


What Happened with U.S. Fasteners in Q1 of 2014?

by Cori Rogers

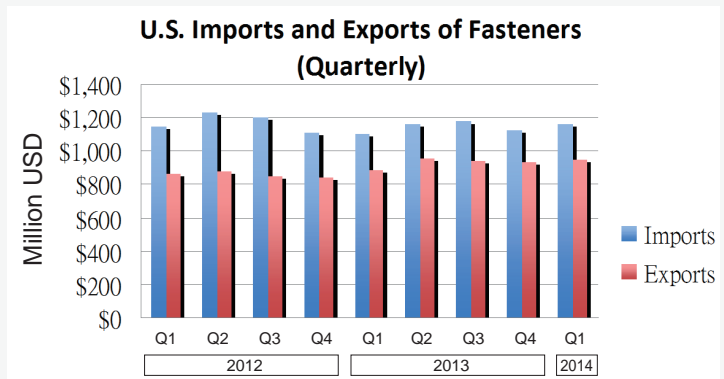
Graph source: 

Is the Trade Gap Closing between U.S. Imports and Exports of Fasteners?

The United States has consistently had extremely large trade in the fastener industry and in the past few years that growth has continued. Quarterly values of U.S. imports and exports have shown some interesting trends on what's happening in the industry. U.S. imports of fasteners, by quarter, have remained consistent with its ups and downs since 2012, but in the first quarter (Q1) of 2014, U.S. imports were up 5.4% from Q1 of 2013, with a total of over \$1.16 billion imported.

Unlike the wavering quarterly values of fastener imports, U.S. exports of fasteners have consistently trended upward. U.S. export values of fasteners in Q1 of 2012 had a total value of \$866 million. That number

shifted to about \$888 million in Q1 of 2013, and then up to over \$952 million in Q1 of 2014. From 2012 to 2014, exports of fasteners have increased nearly 10%. If that trend continues, the U.S. trade gap for fasteners could close by 2016.



U.S. Imports and Exports of Fasteners by Quarter

HTS Code	2012 Q1	2012 Q2	2012 Q3	2012 Q4	2013 Q1	2013 Q2	2013 Q3	2013 Q4	2014 Q1
Imports	\$1,145,785,473	\$1,233,767,993	\$1,198,837,745	\$1,109,933,912	\$1,103,272,102	\$1,162,827,516	\$1,174,429,349	\$1,121,247,855	\$1,162,587,617
Exports	\$866,504,500	\$879,235,256	\$851,133,097	\$844,190,157	\$888,849,099	\$956,724,019	\$939,795,391	\$933,420,754	\$952,283,453

Top U.S. Imported Products for Q1 of 2014

The top U.S. fastener imports of Q1 of 2014 were threaded nuts of iron or steel (HTS 7318.16.0085), self-tapping screws (HTS 7318.14.1060), and non-threaded fasteners of iron or steel (HTS 7318.29.0000). Threaded nuts accounted for 17.3% of all U.S. fastener imports with a total value of over \$200 million in Q1 of 2014. Threaded screws have also increased in imports from last quarter by 5.9% and from Q1 of 2013 by nearly 11%. Self-tapping screws accounted for 10% of U.S. fastener imports, also a significant percentage of total goods and had a total value in Q1 of 2014 of \$117 million. Self-tapping screws import values increased from last quarter by 9.1% but were slightly down from Q1 of 2013 by 0.5%.

