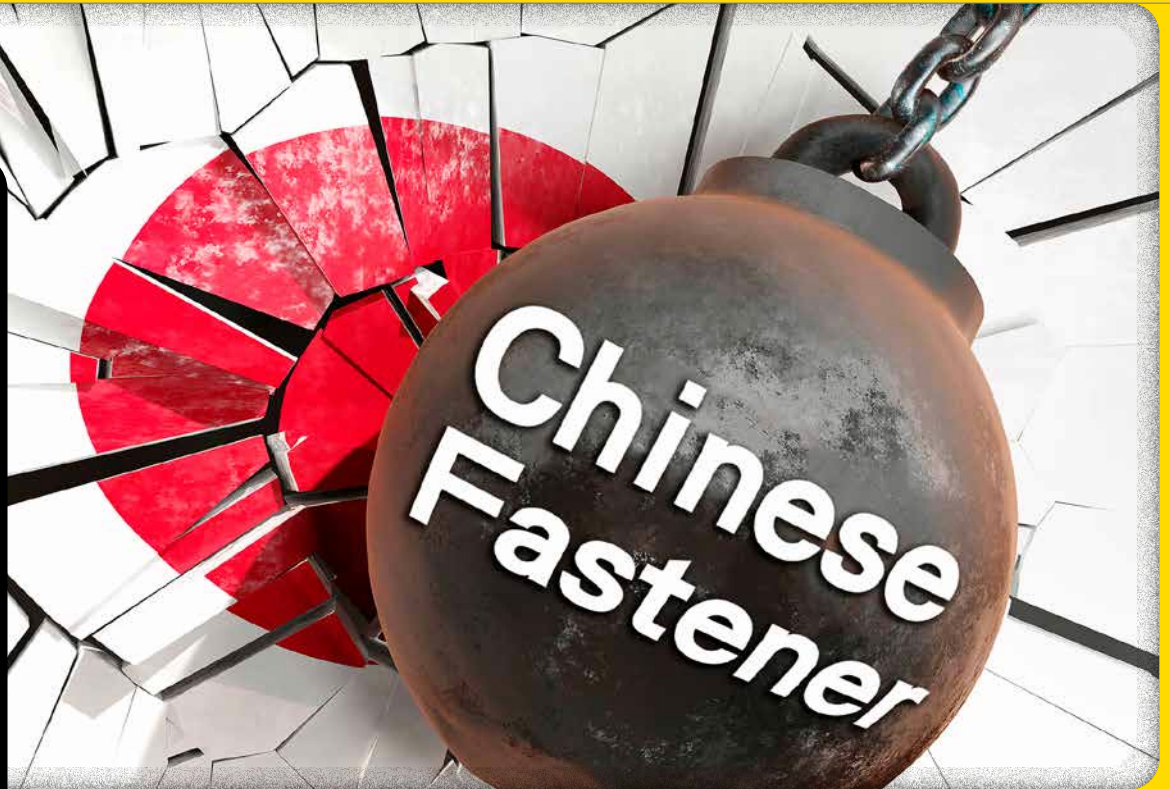
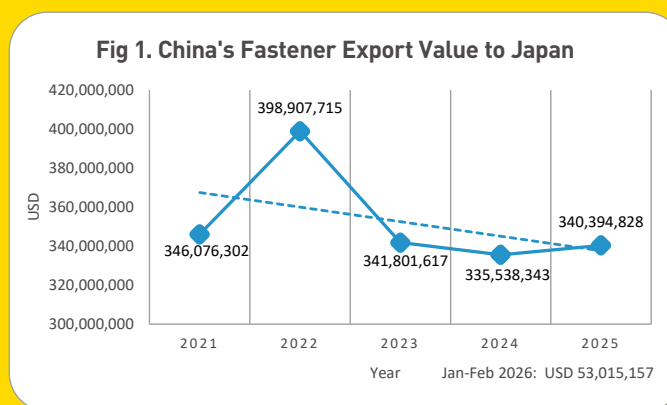


China's Fasteners Fully Infiltrate: The "Invisible Turning Point" in Japan's Supply Chain



China's Fasteners are Here! Japan in Alert

China exports an average of USD 352 million worth of fasteners to Japan each year. In 2025, this figure reached USD 340 million, accounting for just 3.38% of China's total global fastener exports (USD 10.045 billion) that year. Don't underestimate this seemingly modest share. From Japanese fastener firms, we got the wind that Chinese fasteners are increasingly penetrating the local Japanese market, gradually replacing Japanese-made fasteners and parts in the supply chain. This has triggered alarm among some Japanese firms, who are now worrying about the competitiveness of Japanese fasteners against China over the next decade. This article verifies the reality of China's market share in Japan using official customs data from both China and Japan, peeling back the layers to reveal the true picture.



