

US Hand Tool Trade, 2020 – Q1 2021

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2020-2021第一季 美國手工具貿易分析

Data note: The data for this article is derived from Descartes™ Datamyne's US Census trade statistics. US Census trade statistics analyze imports and exports on all modes of transportation. That value is calculated in USD by general CIF for imports and FOB for exports. Hand tools in this article are defined as any product under HS Codes 820411 (spanners and wrenches, hand operated, non-adjustable), 820412 (spanners and wrenches, hand operated, adjustable), 820420 (socket wrenches with or without handles), 820510 (drilling, threading or tapping tools), 820540 (screwdrivers and parts thereof), 820720 (dies for drawing or extruding metal), 820740 (tools for tapping or threading), 820790 (interchangeable tools others, and parts thereof).

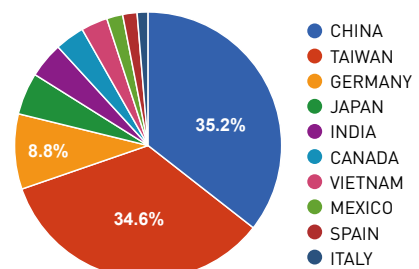
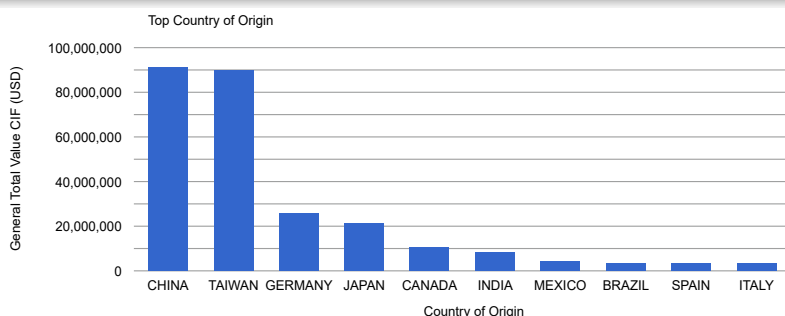
The United States was undoubtedly impacted in 2020 during the beginning of the pandemic and was further impacted while global trade continued to be disrupted. While the biggest concerns in the supply chain revolved around the demand for personal protective equipment, the entire supply chain became an overwhelming concern and the primary focus. Amongst those commodities were hand tools, which the U.S. generally imports from different countries in Asia and Europe. In 2019, the U.S. imported a total of \$1,345,454,299 USD of hand tools which was nearly 11% more than the total imported in 2020. During 2020, the U.S. imported \$1,198,933,624 USD and the most significant decrease of imports were seen between February and April 2020.

Considering the recent trade disturbances which have ultimately led to a supply chain disruption, have the imports of hand tools during the first quarter of 2021 increased by comparison to 2020? How much was the U.S. hand tool market impacted during the pandemic? Are there any visible trends that lead to believe we will see a trade surplus or trade deficit in 2021?

US Imports of Hand Tools

Most recently the U.S. has seen an incredible demand for new residential housing which was caused by the lack of available homes during the pandemic. The demand for specific commodities used in manufacturing new homes included fasteners, steel, and hand tools. In Q1 2021, the total value of imported hand tools was slightly over \$355 million USD compared to Q1 2020's total of \$296 million USD. The

