



Bangladesh Garment Sector Union Organizing January 1, 2010 - March 31, 2017

Year Summaries

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
# unions applied for registration to JDL*	1	10	12	158	392	150	130	7	860 ^{1,2}
# unions approved by JDL	-	1	1	84	182	67	77	12	424 ^{3,4}
# unions rejected by JDL	1	7	5	44	155	148	49	8	417 ⁵
# applications withdrawn	-	-	2	0	5	2	3	0	12
# unions pending with JDL as of March 31, 2017									7

Snapshot:

January 1, 2010 - March 31, 2017

% unions approved by JDL	50%
% unions rejected by JDL	49%
Total # union members	90,000+
Total # workers covered	200,000+

2013

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
# unions applied for registration	2	8	9	8	10	16	26	8	10	16	24	21	158 ²
# unions approved by JDL	3	3	11	2	5	7	10	5	10	11	4	13	84 ⁴
# unions rejected by JDL	-	-	-	3	1	4	6	4	7	7	5	7	44 ³

2014

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
# unions applied for registration	33	25	32	28	37	28	33	28	36	29	47	36	392 ²
# unions approved by JDL	15	21	13	21	16	24	15	9	18	11	9	10	182 ⁴
# unions rejected by JDL	4	5	4	16	10	6	22	15	15	19	25	14	155 ⁵
# applications withdrawn	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	5

2015

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
# unions applied for registration	24	24	12	11	12	17	5	12	4	9	13	7	150 ²
# unions approved by JDL	26	4	11	5	3	3	5	2	1	2	1	4	67 ⁴
# unions rejected by JDL	26	25	15	20	9	7	10	13	3	8	4	8	148 ⁵
# applications withdrawn	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2

2016

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
# unions applied for registration	11	22	7	8	9	14	5	10	11	14	10	9	130
# unions approved by JDL	5	3	2	5	10	7	3	9	5	10	8	10	77 ⁴
# unions rejected by JDL	6	3	15	12	2	1	0	2	0	2	1	5	49 ⁵
# applications withdrawn	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3

2017

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
# unions applied for registration	4	0	3										7
# unions approved by JDL	6	5	1										12 ⁴
# unions rejected by JDL	4	1	3										8 ⁵
# applications withdrawn	0	0	0										0

All garment sector union organizing data represents the efforts of Solidarity Center federation allies in Bangladesh, who are politically independent and democratic.

* JDL = Joint Directorate of Labour, which is under the purview of the Bangladesh Ministry of Labour and Employment.

¹ The actual number of factories is 711. Some factory unions applied for registration more than once.

² The dates of union registration applications to the JDL for 78 unions were unavailable. In these cases, submission dates were estimated to be 60 days prior to registration, which is the maximum time granted to the JDL per the Bangladesh Labour Act.

³ The actual number of factories with a union is 398. Some factories have more than one union (per the labor law, three unions maximum per factory are allowed).

⁴ The Solidarity Center is unable to assess the activity levels of all factory-level unions organized since 2010. The number of inactive unions is likely higher.

⁵ The number of rejections may be higher than reported here, so the percentage of unions that received registration after filing may also be lower. Rejection information from federations was not always available.