China's Exports to Japan Now in "Correction and Normalization Phase"

Figure 1 (Source: General Administration of Customs of China) shows China's fastener exports to Japan over the past five years at USD 346 million, USD 398 million, USD 341 million, USD 335 million, and USD 340 million. Notice that exports surged 15.2% in 2022, only to plummet 16.7% the following year—essentially giving back all the gains! From 2023 to 2025, export

values have stabilized at USD 330–340 million, signaling that China's fastener exports to Japan have shifted from abnormal spikes to a "correction and normalization phase." How do we explain this? It stems from the interplay of prices, demand, inventory, and trade structures, which can be broken down into three key aspects.

Why Were 2022 Exports "Abnormally High" (+15%)?

(1) Price Factors: Quantity and Price Both Rose

In 2022, global steel, energy prices, and shipping costs soared, pushing China's fastener export value up 27.4%—far outpacing the 9.3% weight increase. Even though Japan's actual import quantity from China only grew modestly (+2.9%), the higher prices inflated the value.



(2) Post-COVID Restocking

Supply chains in Japan's automotive, machinery, and electronics sectors were chaotic during the 2020–2021 pandemic, depleting corporate inventories to rock bottom. As the pandemic eased in 2022, markets saw revenge restocking, sparking short-term surges in demand for base parts like fasteners. Since fasteners are essential for autos, electronics, and construction, corporate restocking amplified the effect.

(3) Order Redirection/Trade Structure Shift

According to EU Official Journal L36, the EU imposed anti-dumping duties (22.1%–86.5%) on Chinese fasteners in 2022, blocking exports to Europe. Some capacity and shipments redirected to Asia (including Japan), where Japan "passively absorbed" more Chinese supply, boosting import values.

Why Did the Exports Drop 16.7% in 2023?

(1) Price Pullback

Raw material costs and ocean freight rates fell from 2023 onward, driving down fastener export unit prices.

(2) Inventory Cycle Reversal (Destocking)

Global markets flipped from 2022's restocking to 2023's destocking. Buyers overstocked in 2022 and bought less in 2023, reducing orders for Chinese fastener makers.

(3) Japan's Manufacturing Slowdown

Global economic growth cooled in 2023, weakening demand in electronics and autos. Japan's related industries saw cuts in equipment investment and component needs, and incidentally, fastener demand closely tracks these sectors.

Japan's Recent Increase in Importing Chinese Fasteners

The surge and subsequent regression in China's exports to Japan are also mirrored in statistics from Customs and Tariff Bureau of Japan's Ministry of Finance. *Figures 2 and 3* show that Japan's imports of Chinese fasteners by weight and value both spiked to peaks in 2022 (at 216,799 tons, USD 64.73 billion), then quickly fell back into regression. In 2025, Japan imported 204,871 tons of Chinese fasteners worth USD 60.83 billion.

**China's Exports to Japan:
Surge & Regression**

2022 = Price Surge + Restocking + Order Redirection
→ "Amplified Peak"

2023 = Price Pullback + Destocking + Demand Cooling
→ "Normal Regression"