United States - Import																
Country of Origin	2020 - Q1				2020 - Q2				2020 - Q3				2020 - Q4			
	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Quantity	%
China	91,141,888	30.77	170,643,277	56.15	103,882,490	34.92	158,096,980	56.33	129,794,228	36.49	183,724,684	59.61	121,292,766	59.61	252,147,916	60.61
Taiwan	90,457,473	30.54	72,254,310	23.78	98,639,643	33.16	85,875,463	30.60	116,419,198	32.73	88,760,450	28.80	121,570,453	28.80	110,457,198	26.55
Germany	26,188,791	8.84	4,378,358	1.45	19,205,376	6.46	2,650,703	0.95	25,023,328	7.04	5,096,037	1.66	26,217,574	1.66	5,903,539	1.42
Japan	20,900,599	7.06	1,912,646	0.63	15,916,526	5.35	1,841,712	0.66	14,050,872	3.95	1,425,180	0.47	14,422,900	0.47	6,297,688	1.52
Canada	10,885,581	3.68	6,033,307	1.99	11,462,824	3.86	5,747,987	2.05	10,425,822	2.94	2,888,026	0.94	12,385,497	0.94	5,096,237	1.23
India	8,114,154	2.74	10,485,866	3.45	5,565,071	1.88	5,945,703	2.12	8,266,088	2.33	7,795,915	2.53	12,419,545	2.53	11,700,756	2.82
Mexico	4,539,854	1.54	520,977	0.18	3,497,513	1.18	379,707	0.14	4,272,906	1.21	459,702	0.15	4,200,215	0.15	740,110	0.18
Brazil	3,992,350	1.35	400,480	0.14	2,301,136	0.78	268,190	0.10	3,362,944	0.95	348,619	0.12	3,283,792	0.12	324,779	0.08
Spain	3,884,111	1.32	412,737	0.14	4,395,542	1.48	654,527	0.24	6,074,440	1.71	498,950	0.17	5,292,774	0.17	416,364	0.11
Italy	3,427,938	1.16	3,368,568	1.11	2,437,702	0.82	1,018,172	0.37	2,938,530	0.83	999,382	0.33	4,080,557	0.33	6,059,674	1.46
Total	296,259,091	100.00	303,951,428	100.00	297,536,177	100.00	280,679,673	100.00	355,736,994	100.00	308,238,671	100.00	359,268,534	100.00	416,064,995	100.00



United States - Import																
Product HS (6)	2020 - Q1				2020 - Q2				2020 - Q3				2020 - Q4			
	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Quantity	%
820790 - Interchangeable tools others, and parts thereof, of base metal	79,941,595	26.99	128,128,890	42.16	77,700,219	26.12	92,569,651	32.99	95,742,408	26.92	107,017,789	34.72	93,975,592	26.16	179,104,460	43.05
820420 - Socket wrenches with or without handles, drives and extensions, and parts thereof, of base metal	55,788,825	18.84	71,596,200	23.56	56,545,175	19.01	73,639,824	26.24	71,386,919	20.07	86,655,071	28.12	76,625,634	21.33	99,153,060	23.84
820411 - Spanners and wrenches, hand-operated, non-adjustable, and parts thereof, of base metal	50,796,457	17.15	38,189,971	12.57	53,720,298	18.06	37,983,597	13.54	68,483,794	19.26	50,877,768	16.51	74,476,557	20.74	58,586,281	14.09
820540 - Screwdrivers, and parts thereof, of base metal	32,074,388	10.83	48,355,448	15.91	35,515,439	11.94	60,318,099	21.50	39,464,069	11.10	46,614,808	15.13	37,004,368	10.30	56,840,978	13.67
820740 - Tools for tapping or threading, and parts thereof, of base metal	31,082,606	10.50	10,824,200	3.57	25,450,574	8.56	9,328,741	3.33	26,051,239	7.33	7,482,244	2.43	27,282,753	7.60	13,805,452	3.32
820412 - Spanners and wrenches, hand-operated, adjustable, and parts thereof, of base metal	22,128,209	7.47	5,946,258	1.96	23,711,854	7.97	5,875,241	2.10	33,419,160	9.40	8,719,894	2.83	27,969,338	7.79	7,617,594	1.84
820720 - Dies for drawing or extruding metal, and parts thereof, of base metal	21,983,758	7.43	375,579	0.13	21,846,189	7.35	382,364	0.14	18,428,194	5.19	318,683	0.11	18,818,592	5.24	432,780	0.11
820510 - Drilling, threading or tapping tools, and parts thereof, of base metal	2,463,253	0.84	534,882	0.18	3,046,429	1.03	582,156	0.21	2,761,211	0.78	552,414	0.18	3,115,700	0.87	524,390	0.13
Total	296,259,091	100.00	303,951,428	100.00	297,536,177	100.00	280,679,673	100.00	355,736,994	100.00	308,238,671	100.00	359,268,534	100.00	416,064,995	100.00

first and second quarters of 2020 had the lowest value of hand tool imports in all of 2020, but then in the third quarter of 2020 the value increased to \$355 million USD followed by \$359 million USD in quarter four.

