Tractor production rose from 18,714 units in 1984–85 to a peak of 55,387 units in 2007–08, before declining to 23,653 units in 2020–21
2. Bicycle production declined from 127,678 units in 1971–72 to 79,310 units in 2020–21
3. Electric fan production increased from 174 thousand units to 2,499 thousand units, reflecting steady demand growth
4. Electric motor production rose from 13,325 units to 30,054 units, while transformer output increased from 3,884 to 28,781 units
5. Cotton textile production expanded significantly, with yarn output increasing from 150,705 to 976,627 tons
6. Leather and footwear industries grew in scale but show uneven and fluctuating output patterns
7. Diesel engine production declined from 3,383 units to 1,644 units, alongside a sharp fall in employment
8. Overall trends indicate a shift from labour-intensive industries toward mechanized and engineering-based sectors

1. Textile Industries Expand in Scale but Show Uneven Output Trends

The textile sector, particularly cotton textiles, shows substantial long-term expansion in industrial scale. The number of units increased from 43 in 1971–72 to 299 in 2020–21, while cotton yarn production rose from 150,705 tons to 976,627 tons. Employment also increased from 861 to 1,519 workers, indicating growth in industrial capacity.

However, despite this expansion, production trends across textile segments are not consistently smooth, suggesting that output growth has not always kept pace with increases in capacity. Other textile segments such as jute and woolen industries remain limited in scale and show weaker long-term momentum. This indicates that while textiles remain a major industrial sector, their growth has become less dynamic relative to other industries.

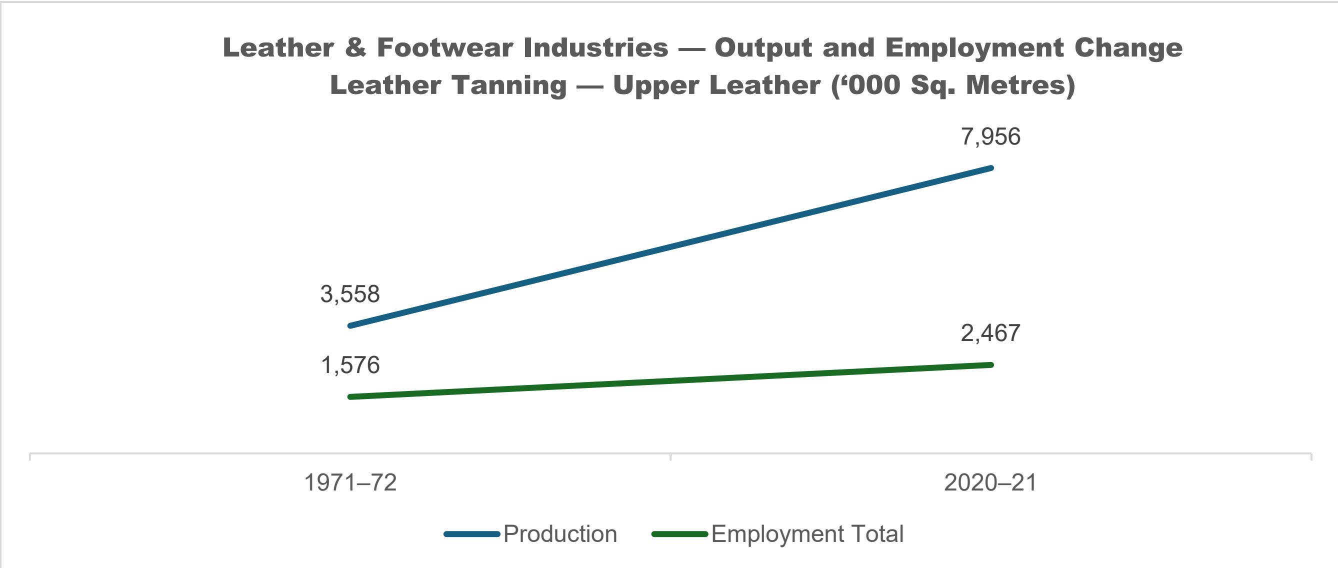


***Source**: Bureau of Statistics, Planning & Development Board, Government of the Punjab — Punjab Development Statistics for 50 Years (1972–2021).*

