#### **INDUSTRY FOCUS**



# USA / Canada / Japan / Taiwan / Brazil



**USA** 

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

(in million USD), in descending order according to figures of 2024

#### **Import**

HS 7318 Iron and steel screws, bolts, nuts, washers, etc.								
Rank	Partner	2022	2023	2024				
0	World	7,719	6,326	6,634				
1	Taiwan	3,015	2,211	2,173				
2	China	1,602	1,079	1,193				
3	Japan	569	557	623				
4	Canada	385	403	408				
5	Germany	364	376	388				
6	S. Korea	288	274	300				
7	Italy	192	227	259				
8	India	247	200	238				
9	Mexico	169	181	198				
10	France	93	111	128				

U.S. imports of fasteners showed signs of a slight recovery in 2024, following a slight decline in 2023. Its major import partners over the past three years have been Taiwan, China, and Japan, with Taiwan and China in particular being the closest trading partners. 32.7% of total imports in 2024 were from Taiwan, and although imports from Taiwan declined slightly in 2024, imports from Taiwan were still nearly twice the size of imports from China. Imports from China accounted for about 18% of total U.S. imports. However, Taiwan was the only one of the top 10 trading partners to show a decline in the value of its imports in 2024.

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Article by Gang Hao Chang, Vice Editor-in-Chief

#### **Export**

	HS 7318 Iron and ste	eel screws, bolts, n	iuts, washers, e	tc.
Rank	Partner	2022	2023	2024
0	World	4,787	5,462	5,628
1	Mexico	1,717	1,935	1,996
2	Canada	1,247	1,372	1,282
3	China	231	275	266
4	UK	127	139	186
5	Germany	117	140	148
6	France	83	88	135
7	Brazil	122	121	131
8	Japan	88	90	127
9	S. Korea	80	102	118
10	Singapore	89	91	118

U.S. fastener exports have grown over the past three years. Mexico and Canada were the two largest U.S. export trading partners, and the two countries represented about 60% of U.S. exports, showing the deep dependence of U.S. fastener exports on Canada and Mexico. Although China was the 3rd largest trading partner of U.S. fastener exports, its annual scale of less than US\$300 million was far less than Mexico and Canada. Of the top 10 export destinations, only exports to Canada and China showed a decrease in 2024.



## **CANADA**

Source: Canada.ca

(in USD), in descending order according to figures of 2024

#### **Import**

	HS 7318 Iron and steel screws, bolts, nuts, washers, etc.								
Rank	Partner	2022	2023	2024					
0	World	1,982,274,222	1,981,047,309	1,907,562,453					
1	USA	845,780,230	947,121,913	898,835,716					
2	China	364,580,119	283,021,770	277,402,264					
3	Taiwan	332,682,986	272,340,238	251,116,532					
4	Japan	68,511,532	89,156,803	83,766,158					
5	Germany	44,627,863	49,374,778	53,562,282					
6	Italy	39,089,343	41,048,413	42,440,022					
7	Vietnam	47,209,557	37,239,215	33,927,463					
8	S. Korea	30,325,393	32,144,552	33,346,002					
9	India	24,784,175	28,379,171	33,001,000					
10	Mexico	20,177,957	21,339,226	28,296,364					

Despite the slight decrease in 2024, Canada's imports of fasteners have remained roughly constant over the past three years at around US\$2 billion. 2024 data show that the U.S. alone accounted for more than 47% of Canada's total imports, while imports from China and Taiwan accounted for about 15% and 13%, respectively. Among the top 10 import origins, imports from the U.S., China, Taiwan, Japan, and Vietnam decreased in 2024. Among the top 5 partners, only Germany showed growth.