China, Taiwan, and Germany account for the majority of foreign suppliers of hand tools to the U.S., followed by Japan, Canada and India. China exported close to 26% more in Q1 2021 by comparison to Q1 2020 which was a total of \$23 million USD. Taiwan followed China as the second biggest exporter to the U.S. of hand tools and accounted for a total of \$112 million USD in Q1 2021 by comparison to \$90 million USD in Q1 2020. Overall, the U.S. saw nearly a 20% increase of hand tool imports in Q1 2021 by comparison to Q1 2020. India increased their exports to the U.S. by nearly 76% during Q1 2021 and Spain increased their exports by nearly 51% in Q1 2021. On the other hand, Japan exported 24% less in Q1 2021 by comparison to Q1 2020 and Brazil exported 20% less in Q1 2021 by comparison to Q1 2020.

Of the subcategories of hand tools with an increased demand in Q1 2021 are 820790 which increased by 20%, 820420 which increased by 24% and 820411 which increased by 31%. The only two subcategories where there appeared to be a decrease in Q1 2021 are 820720 (decreased by 7%) and 820510 (decreased by 6%).

The U.S. has been experiencing widespread delays at the ports, specifically those west coast ports where most of the goods sailing from Asia are imported into. Major retailers are reporting some shortages due to these port delays, but ultimately the supply chain remains

United States - Import													
Product HS (6)	2020 - Q1				2021 - Q1				Volume Change				
	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Quantity	%	
820790 - Interchangeable tools others, and parts thereof, of base metal	79,941,595	26.99	128,128,890	42.16	95,875,248	27.01	106,908,125	34.38	15,933,653	19.94	▼21,220,765	▼16.57	
820420 - Socket wrenches with or without handles, drives and extensions, and parts thereof, of base metal	55,788,825	18.84	71,596,200	23.56	69,259,666	19.51	70,591,601	22.70	13,470,841	24.15	▼1,004,599	▼1.41	
820411 - Spanners and wrenches, hand-operated, non-adjustable, and parts thereof, of base metal	50,796,457	17.15	38,189,971	12.57	66,785,828	18.82	55,266,450	17.77	15,989,371	31.48	17,076,479	44.72	
820540 - Screwdrivers, and parts thereof, of base metal	32,074,388	10.83	48,355,448	15.91	40,488,790	11.41	56,560,389	18.19	8,414,402	26.24	8,204,941	16.97	
820740 - Tools for tapping or threading, and parts thereof, of base metal	31,082,606	10.50	10,824,200	3.57	31,390,920	8.85	13,635,442	4.39	308,314	1.00	2,811,242	25.98	
820412 - Spanners and wrenches, hand-operated, adjustable, and parts thereof, of base metal	22,128,209	7.47	5,946,258	1.96	28,521,232	8.04	7,167,136	2.31	6,393,023	28.90	1,220,878	20.54	
820720 - Dies for drawing or extruding metal, and parts thereof, of base metal	21,983,758	7.43	375,579	0.13	20,406,051	5.75	435,421	0.15	▼1,577,707	▼7.18	59,842	15.94	
820510 - Drilling, threading or tapping tools, and parts thereof, of base metal	2,463,253	0.84	534,882	0.18	2,310,651	0.66	449,547	0.15	▼152,602	▼6.20	▼85,335	▼15.96	
Total	296,259,091	100.00	303,951,428	100.00	355,038,386	100.00	311,014,111	100.00	58,779,295	19.85	7,062,683	2.33	



relatively fluid and stable. Despite all these recent disruptions in the supply chain, **imports of hand tools appear to have normalized during the first quarter of 2021.**