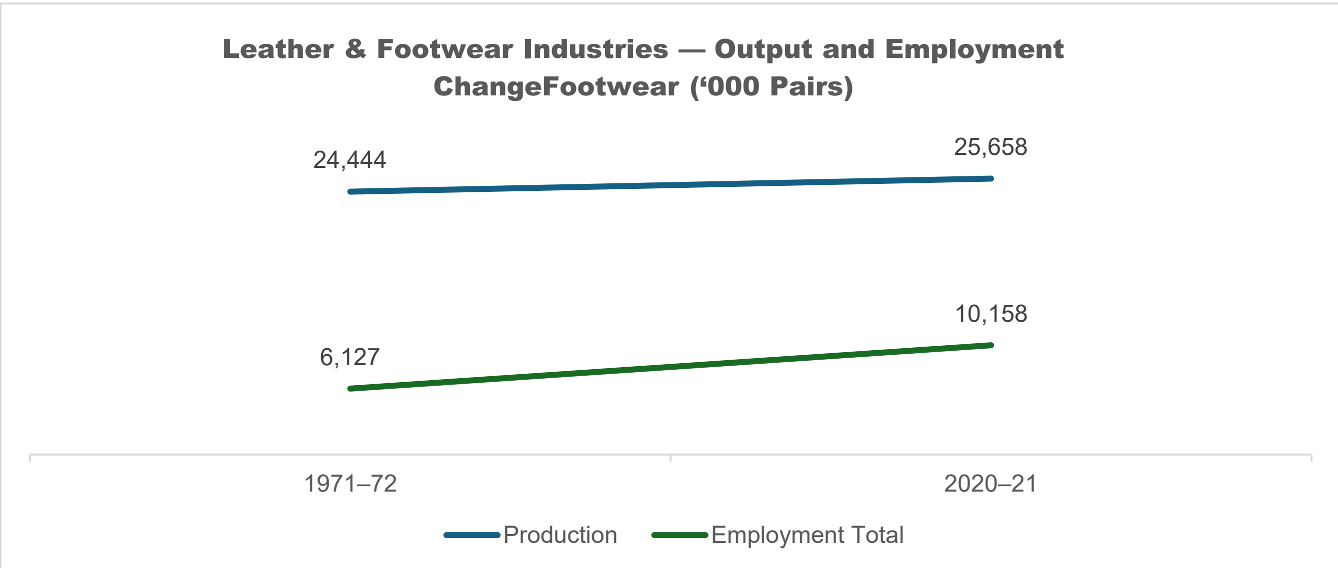
2. **Leather and Footwear Industries Grow but Remain Volatile**

The leather tanning and footwear industries show long-term expansion in production and employment, but with significant variability across years. In leather tanning, upper leather production increased from 3,558 thousand square metres in 1971–72 to 7,956 thousand square metres in 2020–21, while employment rose from 1,576 to 2,467 workers.

Similarly, footwear production increased from 24,444 thousand pairs to 25,658 thousand pairs, with employment rising from 6,127 to 10,158 workers. Despite these increases, output levels fluctuate across the time series, indicating sensitivity to demand conditions and raw material availability. The pattern suggests that while these industries have expanded structurally, their performance remains uneven and subject to external pressures.