Fig 2. Japan's Fastener Import Quantity from China

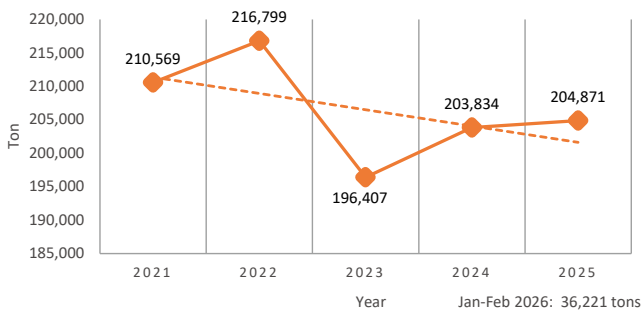
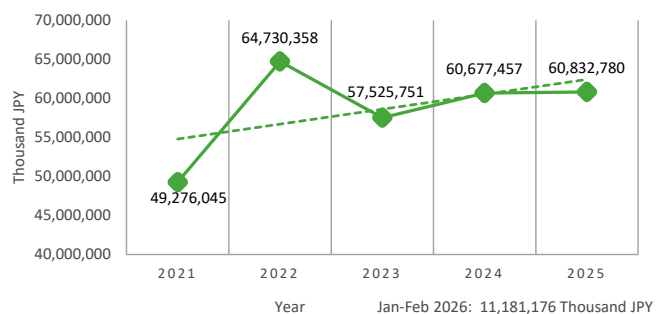


Fig 3. Japan's Fastener Import Value from China



Over the past five years, Japan's import weight of Chinese fasteners (*Figure 2*) appears to trend downward overall, but the weight in 2025 was only 2.78% below the 2021 level. In value terms (*Figure 3*), excluding the anomalous spike in 2022, the trend has entered an upward range.

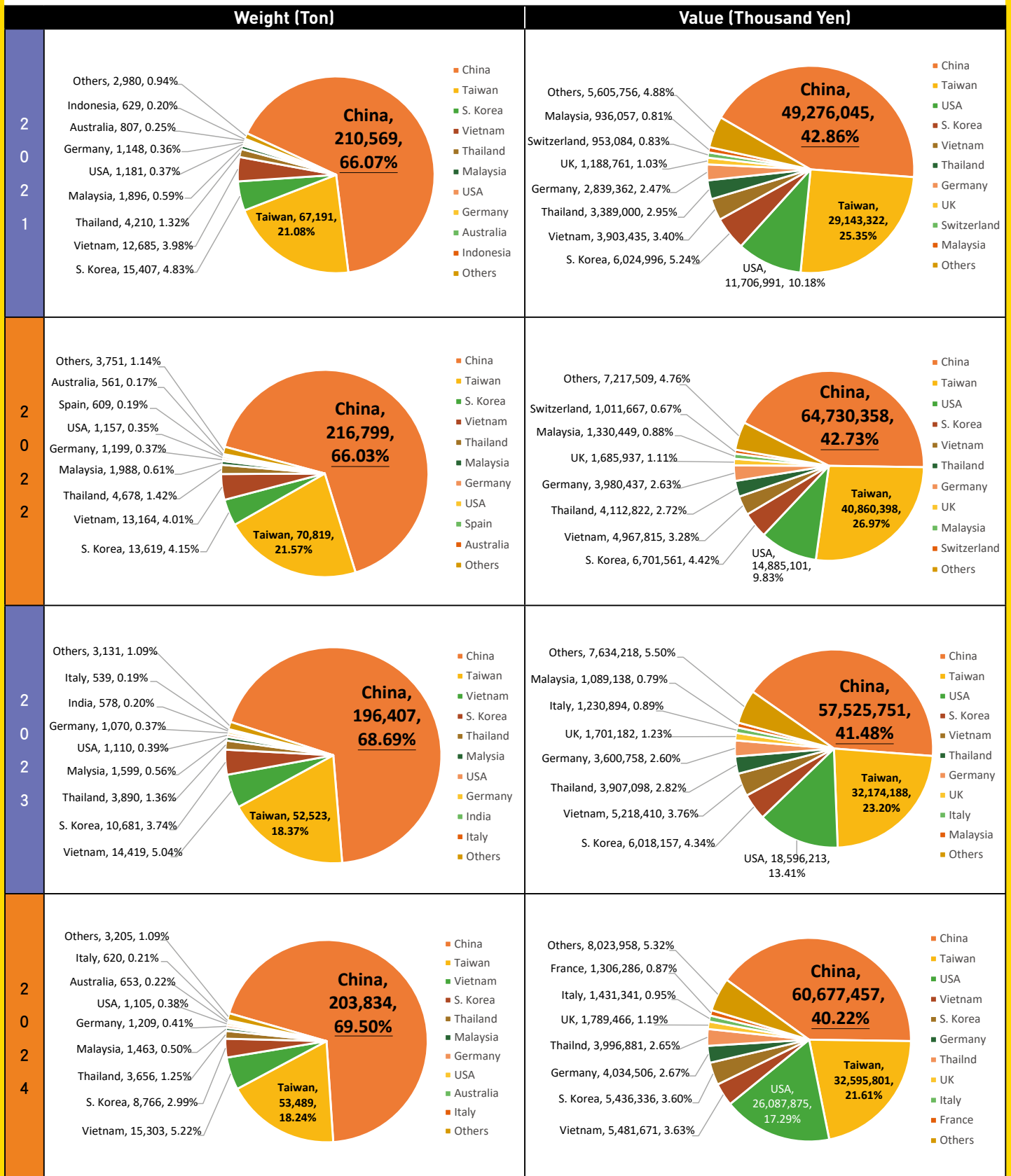
In other words, compared to five years ago, Japan's total import weight of Chinese fasteners is rebounding toward the 2021 level, while the total value has clearly surpassed it. Japan has been increasing its imports of Chinese fasteners in recent years.