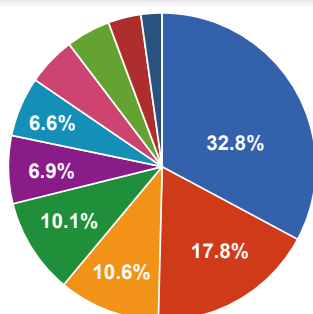
US Exports of Hand Tools

While U.S. exports significantly less than it imports, Q1 2021 accounted for \$150 million USD of hand tools. The U.S. exported \$4.6 million USD more in Q1 2021 by comparison to Q1 2020 which was only a 3.18% increase. Of all the subcategories of hand tools, 820790 increased by 12% which accounted for \$5.9 million USD. Other subcategories such as 820411 and 820510 decreased in Q1 2021 by comparison to Q1 2020.

The pandemic impacted U.S. exports of hand tools, specifically in Q2 and Q3 2020. During Q2 of 2020, U.S. exports of hand tools dropped to \$110 million USD, and then slightly increased to \$121 million USD in Q3 2020. It is without a doubt that the U.S. exports the majority of hand tools to their neighboring countries, Mexico and Canada. Canada accounted for 30% of hand tool imports from the U.S. while Mexico accounted for 15% in 2020. The U.S. exported nearly 23% more to Canada in Q1 2021 by comparison to Q1 2020, however,

United States - Export												
Country of Destination	2020 - Q1				2021 - Q1				Volume Change			
	FOB Value (USD)	%	Quantity	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	Quantity	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	Quantity	%
Canada	36,410,120	25.03	1,650,807	12.29	44,661,594	29.76	1,892,526	13.51	8,251,474	22.67	241,719	14.65
Mexico	21,410,719	14.72	5,759,475	42.85	21,207,030	14.13	6,720,687	47.95	▼203,689	▼0.96	961,212	16.69
United Kingdom	10,138,114	6.97	1,706,190	12.70	8,627,065	5.75	576,043	4.11	▼1,511,049	▼14.91	▼1,130,147	▼66.24
Japan	6,840,054	4.71	294,967	2.20	8,114,209	5.41	302,268	2.16	1,274,155	18.63	7,301	2.48
Germany	6,366,939	4.38	387,682	2.89	8,071,527	5.38	547,521	3.91	1,704,588	26.78	159,839	41.23
Australia	5,990,468	4.12	202,012	1.51	6,010,763	4.01	227,946	1.63	20,295	0.34	25,934	12.84
China	4,499,944	3.10	179,780	1.34	5,526,110	3.69	547,822	3.91	1,026,166	22.81	368,042	204.72
S. Korea	3,401,037	2.34	239,677	1.79	2,352,199	1.57	184,114	1.32	▼1,048,838	▼30.84	▼55,563	▼23.19
Belgium	2,674,983	1.84	95,432	0.71	1,948,195	1.30	65,259	0.47	▼726,788	▼27.17	▼30,173	▼31.62
France	2,303,120	1.59	37,617	0.28	2,599,581	1.74	64,888	0.47	296,461	12.88	27,271	72.50
Total	145,471,254	100.00	13,442,769	100.00	150,085,812	100.00	14,018,624	100.00	4,614,558	3.18	575,855	4.29