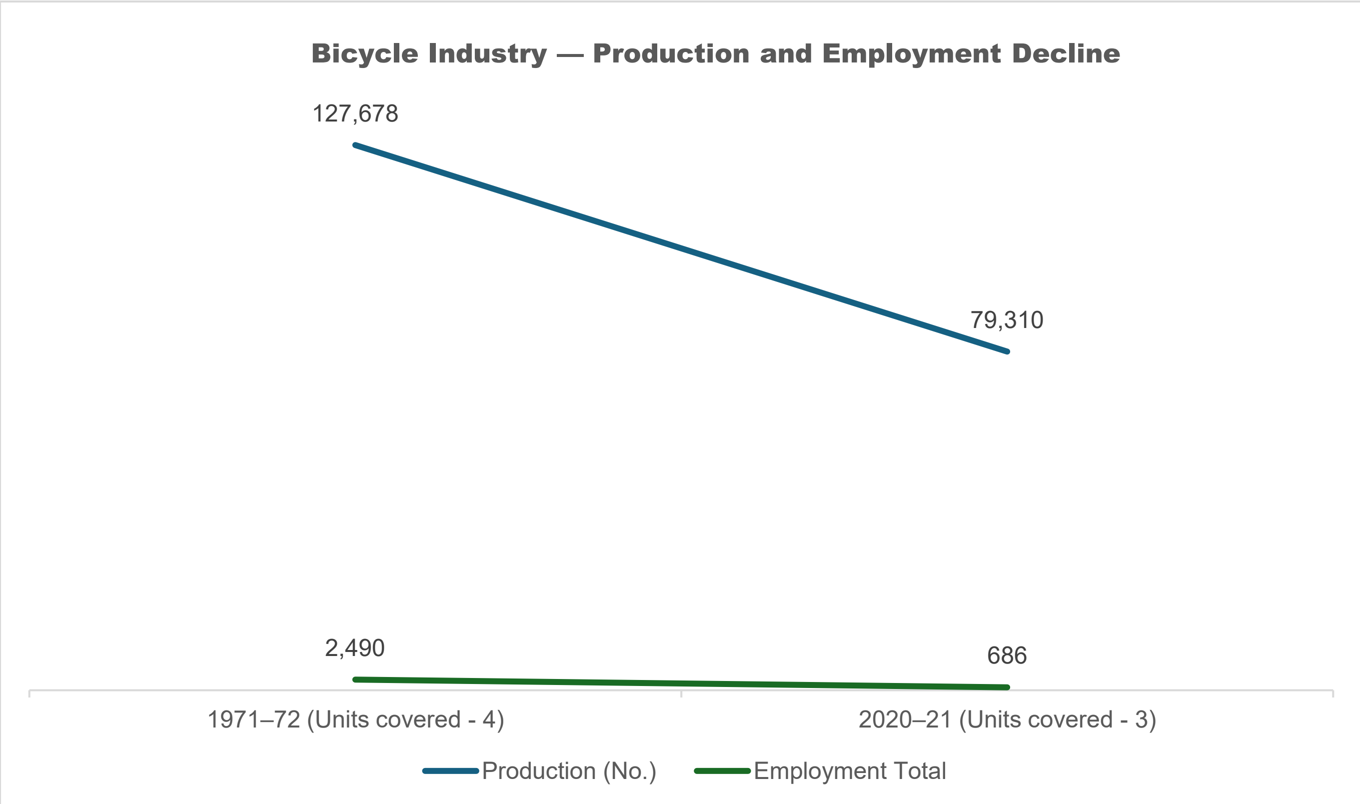
Source: *Bureau of Statistics, Planning & Development Board, Government of the Punjab — Punjab Development Statistics for 50 Years (1972–2021).*



3. **Bicycle Industry Shows Clear Long-Term Decline**

The bicycle industry illustrates a clear contraction over time. Production declined from 127,678 units in 1971–72 to 79,310 units in 2020–21, while the number of units covered fell from 4 to 3. Employment also dropped sharply from 2,490 to 686 workers.

This decline reflects a structural shift in transport preferences, with increasing reliance on motorized vehicles reducing demand for bicycles. Unlike other sectors that have adapted or expanded, the bicycle industry shows a sustained downward trajectory, indicating reduced relevance within the broader manufacturing landscape.