The Market Share of Chinese Fasteners in Japan

We have now drawn conclusions from two dimensions via the data: (1) China's fastener exports have stabilized at USD 330–340 million, and (2) Japan is ramping up imports of Chinese fasteners. Now, we add a third dimension: the "market share" of Chinese fasteners in Japan's import market from 2021 to 2025 (*Figure 4*).



Fig 4. Japan's Fastener Import from Partner Countries
 (Source: Customs & Tariff Bureau of Japan's Ministry of Finance)



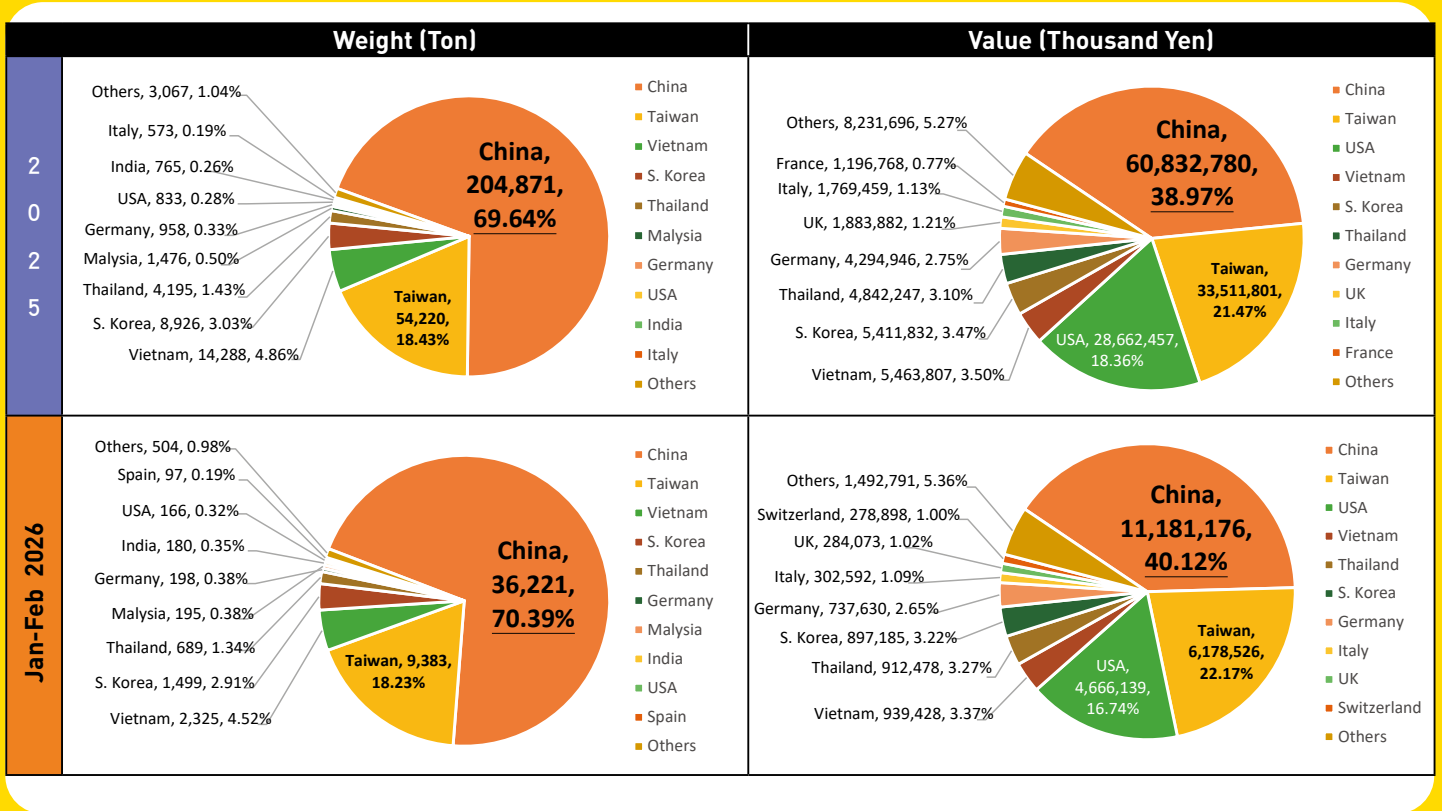


Figure 4 shows that China and Taiwan have consistently held the top two spots in Japan's import market share for five straight years. The U.S. ranks third by value but has