

Foreword

The Trump administration imposed the Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum, arguing that steel and aluminum imports posed a threat to U.S. national security. In March 2025, he announced a 25% tariff on steel and aluminum imports. On June 3, 2025, he issued an announcement raising tariffs on steel, aluminum, and their derivatives (final products) from 25% to 50% under Section 232, effective June 4, 2025.

Further info on Section 232 tariffs: If goods are subject to the 25% Section 232 tariff on vehicles and auto parts, they are no longer subject to the 50% Section 232 tariff on steel, aluminum, and their derivatives. The steel and aluminum tariff is to protect the U.S. steel and aluminum industries and reduce dependence on foreign products. The Trump administration also views raising tariffs as a trade negotiation strategy, hoping to use it to pressure other countries into reaching more favorable trade agreements.

The potential impact of the Trump administration's increase in tariffs on steel and aluminum products is as follows:

- (1) **Increased import costs:** The increase in tariffs has directly led to a significant rise in the cost of imported steel and aluminum products in the U.S.
- (2) Impact on downstream industries: Many industries using steel and aluminum as materials, such as the automotive and canned food industries, will face pressure from rising costs.
- (3) Tensions in international trade relations: The increase in tariffs has sparked strong opposition from other countries and may lead to strained relations between trading partners.
- (4) Impact on the U.S. steel industry: While higher tariffs may help protect the U.S. steel industry, they could also lead to rising steel prices domestically, which in turn could affect downstream industries.

Most fasteners fall under the category of steel and aluminum products, meaning they are subject to the U.S. tariff rates for steel and aluminum products. However, most fasteners are end-user products, which, while increasing U.S. import costs, do not require further processing by downstream industries and thus do not face additional cost pressures. Therefore, by analyzing changes in U.S. Customs' import statistics before and after the imposition of tariffs on imported steel and aluminum products, one can generally assess the extent of the impact of U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs on imported fasteners and future trends.

1. Statistics on the Values of Fasteners Imported into the U.S. in 2025

Based on U.S. monthly import statistics for Jan-May 2025 and classified by fastener type according to HTS codes, the monthly import values of fasteners into the U.S. are shown in *Table 1*.

Table 1 shows that, according to U.S. Customs' monthly import statistics, the import value of various fasteners decreased after the imposition of tariffs on steel and aluminum, but the decrease was not significant. The

data in Table 1 indicate that while tariffs have increased import costs for the U.S., there has been no noticeable decline in demand due to these increased costs. Table 1 does not yet include statistical data on the tariff increase from 25% to 50%, so the impact of subsequent tariff changes on U.S. fastener imports remains unknown.

	Table 1. U.S. Monthly Import Statistics for Jan-May 2025 (Unit: USD)									
HTS Code	Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	5-Month Total			
731815	2025	258,456,625	228,426,620	253,358,544	232,601,890	230,660,239	1,203,503,918			
731816	2025	124,376,166	110,538,284	116,671,168	108,524,835	115,442,131	575,552,584			
731814	2025	105,907,863	91,937,966	105,591,264	93,759,543	87,780,666	484,977,302			
731829	2025	32,994,092	29,490,130	29,315,766	29,651,292	29,394,095	150,845,375			
731822	2025	27,727,586	25,828,285	24,160,760	23,402,185	23,455,604	124,574,420			
731819	2025	13,680,797	13,305,291	12,418,964	12,898,520	13,337,740	65,641,312			
731821	2025	6,379,305	6,886,438	7,484,214	6,437,268	6,017,779	33,205,004			
731824	2025	5,776,435	5,179,873	6,663,874	5,968,410	7,475,011	31,063,603			
731823	2025	5,450,619	5,973,439	5,061,674	4,156,896	4,469,293	25,111,921			
731812	2025	1,949,006	2,209,298	2,286,870	1,861,646	2,404,530	10,711,350			
731811	2025	1,694,528	1,515,982	1,847,910	1,440,708	1,698,668	8,197,796			
731813	2025	1,922,060	1,262,893	1,175,228	1,159,429	1,395,944	6,915,554			
Monthly	Total	586,315,082	522,554,499	566,036,236	521,862,622	523,531,700				
			Soi	urce: U.S. Custom	S					

2. Changes in Import Values from Supplier Countries Before and After U.S. Tariff Imposition on Steel and Aluminum Imports

According to U.S. monthly import statistics for Jan-May 2025, the changes in import values of various fasteners by country of origin are shown in *Tables 2-1* to 2-12, which clearly indicate the main countries of origin for various fasteners as follows:

The main suppliers of fasteners with HTS code 731811 (Table 2-1) were China, Taiwan, Thailand, and India. China did not reduce its exports to the U.S. even though it faced the extra tariffs imposed on steel and aluminum imports.