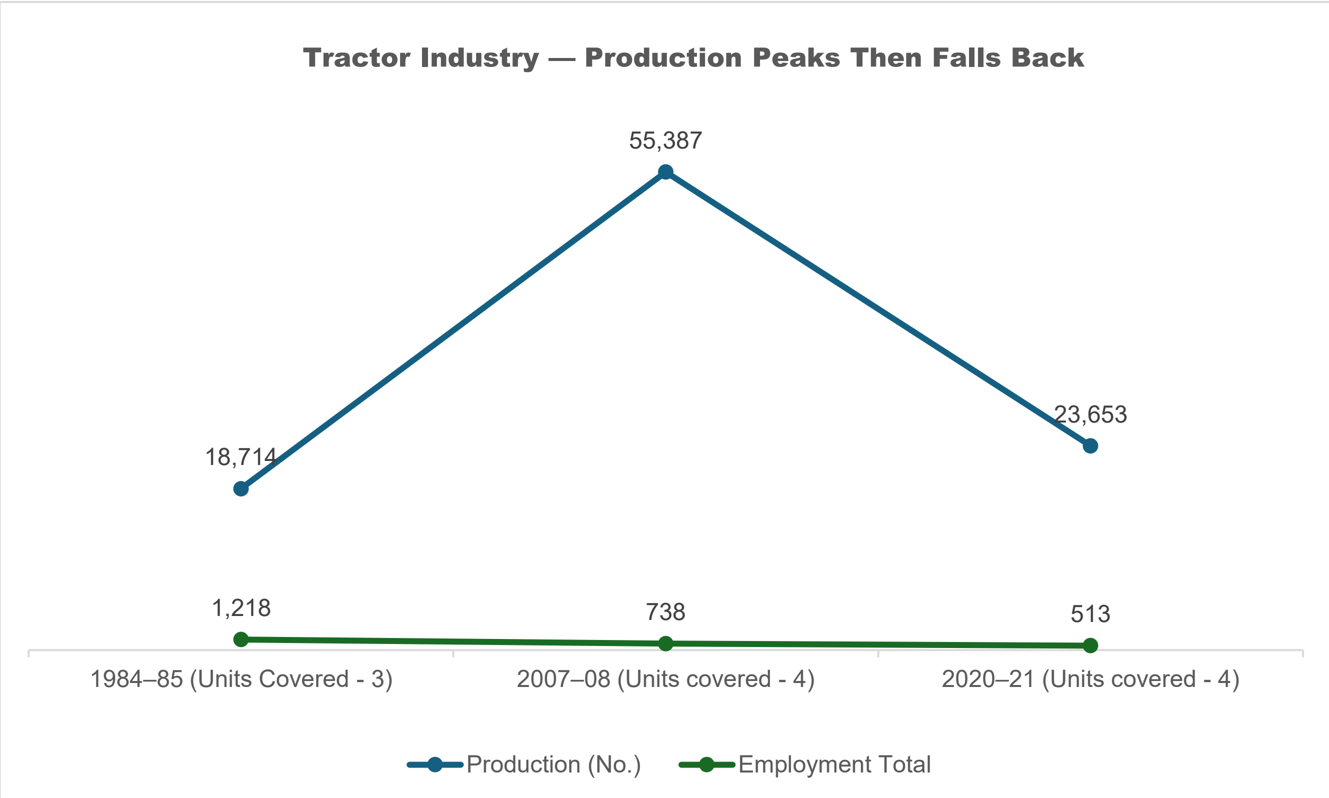


***Source**: Bureau of Statistics, Planning & Development Board, Government of the Punjab — Punjab Development Statistics for 50 Years (1972–2021).*

4. Tractor Industry Shows Growth Followed by Recent Decline

The tractor industry shows strong expansion in earlier decades, with production rising from 18,714 units in 1984–85 to a peak of 55,387 units in 2007–08. This growth reflects increasing mechanization in agriculture and rising demand for farm equipment.

However, the data also shows a significant decline in recent years, with production falling to 23,653 units in 2020–21. Employment similarly declined from earlier levels, reaching 513 workers in the latest year. This pattern suggests that while the industry expanded rapidly during a period of agricultural modernization, it has since experienced contraction, possibly reflecting market saturation or changing demand dynamics.