a weight share far below 1%, indicating low-volume, high-price imports from the U.S. Chinese and Taiwanese fasteners have lower unit prices than U.S. ones, and with China and Taiwan leading global production as No. 1 and No. 2, they dominate both by weight and value—China's prices are roughly half of Taiwan's, giving China an even higher share than Taiwan.

Fig 5. Chinese Fastener Market Share in Japan (By Weight)

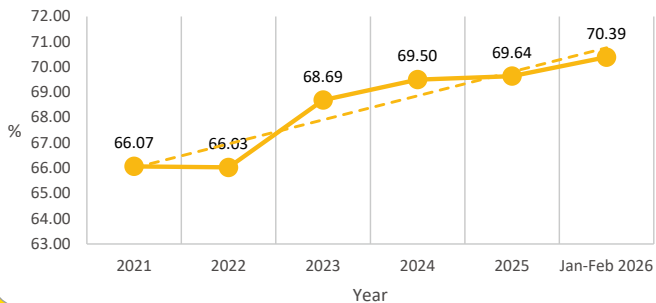


Fig 6. Chinese Fastener Market Share in Japan (By value)

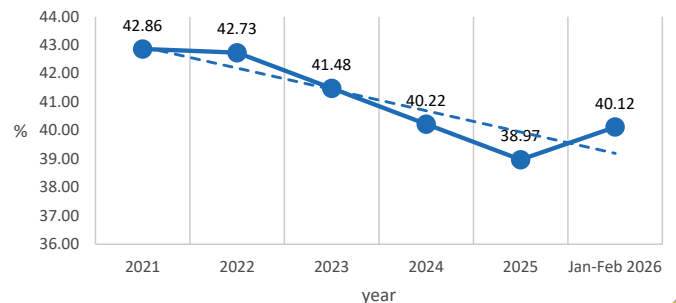


Fig 7. Taiwanese Fastener Market Share in Japan (By Weight)

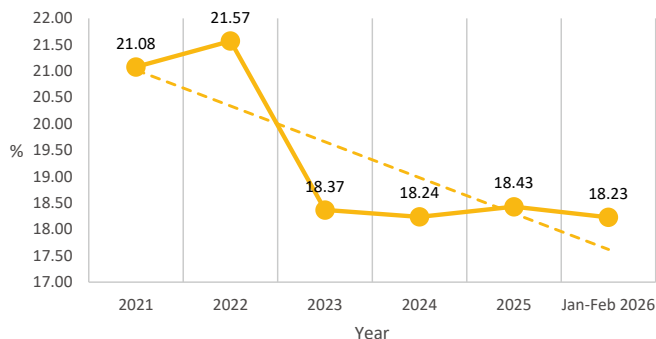
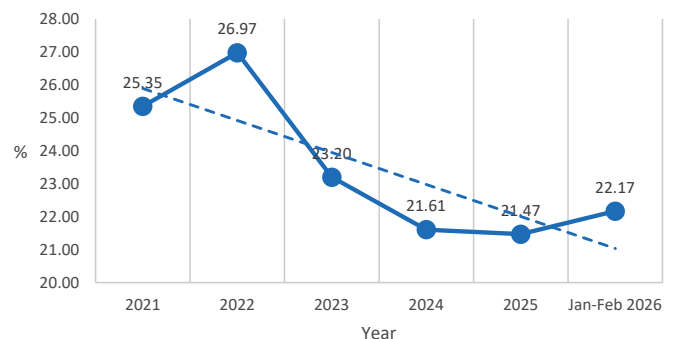