Table 2-1. U.S. Import Values from Suppliers of Fasteners with HTS Code 731811									
Country	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total			
China	90,400	140,494	100,639	56,473	112,445	500,451			
Taiwan	23,675	23,355	32,054	17,248	19,022	115,354			
Thailand	16,621	8,769	14,981	15,489	20,750	76,610			
India	238	1,864	5,020	1,755	7,628	16,505			
Germany	947	0	3,505	0	143	4,595			

The main suppliers of fasteners with HTS code 731812 (Table 2-2) were: Taiwan, China, and Canada. The value of Taiwan's exports to the US decreased due to the tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, while the values of China's and Canada's exports to the US did not reduce.

Table 2-2. U.S. Import Values from Suppliers of Fasteners with HTS Code 731812									
Country	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total			
Taiwan	118,910	109,951	96,455	79,133	86,467	490,916			
China	41,541	61,081	67,523	69,779	51,359	291,283			
Canada	11,308	8,987	3,618	6,383	17,315	47,611			
Vietnam	370	1,655	4,666	6,744	17,613	31,048			
Germany	563	4,480	3,299	1,238	4,576	14,156			

The main suppliers of fasteners with HTS code 731813 (Table 2-3) were: China, S. Korea, Vietnam, and Taiwan. The values of these 4 countries' exports to the U.S. all reduced due to the imposition of tariffs on steel and aluminum imports.

Table	Table 2-3. U.S. Import Values from Suppliers of Fasteners with HTS Code 731813								
Country	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total			
China	103,090	65,683	88,189	57,458	60,505	374,925			
S. Korea	11,617	9,884	19,605	8,982	16,517	66,605			
Vietnam	8,692	13,046	13,226	656	2,730	38,350			
Taiwan	10,149	5,059	8,465	1,460	7,203	32,336			
UK	3,916	5,160	2,000	7,195	695	18,966			

Fasteners with HTS code 731814 (Table 2-4) were supplied by the largest number of countries and faced the most intense competition. The main supplying countries were Taiwan, China, Vietnam, Japan, Thailand, etc. The values of all countries' exports to the U.S. reduced due to the imposition of tariffs on steel and aluminum imports.

Tab	Table 2-4. U.S. Import Values from Suppliers of Fasteners with HTS Code 731814									
Country	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total				
Taiwan	5,109,455	4,785,264	5,919,639	4,769,862	5,154,523	25,738,743				
China	847,670	574,691	746,044	643,489	612,574	3,424,468				
Vietnam	114,041	53,465	165,928	92,929	108,439	534,802				
Japan	94,116	84,245	135,957	99,085	102,242	515,645				
Thailand	111,249	61,810	89,768	59,749	69,387	391,963				

Fasteners with HTS code 731815 (*Table 2-5*) had the highest import value and were supplied by many countries. The main supplying countries were China, Taiwan, India, Japan, South Korea, etc. Most of them saw a decrease in exports to the US due to the imposition of tariffs on steel and aluminum products. However, a few countries were not affected and instead increased their exports of fasteners to the US (e.g., Italy, France, Germany, the UK, and some other European countries).

Tab	Table 2-5. U.S. Import Values from Suppliers of Fasteners with HTS Code 731815									
Country	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total				
China	6,210,006	4,989,891	5,033,467	3,796,414	4,732,596	24,762,374				
Taiwan	3,502,201	3,667,660	6,279,149	3,091,696	3,459,534	20,000,240				
India	1,330,409	1,128,562	1,571,032	1,238,884	1,413,502	6,682,389				
Japan	1,235,793	816,160	1,381,375	1,181,979	1,145,303	5,760,610				
S. Korea	848,536	655,569	968,753	717,149	1,051,299	4,241,306				

Fasteners with HTS code 731816 (*Table 2-6*) were supplied by many countries, with the main suppliers being China, Taiwan, Japan, India, S. Korea, etc. Japanese products were only minimally affected by the additional tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, while China and Taiwan did not appear a significant decrease in the proportion of their exports to the U.S.