#### **Export**

	HS 7318 Iron and steel screws, bolts, nuts, washers, etc.								
Rank	Partner	2022	2023	2024					
0	World	623,453,740	643,007,683	653,187,406					
1	USA	500,465,994	530,020,377	528,885,925					
2	Mexico	25,249,330	26,849,202	25,746,087					
3	Germany	10,377,821	19,971,747	20,636,743					
4	UK	6,679,218	6,559,227	11,205,426					
5	China	27,021,799	9,966,602	9,668,820					
6	France	4,944,721	4,458,471	6,584,254					
7	Singapore	2,956,485	3,682,591	4,933,350					
8	Poland	2,989,190	3,311,780	4,696,100					
9	Brazil	3,453,494	3,300,790	2,986,097					
10	Australia	2,809,155	2,586,669	2,729,454					

Canada's exports to the world were roughly 1/4 the size of its imports from the world, topping US\$650 million in 2024, and its exports have shown annual growth over the past three years. Due to its geographical location and strong economic & trade ties, Canada exported more than 80% of its fasteners to the U.S. Apart from China, the top 5 export trading partners were all European and American countries. Canada also exported nearly US\$ 3 million worth of fasteners to the Australian market.





## **JAPAN**

Source: Ministry of Finance, Japan

in descending order according to weights of 2024

#### **Import**

Japan P.C. Code 61703 Nails, bolts, nuts, etc.									
Danie	Dentaria		Metric Tons			1,000 Yens			
Rank	Partner	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024		
0	World	328,344	285,947	293,303	151,484,054	138,696,007	150,837,720		
1	China	216,799	196,407	203,834	64,730,358	57,525,751	60,662,430		
2	Taiwan	70,819	52,523	53,489	40,860,398	32,174,188	32,595,102		
3	Vietnam	13,164	14,419	15,303	4,967,815	5,218,410	5,481,671		
4	S. Korea	13,619	10,681	8,766	6,701,561	6,018,157	5,435,660		
5	Thailand	4,678	3,890	3,656	4,112,822	3,907,098	4,011,209		
6	Malaysia	1,988	1,599	1,463	1,330,449	1,089,138	990,155		
7	Germany	1,199	1,070	1,209	3,980,437	3,600,758	4,034,015		
8	USA	1,157	1,110	1,105	14,885,101	18,596,213	26,082,988		
9	Australia	561	437	653	622,507	506,068	745,028		
10	Italy	506	539	620	859,467	1,230,894	1,430,729		

Japan has about 300,000 tons (equivalent to 150 billion yens) of imported fastener demand a year. Although its demand declined a bit in 2023, it later recovered to near the the 2022 level in 2024. The top 3 import origins were China, Taiwan and Vietnam, which accounted for over 90% of its total imports by weight, with China being the largest import origin. The top 5 import origins were all Asian countries, with only a small amount of higher-value-added fasteners imported from Germany, the U.S., Australia, and Italy.

#### **Export**

Japan P.C. Code 61509 Nails, bolts, nuts, etc.									
David C	Dentere		Metric Tons			1,000 Yens			
Rank	Partner	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024		
0	World	323,560	300,323	296,687	340,764,182	338,920,236	354,593,299		
1	USA	70,225	75,918	87,230	78,220,423	86,042,539	101,827,431		
2	China	79,388	58,962	49,976	80,427,273	64,240,470	59,837,593		
3	Thailand	45,624	41,294	33,260	43,502,421	41,759,470	37,248,702		
4	Indonesia	27,503	22,417	20,438	25,215,618	23,373,793	23,068,578		
5	Mexico	12,490	15,565	18,681	12,838,213	18,515,875	21,213,356		
6	India	13,863	15,638	17,626	13,625,561	16,058,131	18,083,722		
7	Brazil	10,045	9,094	10,372	9,033,057	9,200,628	10,733,543		
8	Malaysia	6,153	7,211	7,184	5,890,045	6,767,828	6,669,660		
9	Turkey	4,762	4,825	5,901	4,260,358	4,754,233	5,778,372		
10	UK	5,408	5,793	4,848	4,624,928	5,605,194	5,023,502		

Japan's fastener export scale (in terms of weight) was comparable to its import scale. Each year it exported around 300,000 tons, with an annual export value of roughly 340-355 billion yens. Its export weight in 2024 was lower than that in the previous year, but the unit price of exports showed signs of increase. Nearly 60% of exports were to the U.S., China, and Thailand. Among the top 10 export partners, with the exception of the U.S. and the UK, all of them are emerging countries where many Japanese manufacturing companies are investing, and the proportion of exports to Europe was relatively small.