Fig 8. Taiwanese Fastener Market Share in Japan (By Value)



Figures 5 and 6 reveal that while China's market share by value has trended downward, its share by weight has steadily grown, breaking 70% in the first two months of this year. This confirms Japan has progressively increased purchases of Chinese fasteners over the past five years. In contrast, **Figures 7 and 8** show Taiwan's fastener market share in Japan spiked anomalously in 2022 but has since declined overall in both weight and value—a key sign is that it fell below the 2021 level three years ago already. Since three years ago, Chinese fasteners have been gaining ground in Japan while Taiwanese ones have been losing it.

Fig 9. Japan's Global Fastener Import Weight

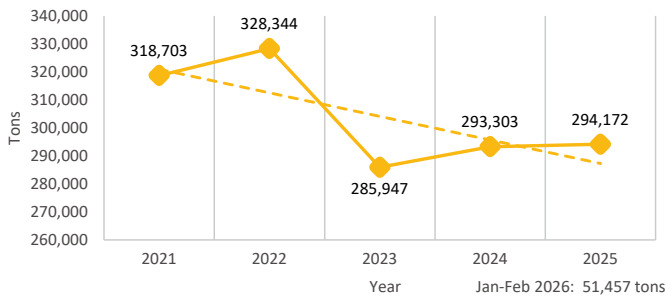
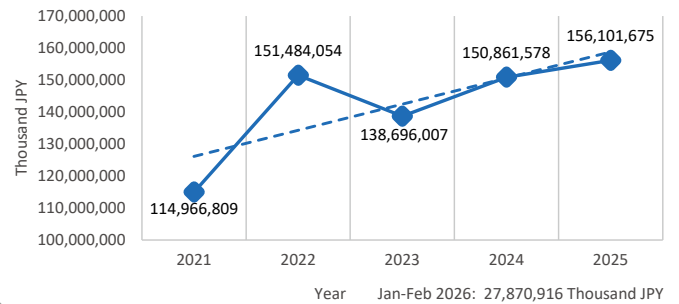


Fig 10. Japan's Global Fastener Import Value



Now let's look at another indicator. **Figures 9 and 10** (Source: Customs and Tariff Bureau of Japan's Ministry of Finance) show Japan's global fastener imports by weight and value. Notice how the line charts in **Figures 2 and 9** are nearly identical, as are **Figures 3 and 10**? In other words, Chinese fasteners command a high share of Japan's import market—averaging 68% by weight and 41% by value. The trend lines for Japan's Chinese imports perfectly correlate with its total global fastener imports, meaning Japan's imports heavily relies on Chinese fasteners.