Table 2-	Table 2-6. U.S. Import Values from Suppliers of Fasteners with HTS Code 731816									
Country	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total				
China	3,805,090	2,567,494	2,915,852	2,110,391	2,511,417	13,910,244				
Taiwan	2,009,506	2,206,373	3,382,007	2,163,330	2,312,737	12,073,953				
Japan	726,499	413,336	666,378	746,793	600,336	3,153,342				
India	308,622	249,483	304,378	271,676	296,483	1,430,642				
S. Korea	238,338	254,893	320,075	264,295	330,894	1,408,495				

Fasteners with HTS code 731819 (*Table 2-7*) were mainly supplied by China, Taiwan, Germany, India, and Japan. Germany and some European countries subject to the steel and aluminum tariffs decreased their values of exports to the U.S. after April. Taiwan and China were also affected to a similar extent as other major supplier countries, with the values of exports to the U.S. approaching those prior to U.S. announcement of tariffs on steel and aluminum imports in February.

Table 2-7. U.S. Import Values from Suppliers of Fasteners with HTS Code 731819 Feb. Mar. Total Country Jan. Apr. Mav 194,827 167,281 222,346 193,589 China 508,187 1,286,230 105,258 83,321 73,618 87,755 88.585 438,537 Taiwan 66,050 102,308 95,949 69,169 58,910 392,386 Germany 64,103 37,302 95,903 71,370 102,396 371,074 India 24,365 10,429 69,197 18,111 15,875 137,977 Japan



Fasteners with HTS code 731821 (*Table 2-8*) were mainly supplied by China, Germany, Taiwan, Italy, and India. Germany saw an increase rather than a decrease in April, making it the country with the largest increase in import value for this type of fastener compared to other countries.

Table 2-8. U.S. Import Values from Suppliers of Fasteners with HTS Code 731821									
Country	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total			
China	126,394	102,544	74,145	66,061	83,530	452,674			
Germany	49,311	81,902	70,021	78,739	86,702	366,675			
Taiwan	40,615	32,141	46,496	22,693	15,674	157,619			
Italy	14,783	20,215	25,069	28,306	17,360	105,733			
India	14,991	12,363	15,574	9,988	17,988	70,904			

Fasteners with HTS code 731822 (*Table 2-9*) were mainly supplied by China, Taiwan, India, and Japan. Compared with the import values before the announcement of extra tariffs on steel and aluminum imports in February, the import values from Japan and Germany increased slightly. The import value from China decreased significantly, but increased slightly again in May. The extent of impact on Taiwan and India, as well as the changes in import values and the differences, will require further observation.

Tab	Table 2-9. U.S. Import Values from Suppliers of Fasteners with HTS Code 731822								
Country	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total			
China	1,196,357	862,197	739,063	640,012	717,277	4,154,906			
Taiwan	336,941	326,652	307,493	289,346	326,642	1,587,074			
India	209,630	184,861	223,213	162,353	229,491	1,009,548			
Japan	147,538	114,490	146,329	154,288	141,602	704,247			
Germany	46,480	28,672	56,141	80,973	77,663	289,929			

Fasteners with HTS code 731823 (*Table 2-10*) were mainly supplied by Taiwan, China, France, Japan, and Germany.

Table	Table 2-10. U.S. Import Values from Suppliers of Fasteners with HTS Code 731823									
Country	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total				
Taiwan	71,927	72,772	79,882	64,591	62,028	351,200				
China	68,000	76,656	70,394	55,133	42,758	312,941				
France	32,693	58,101	6,363	5,776	10,467	113,400				
Japan	13,622	9,576	17,175	16,046	13,592	70,011				
Germany	5,609	15,186	12,019	12,400	16,350	61,564				

Prilling Diameter (metric) ### ANSI-B212.15 ### ANSI-B212.15 ### To the first in information information from the desired and the metric of the principle of

Mobile: 86-151-3204-0901 | Email: dc_metal@126.com | www.dropinanchor.com

Table	Table 2-11. U.S. Import Values from Suppliers of Fasteners with HTS Code 731824									
Country	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total				
China	76,151	64,716	83,330	44,356	62,314	330,867				
Japan	48,521	43,027	50,522	67,498	44,055	253,623				
Czech	33,011	33,847	49,865	62,350	71,033	250,106				
Taiwan	9,882	20,321	10,829	21,251	16,581	78,864				
Italy	9,267	10,714	20,220	19,846	16,082	76,129				

Fasteners with HTS code 731829 (*Table 2-12*) were mainly supplied by China, Taiwan, India, Japan, and Germany. Except for an increase in the import from Germany, the impact on other countries was similar.