United States - Export												
Product HS (6)	2020 - Q1				2021 - Q1				Volume Change			
	FOB Value (USD)	%	Quantity	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	Quantity	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	Quantity	%
820790 - Interchangeable tools others, and parts thereof, of base metal	49,265,495	33.87	5,406,842	40.23	55,257,663	36.82	6,498,650	46.36	5,992,168	12.17	1,091,808	20.20
820411 - Spanners and wrenches, hand-operated, non-adjustable, and parts thereof, of base metal	35,462,071	24.38	2,429,450	18.08	33,641,171	22.42	3,099,327	22.11	▼1,820,900	▼5.14	669,877	27.58
820720 - Dies for drawing or extruding metal, and parts thereof, of base metal	14,340,515	9.86	548,752	4.09	15,722,569	10.48	515,256	3.68	1,382,054	9.64	▼33,496	▼6.11
820420 - Socket wrenches with or without handles, drives and extensions, and parts thereof, of base metal	13,122,794	9.03	798,732	5.95	14,963,663	9.98	981,646	7.01	1,840,869	14.03	182,914	22.91
820740 - Tools for tapping or threading, and parts thereof, of base metal	10,921,112	7.51	1,246,721	9.28	10,332,475	6.89	1,320,037	9.42	▼588,637	▼5.39	73,316	5.89
820412 - Spanners and wrenches, hand-operated, adjustable, and parts thereof, of base metal	10,664,245	7.34	199,589	1.49	9,804,419	6.54	329,913	2.36	▼859,826	▼8.07	130,324	65.30
820540 - Screwdrivers, and parts thereof, of base metal	6,871,883	4.73	2,737,600	20.37	6,914,956	4.61	1,197,995	8.55	43,073	0.63	▼1,539,605	▼56.24
820510 - Drilling, threading or tapping tools, and parts thereof, of base metal	4,823,139	3.32	75,083	0.56	3,448,896	2.30	75,800	0.55	▼1,374,243	▼28.50	717	0.96
Total	145,471,254	100.00	13,442,769	100.00	150,085,812	100.00	14,018,624	100.00	4,614,558	3.18	575,855	4.29



- Interchangeable tools others, and parts thereof, of base metal
- Hand-operated spanners and wrenches, nonadjustable, and parts, base metal, other
- Dies for drawing or extruding metal, and parts thereof, of base metal
- Socket wrenches with or without handles, drives and extensions, and parts thereof, of base metal
- Tools for tapping or threading, and parts thereof, of base metal
- Hand-operated spanners and wrenches, adjustable, and parts, base metal, other
- Open-end, box and combination open-end and box wrenches, base metal
- Screwdrivers, and parts thereof, of base metal
- Files and rasps including rotary, interchangeable, and parts
- Drilling, threading or tapping tools and parts thereof, of base metal

United States - Export																
Product HS (6)	2020 - Q1				2020 - Q2				2020 - Q3				2020 - Q4			
	FOB Value (USD)	%	Quantity	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	Quantity	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	Quantity	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	Quantity	%
820790 - Interchangeable tools others, and parts thereof, of base metal	49,265,495	33.87	5,406,842	40.23	41,970,142	38.15	5,543,938	52.92	44,762,329	36.78	5,565,415	42.97	51,859,466	37.78	6,290,363	44.86
820411 - Spanners and wrenches, hand-operated, non-adjustable, and parts thereof, of base metal	35,462,071	24.38	2,429,450	18.08	25,588,005	23.26	1,723,358	16.45	26,346,769	21.65	2,381,305	18.39	30,241,321	22.03	3,225,665	23.01
820720 - Dies for drawing or extruding metal, and parts thereof, of base metal	14,340,515	9.86	548,752	4.09	10,919,287	9.93	376,118	3.59	14,506,742	11.92	432,468	3.34	13,694,392	9.98	494,263	3.53
820420 - Socket wrenches with or without handles, drives and extensions, and parts thereof, of base metal	13,122,794	9.03	798,732	5.95	10,347,235	9.41	649,279	6.20	12,166,951	10.00	783,790	6.06	14,444,616	10.53	1,134,331	8.09
820740 - Tools for tapping or threading, and parts thereof, of base metal	10,921,112	7.51	1,246,721	9.28	7,129,090	6.48	824,189	7.87	7,684,267	6.32	1,233,063	9.52	8,608,029	6.27	937,686	6.69
820412 - Spanners and wrenches, hand-operated, adjustable, and parts thereof, of base metal	10,664,245	7.34	199,589	1.49	6,163,044	5.61	152,098	1.46	6,370,829	5.24	167,151	1.30	7,958,769	5.80	343,036	2.45
820540 - Screwdrivers, and parts thereof, of base metal	6,871,883	4.73	2,737,600	20.37	4,795,308	4.36	1,160,863	11.08	5,973,137	4.91	2,309,947	17.84	6,597,758	4.81	1,511,245	10.78
820510 - Drilling, threading or tapping tools, and parts thereof, of base metal	4,823,139	3.32	75,083	0.56	3,105,867	2.83	47,555	0.46	3,892,990	3.20	81,619	0.64	3,893,897	2.84	86,191	0.62
Total	145,471,254	100.00	13,442,769	100.00	110,017,978	100.00	10,477,398	100.00	121,704,014	100.00	12,954,758	100.00	137,298,248	100.00	14,022,780	100.00