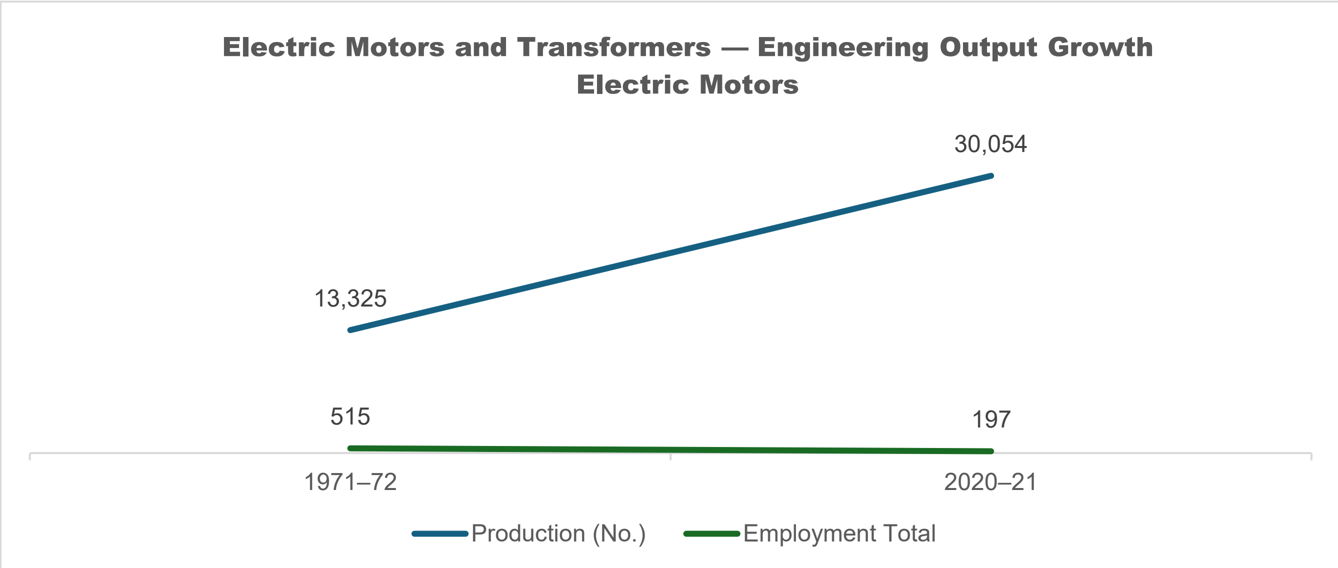


Source: *Bureau of Statistics, Planning & Development Board, Government of the Punjab — Punjab Development Statistics for 50 Years (1972–2021).*

5. Electrical Industries Show Steady and Sustained Expansion

Electrical manufacturing industries—including electric fans, motors, and transformers—demonstrate consistent long-term growth. Electric fan production increased from 174 thousand units in 1971–72 to 2,499 thousand units in 2020–21, while the number of units covered expanded from 39 to 126.

Electric motor production rose from 13,325 to 30,054 units, while transformer production increased from 3,884 to 28,781 units over the same period. These trends reflect increasing electrification, industrial demand, and expansion in consumer and infrastructure-related sectors. Unlike traditional industries, these sectors show sustained growth with relatively stable upward trajectories.



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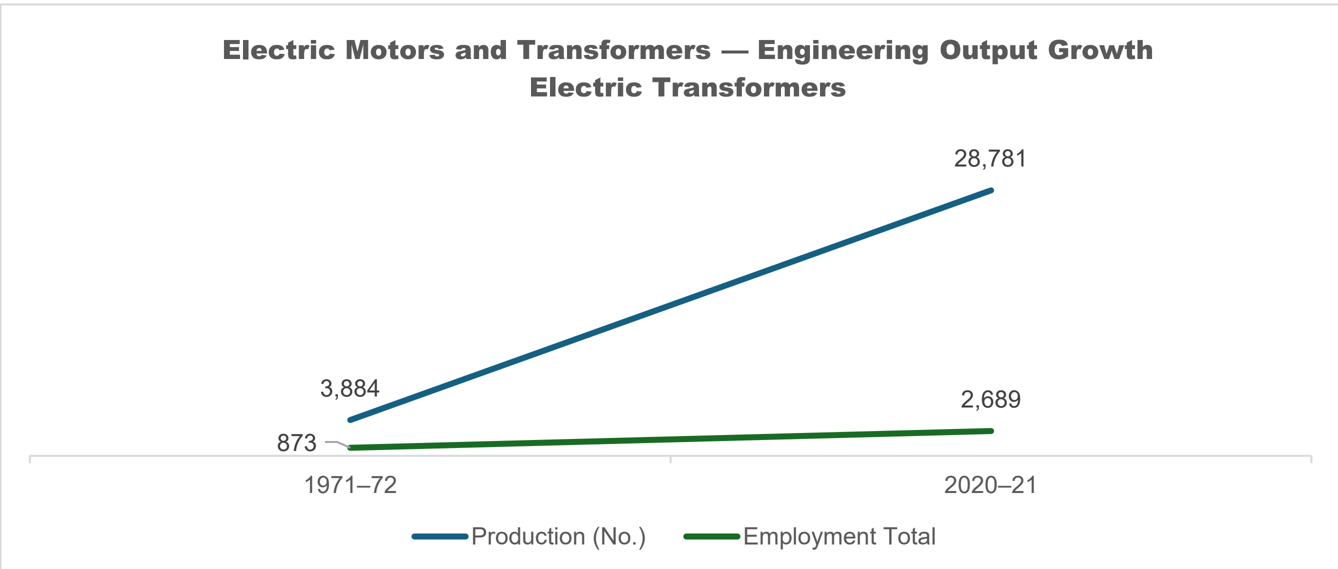
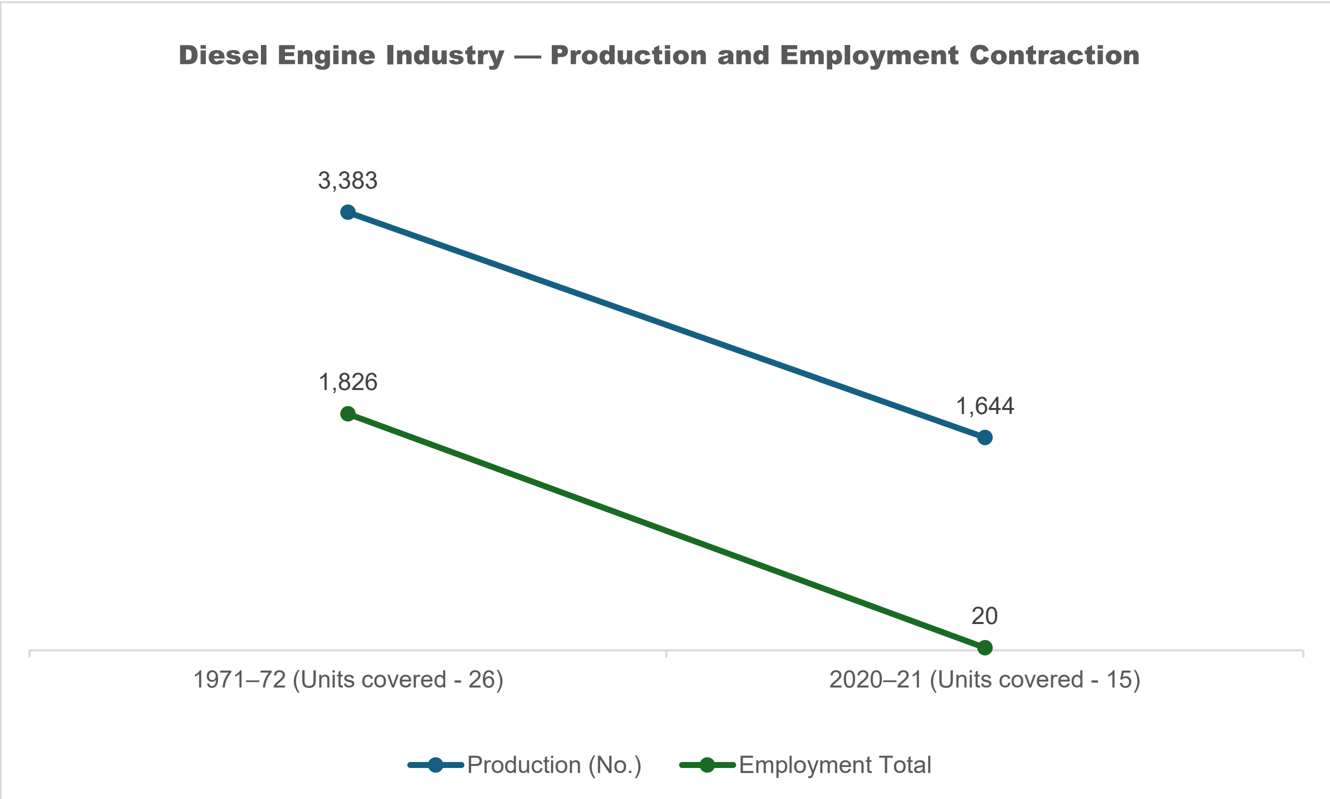