Top 10 U.S. Fastener Imports (Quarterly)

HTS Code	2013 Q1	% Change Q1 of 2013 to Q1 of 2014	2013 Q4	% Change from last Quarter to Q1 of 2014	2014 Q1
7318160085 - Other Threaded Nuts Of Iron Or Steel, Nesoi	\$181,001,312	10.82%	\$189,463,561	5.87%	\$200,588,411
7318141060 - Self-tapping Screws Having Shanks Or Threads With A Diameter Of Less Than 6 mm, Of Iron Or Steel	\$117,583,599	-0.49%	\$107,235,540	9.12%	\$117,012,598
7318290000 - Other Non-threaded Articles (fasteners) Of Iron Or Steel, Nesoi	\$75,939,723	12.74%	\$80,238,655	6.70%	\$85,611,743
7318158066 - Cap Screws Of Iron Or Steel, With Hexagonal Heads, Having Shanks Or Threads With A Diameter Of 6 mm Or More	\$65,687,516	14.12%	\$72,484,484	3.42%	\$74,962,248
7318152095 - Bolts And Their Nuts Or Washers Entered Or Exported In The Same Shipment, Of Iron Or Steel, Having Shanks Or Threads With A Diam 6mm Or More, Nesoi	\$59,603,003	9.65%	\$61,643,277	6.02%	\$65,352,602
7318220000 - Washers Other Than Lock Washers, Iron Or Steel	\$62,304,510	5.00%	\$61,855,550	5.76%	\$65,417,060
7318152065 - Bolts Of Iron Or Steel With Hexagonal Heads, Having Shanks Or Threads With A Diameter Of 6mm Or More, Nesoi	\$47,759,580	-7.07%	\$47,144,210	-5.86%	\$44,381,219
7318158069 - Screws Of Iron Or Steel, With Hexagonal Heads, Having Shanks Or Threads With A Diameter Of 6 Mm Or More, Nesoi	\$43,547,340	-4.56%	\$41,686,630	-0.30%	\$41,563,153
7318158085 - Other Screws Of Iron Or Steel, Having Shanks Or Threads With A Diameter Of 6mm Or More, Nesoi	\$35,911,870	-1.34%	\$35,085,629	0.98%	\$35,430,137
7318155090 - Studs Of Iron Or Steel, Threaded, Excluding Stainless Steel, Nesoi	\$27,259,216	15.77%	\$27,756,571	13.70%	\$31,559,041

Top U.S. Exported Products for Q1 of 2014

The top U.S. fastener exports include threaded fasteners of iron or steel (HTS 7318.15.9000), nuts of iron or steel (HTS 7318.16.0000), and bolts alone or with nuts (HTS 7318.15.2000). Similar to imports, the top three products exported account for the large majority of total product exports. Threaded fasteners of iron or steel make up over a quarter of U.S. fastener exports at 26.1%. Threaded fasteners were up over 10.8% from Q1

of 2013 but down 0.7% from last quarter. Nuts of iron or steel accounted for another 19% of the total U.S. fastener exports in Q1 of 2014. Nuts increased in exports by 10.2% from Q1 of 2013 and another 2.2% from last quarter. Bolts and their nuts are also a large export for the United States making up another 14.9% of the product exports. They have increased trade significantly from Q1 of 2013 and last quarter by 11.9% and 6.2%, respectively.

Who Does the United States Purchase Most Fasteners From?

Taiwan, China, and Japan are the top three countries the United States imports fasteners from. Put together, the three countries make up 68% of all U.S. imports of fasteners.

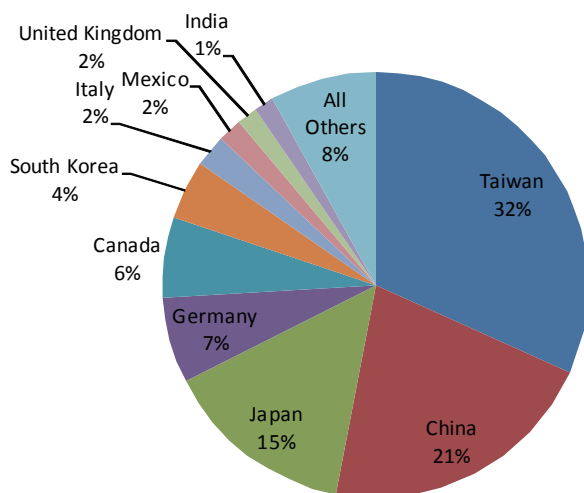
Taiwan is the leading supplier of fasteners to the United States. In Q1 of 2014 the nation exported over \$369 million of fasteners, an increase from Q1 of 2013 by 10.2%. The top products Taiwan supplies to the United States are self-tapping screws (HTS 7318.14.1060) and threaded nuts (HTS 7318.16.0085) of iron or steel. Self-tapping screws have consistently been the top export from Taiwan to the United States and it accounts for 22.7% of the total exports. The fastener increased in trade by 7.1% from Q1 of 2013 and 8.6% from the previous quarter.