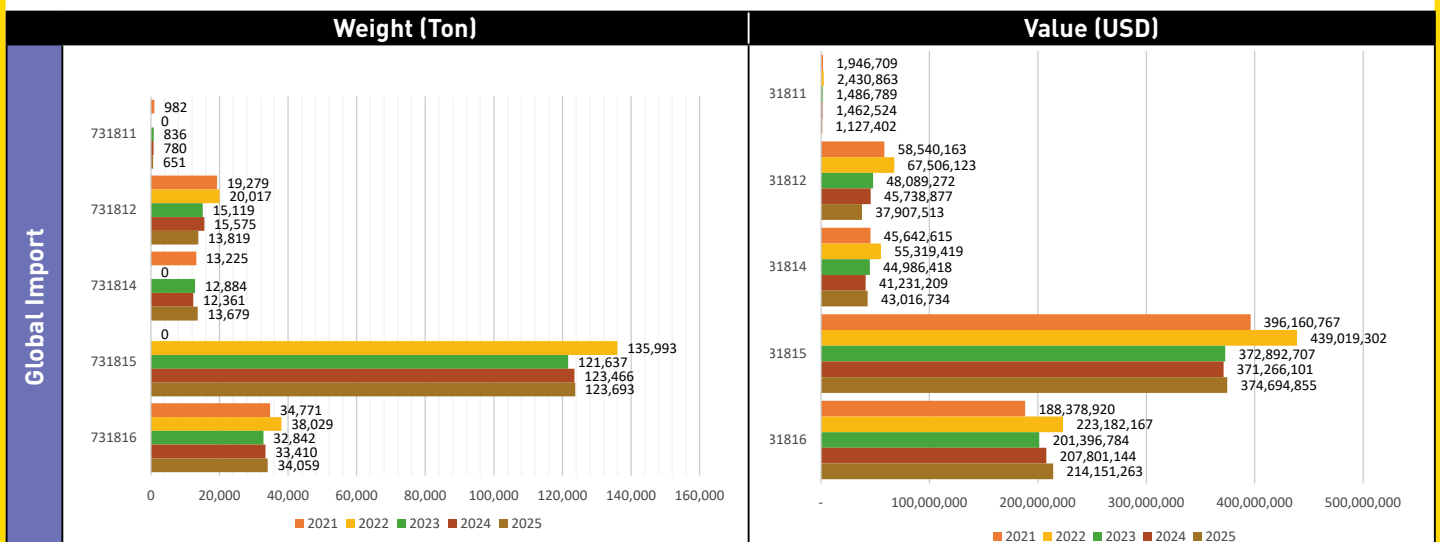
Looking at fastener subcategories (**Figure 11**), Japan's top two imported and exported categories are "screws and bolts with or without nuts or washers (HS 731815)" and "nuts (HS 731816)." For HS 731815 imports from China, the average weight is 84,286 tons, valued at USD 162,156,851, accounting for 66.7% of Japan's total global imports of that product. In short, over 60% of Japan's HS 731815 imports come from China. Similarly, nearly half (49.1%) of its HS 731816 imports are from China.

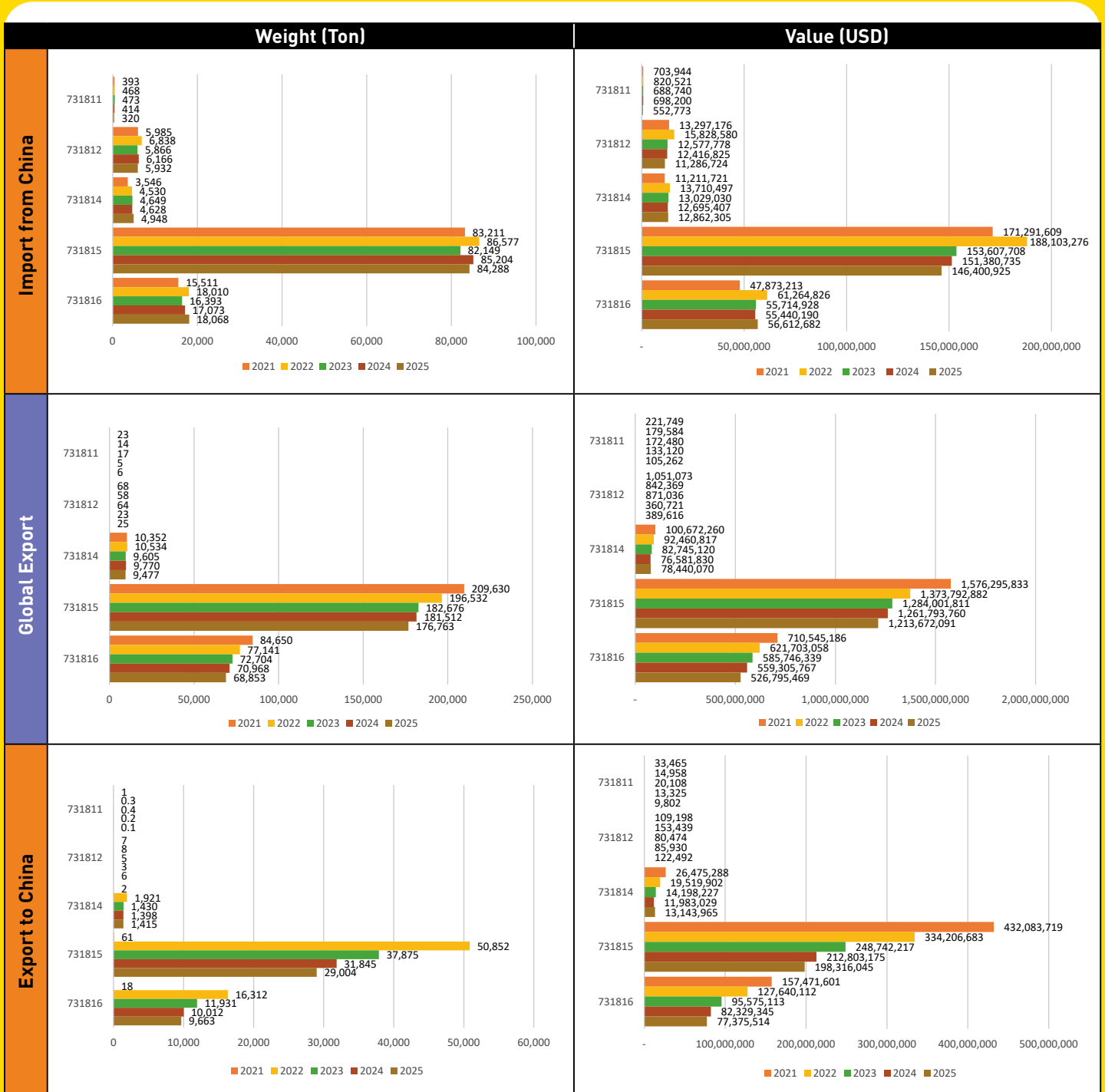
By comparison, Japan's exports of HS 731815 to China make up just 15.7% of its total global exports of that product by weight, and HS 731816 is only 12.8%. In other words, Japan buys 4 times more of these two products from China than it sells to China.