6. Diesel Engine Industry Shows Decline in Production and Employment

The diesel engine industry presents a contrasting trend, with both production and employment declining over time. Production fell from 3,383 units in 1971–72 to 1,644 units in 2020–21, while employment declined sharply from 1,826 workers to just 20 workers.

The number of units also decreased from 26 to 15, indicating contraction in industrial activity. This decline suggests reduced demand for diesel-based equipment or substitution by alternative technologies, highlighting how technological change can significantly reshape industrial sectors.



7. Structural Shift Toward Engineering and Mechanized Production

Taken together, the data reveals a clear structural shift within Punjab's manufacturing sector. Traditional, labour-intensive industries such as bicycles and some textile segments show stagnation or decline, while engineering and electrical industries demonstrate stronger and more sustained growth.

A notable feature of this transition is the divergence between production and employment trends in several sectors, indicating increasing mechanization and efficiency. Growth in tractors and electrical goods reflects rising demand linked to agriculture, infrastructure, and urbanization, while declining sectors highlight changing consumption and technological patterns. The overall trajectory suggests a gradual transition toward a more mechanized and diversified manufacturing base.

Punjab's light manufacturing and engineering industries highlight a broader transformation in the structure of manufacturing over the past 50 years. While some traditional sectors have declined or stagnated, engineering and electrical industries have expanded, reshaping the industrial landscape.

The data indicates that manufacturing growth is increasingly driven by sectors linked to mechanization, electrification, and infrastructure, while older industries face structural pressures. This shift reflects deeper changes in technology, demand, and production systems, pointing toward a more complex and evolving industrial economy.

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.

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