China, the second largest supplier of fasteners to the United States, exported over \$246 million of fasteners in Q1 of 2014, which is an increase of 11.5% from Q1 of 2013. China's leading fastener exports to the United States are threaded nuts of iron or steel (HTS 7318.16.0085) and washers (HTS 7318.22.0000). Threaded nuts had a value of \$43.9 million in Q1 of 2014, which was an increase from Q1 of 2013 by 26.3% and from last quarter by 1%. Washers had a total value of \$22.2 million in Q1 of 2014. This was an increase of 1.4% from Q1 of 2013 and 4.0% from last quarter.

Period: 01/01/2014 - 03/31/2014

Country	Total Value	Vessel Value	Air Value
Taiwan	\$369,115,363	\$333,620,526	\$5,302,652
China	\$246,466,050	\$224,803,183	\$9,211,146
Japan	\$169,088,650	\$161,255,666	\$7,388,986
Germany	\$76,029,806	\$45,482,165	\$20,430,194
Canada	\$70,659,791	\$68,387	\$5,545,049
South Korea	\$52,559,526	\$46,161,812	\$1,024,993
Italy	\$28,245,962	\$16,604,519	\$7,555,896
Mexico	\$21,109,773	\$6,361	\$401,946
United Kingdom	\$18,042,638	\$3,729,780	\$13,647,288
India	\$17,882,314	\$16,628,459	\$1,019,453
All Others	\$93,387,744		

Top Countries of Origin for Fasteners to U.S. (Q1 2014)



What Countries Consume the Most U.S. Fastener Exports?

U.S. exports of fasteners are growing quickly and are mainly consumed by Mexico and Canada, followed by the United Kingdom. Combined, Mexico and Canada import 60.5% of all American fastener exports.

Mexico surpassed Canada in 2013 as the top country of destination for U.S. fasteners. In Q1 of 2014, the country imported over \$306 million worth of fasteners, which was a 15.3% increase from Q1 of 2013. The top fastener products Mexico imports from the United States are threaded fasteners (HTS 7318.15.9000) and bolts and their

nuts (HTS 7318.15.2000). Mexico imported \$80.4 million worth of threaded fasteners from the U.S. in Q1 of 2014. Threaded fastener exports to Mexico have grown exponentially in the last two years and increased from Q1 of 2013 by 22.1%. U.S. bolt exports to Mexico have also increased significantly. Bolts exports had a value of \$68.8 million in Q1 of 2014, an increase of 16.2% from Q1 of 2013.

Canada imported over \$269 million worth of U.S. fas-

teners in Q1 of 2014. The top fastener products Canada imports from the United States are threaded fasteners (HTS 7318.15.9000) and nuts of iron or steel (HTS 7318.16.0000). Threaded fastener exports to Canada have remained relatively steady for the past year but increased from Q1 of 2013 by 2.0%. U.S. nut exports to Canada have also sang a similar tune to threaded fasteners. The trade has remained relatively steady in Q1 of 2014 but actually decreased from Q1 of 2013 by 1.0%.