## **TAIWAN**

Source: ITA of Taiwan

in descending order according to weights of 2024

#### **Import**

1	HS 7318 Screws, bolts, nuts, coach screws, screw hooks, rivets, cotters, cotter-pins, washers (including spring washers) and similar articles, of iron or steel								
Rank	Partner	2022 (kg)	2023 (kg)	2024 (kg)	2022 (USD)	2023 (USD)	2024 (USD)		
0	World	20,048,733	19,405,845	19,151,922	203,392,881	192,899,285	202,402,981		
1	China	5,086,195	5,845,605	6,951,623	22,018,485	21,121,596	26,447,634		
2	Japan	7,451,550	6,810,202	5,400,470	68,267,140	57,983,760	52,595,794		
3	Vietnam	2,504,624	2,209,373	1,659,622	5,653,957	6,321,179	12,933,566		
4	S. Korea	748,549	850,785	1,000,022	13,239,377	9,652,935	8,954,818		
5	Germany	610,382	505,173	975,185	14,244,859	13,613,066	15,954,014		
6	Philippines	1,228,647	752,636	619,320	4,234,077	2,745,987	2,074,947		
7	Malaysia	167,459	314,664	514,557	2,447,700	3,872,780	5,307,172		
8	Thailand	392,566	401,371	440,359	1,299,699	1,650,746	1,959,102		
9	USA	431,703	239,268	235,504	38,714,212	37,455,636	40,184,683		
10	Indonesia	104,582	190,152	184,239	1,220,473	1,746,504	1,990,866		

Taiwan imported about 20,000 tons of fasteners annually in the past 3 years, and the average unit price per kg in 2024 landed at about US\$3.48. The top 5 fastener import origins were China, Japan, Vietnam, S. Korea, and Germany, of which imports from China and Japan accounted for about 64%. Taiwan's imports from China, S. Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand grew year by year. Except for Germany and the U.S., Taiwan's fasteners were mainly imported from neighboring Asian countries.

#### **Export**

	HS 7318 Screws, bolts, nuts, coach screws, screw hooks, rivets, cotters, cotter-pins, washers (including spring washers) and similar articles, of iron or steel								
Rank	Partner	2022 (kg)	2023 (kg)	2024 (kg)	2022 (USD)	2023 (USD)	2024 (USD)		
0	World	1,607,210,506	1,229,932,272	1,249,736,737	6,127,391,355	4,586,688,558	4,360,885,161		
1	USA	715,298,246	555,067,875	571,398,260	2,745,554,249	2,014,836,325	1,940,086,862		
2	Germany	145,502,509	100,926,589	108,284,439	510,642,287	392,301,123	360,901,834		
3	Netherlands	94,205,694	84,251,450	73,180,794	334,091,099	290,796,824	242,505,204		
4	Japan	68,038,551	50,977,940	51,342,842	285,384,373	206,796,096	189,093,814		
5	Canada	53,663,902	39,796,333	47,032,591	194,936,787	139,388,822	161,726,509		
6	UK	50,184,641	35,713,552	35,036,772	207,373,746	159,133,318	147,793,702		
7	Mexico	33,036,403	31,330,421	33,264,610	137,151,899	133,127,368	140,373,915		
8	Spain	32,053,906	28,487,227	31,703,389	93,347,440	130,126,261	134,819,883		
9	Poland	31,076,976	22,139,622	28,898,305	90,569,310	79,981,962	84,579,500		
10	Italy	42,248,358	28,612,235	28,621,594	130,551,297	91,121,793	84,299,686		

The size of Taiwan's fastener exports exceeded 1.6 million tons (about US\$6.1 billion) in 2022, but returned to normal levels of 1.2-1.25 million tons of annual exports in 2023 and 2024. It is worth noting that Taiwan's average unit price per kg of exports declined from US\$3.8 in 2022 to US\$3.7 in 2023, and then to around US\$3.48 in 2024. However, the export performance (in kg) in 2024 showed signs of recovery compared to the downturn in 2023, with exports to the U.S., Germany, Japan, Canada, Mexico, Spain, Poland, and Italy all increasing.