United States - Export																
Country of Destination	2020 - Q1				2020 - Q2				2020 - Q3				2020 - Q4			
	FOB Value (USD)	%	Quantity	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	Quantity	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	Quantity	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	Quantity	%
Canada	36,410,120	25.03	1,650,807	12.29	26,973,084	24.52	1,145,735	10.94	38,948,862	32.01	1,798,664	13.89	43,327,274	31.56	1,643,330	11.72
Mexico	21,410,719	14.72	5,759,475	42.85	14,007,046	12.74	5,369,201	51.25	15,229,117	12.52	5,341,751	41.24	18,281,343	13.32	7,065,012	50.39
United Kingdom	10,138,114	6.97	1,706,190	12.70	6,048,154	5.50	791,576	7.56	7,034,240	5.78	2,009,111	15.51	6,870,841	5.01	973,877	6.95
Japan	6,840,054	4.71	294,967	2.20	6,768,995	6.16	208,306	1.99	5,665,346	4.66	235,463	1.82	5,695,360	4.15	270,306	1.93
Germany	6,366,939	4.38	387,682	2.89	7,186,438	6.54	301,229	2.88	6,410,054	5.27	416,171	3.22	7,432,033	5.42	437,378	3.12
Australia	5,990,468	4.12	202,012	1.51	4,950,606	4.50	182,347	1.75	6,879,048	5.66	270,097	2.09	6,306,883	4.60	262,503	1.88
China	4,499,944	3.10	179,780	1.34	5,617,892	5.11	278,881	2.67	5,251,170	4.32	227,303	1.76	4,793,010	3.50	254,062	1.82
S. Korea	3,401,037	2.34	239,677	1.79	2,446,346	2.23	174,734	1.67	2,287,399	1.88	170,109	1.32	2,275,097	1.66	200,814	1.44
Belgium	2,674,983	1.84	95,432	0.71	1,053,088	0.96	23,436	0.23	1,512,644	1.25	75,327	0.59	1,739,789	1.27	47,772	0.35
France	2,303,120	1.59	37,617	0.28	1,485,028	1.35	22,508	0.22	2,000,695	1.65	41,519	0.33	1,743,644	1.27	38,751	0.28
Total	145,471,254	100.00	13,442,769	100.00	110,017,978	100.00	10,477,398	100.00	121,704,014	100.00	12,954,758	100.00	137,298,248	100.00	14,022,780	100.00

hand tool exports to Mexico remained relatively stagnant in Q1 2021 by comparison to the same time in 2020. U.S. exports to China, Japan and Germany increased in Q1 2021 by comparison to Q1 2020 which accounted for 68% of the total exports of hand tools.

The Future of Hand Tool Trade

The U.S. continues to see a rise in the housing market which is largely composed of new construction. With the newly planned residential housing development, the demand for commodities within the hand tools categories is expected to increase exponentially in 2021. It's promising to see Q1 2021 imports of hand tools to the U.S. increased when compared to Q1 2020 as it's expected to set the stage for the demand further in 2021. With so many countries ramping up manufacturing and production thanks for the work force becoming vaccinated and returning to full capacity, supply is expected to remain stable in order to fulfill the global demand for hand tools.