Tabl	Table 2-12. U.S. Import Values from Suppliers of Fasteners with HTS Code 731829									
Country	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total				
China	320,964	274,077	277,896	276,302	294,984	1,444,223				
Taiwan	257,194	243,497	228,131	210,742	157,045	1,096,609				
India	150,548	174,956	150,506	125,561	156,125	757,696				
Japan	107,206	83,992	139,330	138,026	116,820	585,374				
Germany	81,932	69,886	88,320	103,474	90,250	433,862				



3. Overall Observation

The Trump administration's increase in tariffs on steel and aluminum products has significantly increased the cost of importing fasteners for U.S. businesses, creating obstacles to sales and profits in the fastener market. However, when comparing the import values before and after the imposition of tariffs, and observing the changes in import values and differences among various types of fasteners, the total import value of fasteners into the U.S. remained slightly lower than before the tariff hikes, there has been no unusual increase or decrease in demand resulting from the tariff adjustments. Particularly for China, the largest supplier of fasteners to



the U.S., the results show no significant changes in demand. China remained the largest supplier of fasteners to the U.S., and the volume and value of fastener supplies from China have not been significantly affected by the U.S. tariff hikes on steel and aluminum imports.

In addition to China, Taiwan, Japan, Germany, and other European countries being the main suppliers, US fastener importers continue to seek lower-priced fasteners of various types due to rising product costs. Other countries such as India and Southeast Asian nations like Vietnam and Thailand are also expanding their presence in the U.S. fastener market with lower-priced fasteners. Following the increase in tariffs on steel and aluminum products, the fastener market, which is primarily influenced by countries such as India and Southeast Asian nations like Vietnam and Thailand. may result in a reduction in the value of fastener imports into the U.S. market from regions supplying mid-to-low-priced products (e.g., Taiwan, South Korea, and the Czech Rep. in Europe).

U.S. imported fasteners include those used in automobiles and auto parts, but there is no specific statistical information on the quantity or value of such products. The U.S. Customs' public information does not provide specific data on the quantity or value of U.S. imported fasteners used in automobiles and auto parts, either. Therefore, there is no statistical information available to determine the actual demand changes resulting from the 50% tariff increase on U.S. imported fasteners.

From the perspective of US demand for imported fasteners, the supply of domestically produced fasteners in the US is far below domestic market demand. Regardless of whether tariffs on steel and aluminum products are raised, the US needs to import large quantities of fasteners to meet market demand. Therefore, there are many fastener importers in the U.S., who use sufficient import supplies to make up for the shortfall in domestic fastener production. Based on an assessment of the supply and demand in the US fastener market, if the U.S. fastener manufacturing industry is unable to increase the fastener supply in the short term, and given that the supply in the fastener import industry is already adequate, even if tariffs on steel and aluminum products are increased, causing a significant increase in the cost of imported fasteners, this will not affect the overall quantity or value of imported fasteners, nor will it have a significant impact on the

US fastener supply chain. The U.S. imposition of tariffs on steel and aluminum has not resulted in differential treatment among global fastener suppliers. All global fastener suppliers face the same competitive conditions in terms of tariffs when entering the U.S. market. Therefore, there has been no significant actual impact on the overall demand for imported fasteners in the U.S. Following the imposition of tariffs on steel and aluminum by the U.S., it remains to be seen whether this will have a substantial impact on fastener suppliers that already have FTAs with the U.S. (e.g., Canada and Mexico under the NAFTA). If the U.S. fastener manufacturing industry does not use domestically sourced steels, it will also raise fastener prices in line with the material cost increase. Due to the increase in the cost of imported fasteners in the U.S. caused by the imposition of steel and aluminum tariffs, the prices of fasteners in the U.S. will rise, resulting in price increases for fasteners applicable or not applicable to automobiles and automobile parts. Therefore, U.S. fastener manufacturers and importers will inevitably reflect the steel and aluminum tariffs in the market prices of fasteners.

Copyright owned by Fastener World / Article by Wei-Ming Wang