## **BRAZIL**

Source: http://comexstat.mdic.gov.br/en/geral

in descending order according to weight of 2024

#### **Import**

	HS 7318 Iron and steel screws, bolts, nuts, washers, etc.							
Rank	Partner	2022 (kg)	2023 (kg)	2024 (kg)	2022 (USD)	2023 (USD)	2024 (USD)	
0	World	192,708,581	173,081,126	230,540,186	998,191,238	921,454,730	1,059,363,375	
1	China	100,766,662	93,848,116	145,015,045	271,537,813	221,048,188	290,193,849	
2	Italy	12,550,229	10,950,656	12,592,622	74,259,260	71,281,714	82,230,744	
3	Japan	13,667,468	9,947,884	11,009,975	93,538,350	74,918,089	82,093,242	
4	USA	11,199,722	9,771,977	9,110,397	171,698,982	180,088,252	179,607,660	
5	Germany	9,259,588	7,256,242	7,752,200	90,276,006	82,760,609	91,535,615	
6	Taiwan	9,746,922	6,009,282	6,525,401	38,115,625	29,119,514	34,653,980	
7	S. Korea	6,077,576	5,192,836	5,531,747	32,223,746	27,204,933	29,422,351	
8	India	5,131,342	5,842,567	4,933,610	23,421,156	25,078,653	23,264,495	
9	Hong Kong	1,348,414	2,996,403	4,662,633	4,877,854	6,127,269	9,297,488	
10	France	3,151,734	3,270,221	3,883,839	43,425,798	47,882,221	56,769,299	

Brazil's fastener imports were about two-thirds the size of Japan's, at around 200,000 tons per year. The total imports in 2024 (in terms of quantity or value) exceeded the levels in 2022 and 2023, indicating a rebound in demand for fasteners in Brazil. China was Brazil's largest source of fasteners, accounting for over 60% of its annual imports. Its imports from Italy, Japan and the U.S. were around 10,000 tons each. Taiwan was Brazil's 6th largest fastener supplier, with an average unit price of US\$5.31 per kg in 2024.

#### **Export**

_	HS 7318 Iron and steel screws, bolts, nuts, washers, etc.						
Rank	Partner	2022 (kg)	2023 (kg)	2024 (kg)	2022 (USD)	2023 (USD)	2024 (USD)
0	World	30,812,501	26,378,411	22,699,145	167,677,895	170,326,934	152,499,731
1	Argentina	14,222,500	11,145,338	7,585,393	53,858,573	51,873,309	37,208,188
2	Paraguay	4,684,807	4,455,281	4,996,817	15,362,517	14,938,941	15,836,152
3	USA	4,118,731	3,534,560	3,462,082	33,677,891	35,576,868	33,232,822
4	Uruguay	1,289,362	1,214,185	1,187,989	4,939,900	4,317,538	4,597,772
5	Germany	1,185,351	928,335	883,972	8,618,761	7,886,561	7,799,125
6	France	898,740	686,820	684,762	7,954,991	7,639,124	8,245,585
7	Bolivia	983,637	797,393	659,843	4,239,296	3,607,042	2,716,276
8	Mexico	502,605	525,527	527,840	5,176,732	5,698,335	5,644,026
9	Chile	388,858	377,352	367,695	4,432,643	6,119,261	5,572,831
10	Colombia	376,004	339,566	287,940	4,854,017	4,855,570	4,634,349

Brazil's annual fastener export scale fell between 20,000-30,000 tons over the past 3 years, and its annual export value was about US\$ 150-170 million. Among the top 10 export partners, except for Germany and France ranked the 5th and the 6th respectively, all the other countries were in the Americas, including Argentina, Paraguay, the U.S., Uruguay, etc. which were the main purchasing countries of Brazilian fasteners. Brazilian fastener exports in 2024 (in terms of value or quantity) did not outpace its performance in 2022 and 2023, suggesting that the weakening of the Latin American economies has more or less reduced the demand for Brazilian fasteners.

#### Wrap-up

To analyze the respective total fastener imports in the U.S., Canada, Japan, Taiwan, and Brazil, only Canada's import value revealed a more significant reduction in 2024, and the export values of Brazil and Taiwan both showed a decreasing trend (but Taiwan's export volume was still increasing). To sum up, the global fastener imports and exports varied in different regions, but they are still going towards a slow recovery in the long term.