Fig 11. Japan's Primary Fastener Trading Subcategories

(Source: UN ComTrade)

731811: Coach screws 731812: Wood screws 731814 : Self-tapping screws
731815 : Screws and bolts with or without nuts or washers 731816 : Nuts





"China Shock" Catches Japan's Fastener Industry Off Guard

The Japanese government's 2024 White Paper on Trade reveals that over half of Japan's imports across 1,406 product categories come from China—2.5 times more than from the U.S. Nikkei reports highlight this as evidence of Japan's heavy supply chain reliance on China. The report covers 4,300 goods, with nearly 40% highly dependent on a single import source, mostly China, including laptops, air conditioners, organic chemicals, and rare earth metals.

Fasteners aren't among Japan's most China-dependent items, but some Japanese firms have told Fastener World that they've witnessed signs of Chinese manufacturers gradually eroding Japan's fastener supply chains. The Japanese market was previously dominated by Japanese products, preferred by the locals; now, Japan's sales channels now carry rising proportions of Chinese



goods. This is concerning to the Japanese because the shift threatens domestic suppliers' interests, including fastener makers. Years ago, Chinese fastener firms partnered with Japanese companies in a collaborative form of business to embed Chinese products in Japanese supply chains; now, China's highly price-competitive fasteners are gaining circulation, challenging Japan's premium, quality-renowned ones. Some Japanese firms warn: "If we don't act fast, we predict Japan will lose the fastener competition to China within a decade."

Which Side of the Watershed Will Japan's Fastener Industry Choose?

Export statistics, import structures, and market share shifts clearly show China's fasteners shifting from short-term fluctuations to long-term trends in Japan. The 2022 peak and 2023 regression weren't demand evaporation but natural reversion amid interlocking prices, inventories, and cycles. The real concern worth noting after the regression: Chinese fasteners' "actual penetration rate" keeps expanding in the Japanese market.

Especially in a state of "increased weight share and stable value share," Japan is steadily embracing more "high value-for-money" Chinese products, quietly reshaping procurement logic and supply chain deployment. This pressures Japanese domestic fastener makers and poses long-term rivalry for some Taiwanese firms that are highly reliant on Japan.

Over the next decade, Japan's fastener sector's crux isn't just fending off price wars but forging irreplaceable value in quality, technology, delivery, and supply chain resilience. Otherwise, this seemingly mild yet profound "China Shock" won't remain just a warning—it'll redefine the industry map. Taiwanese players must heed the lesson and transform strategically to carve out space amid the shock. Future battles test not just price, but resilience and innovation; The turning point of Japan's supply chain lies in how the Japanese choose right now. ■

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- Roofing Coil Nail. Drywall Nails. Concrete Nails. Common Nails. Bulk Nails.....
- Small box package (1lb, 5lb, 100/200/500/1000 pcs per box) are welcome



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