Top 10 U.S. Imports of Fasteners from Taiwan (Total Value, Quarterly)

HTS Code	2012 Q1	2012 Q2	2012 Q3	2012 Q4	2013 Q1	2013 Q2	2013 Q3	2013 Q4	2014 Q1	TOTAL
7318141060 - Self-tapping Screws Having Shanks Or Threads With A Diameter Of Less Than 6 mm, Of Iron Or Steel	\$76,958,669	\$86,715,146	\$86,554,765	\$77,703,729	\$78,233,309	\$89,019,569	\$86,911,266	\$77,185,950	\$83,804,504	\$972,287,602
7318160085 - Other Threaded Nuts Of Iron Or Steel, Nesoi	\$61,351,785	\$65,076,855	\$64,453,545	\$58,142,684	\$61,015,444	\$67,410,205	\$67,111,204	\$64,875,416	\$70,280,072	\$770,043,912
7318158066 - Cap Screws Of Iron Or Steel, With Hexagonal Heads, Having Shanks Or Threads With A Diameter Of 6 mm Or More	\$23,772,398	\$25,083,544	\$22,321,634	\$20,145,105	\$21,209,239	\$22,286,878	\$18,631,930	\$23,132,775	\$24,219,331	\$275,030,843
7318154000 - Machine Screws, Iron Or Steel, 9.5mm Or More In Length And 3.2mm Or More In Diameter (not Including Cap Screws)	\$12,899,844	\$15,589,765	\$15,570,875	\$15,293,755	\$13,742,751	\$15,434,417	\$15,946,029	\$15,506,514	\$16,471,080	\$177,228,727
7318141030 - Self-tapping Screws Having Shanks Or Threads With A Diameter Of Less Than 6 mm, Of Stainless Steel	\$12,305,115	\$11,736,632	\$13,166,904	\$13,201,087	\$10,596,758	\$10,954,080	\$11,182,977	\$11,688,501	\$11,656,980	\$146,386,919
7318145080 - Self-tapping Screws Having Shanks Or Threads With A Diameter Of 6mm Or More, Of Iron Or Steel, Nesoi	\$10,001,983	\$11,083,773	\$11,732,464	\$9,783,194	\$10,589,086	\$11,660,563	\$11,972,175	\$11,130,530	\$11,527,814	\$128,119,346
7318160060 - Other Threaded Nuts Of Stainless Steel	\$10,574,465	\$10,225,215	\$9,998,405	\$9,546,418	\$11,163,493	\$11,007,468	\$11,290,722	\$11,137,425	\$10,284,762	\$129,256,255
7318152095 - Bolts And Their Nuts Or Washers Entered Or Exported In The Same Shipment, Of Iron Or Steel, Having Shanks Or Threads with A Dia. of 6mm Or More, Nesoi	\$10,381,457	\$10,723,925	\$11,511,350	\$9,828,116	\$9,158,883	\$9,600,467	\$9,506,732	\$9,796,213	\$10,237,174	\$123,679,222
7318290000 - Other Non-threaded Articles (fasteners) Of Iron Or Steel, Nesoi	\$7,747,035	\$9,610,299	\$10,426,534	\$8,877,604	\$10,132,397	\$11,370,232	\$9,482,390	\$8,513,685	\$9,439,820	\$111,399,989
7318152065 - Bolts Of Iron Or Steel With Hexagonal Heads, Having Shanks Or Threads With A Diameter Of 6mm Or More, Nesoi	\$10,099,995	\$10,648,172	\$10,401,104	\$7,958,274	\$8,368,559	\$9,071,639	\$9,224,475	\$8,721,660	\$9,013,424	\$113,875,162
TOTAL	\$340,036,306	\$363,756,080	\$361,441,791	\$328,172,833	\$334,853,075	\$360,110,595	\$359,736,960	\$342,068,521	\$369,115,363	\$4,194,052,283

U.S. Fastener Industry Recap

It appears that the fastener trade in Q1 of 2014 has remained strong. U.S. consumption of fasteners has remained steady with slight growth, signaling healthy construction and industrial industries. U.S. exports of fas-

teners are still growing, especially to Mexico, which may close the trade gap for fasteners as well as contribute to the United States push for more exports and increasing export businesses. ■