

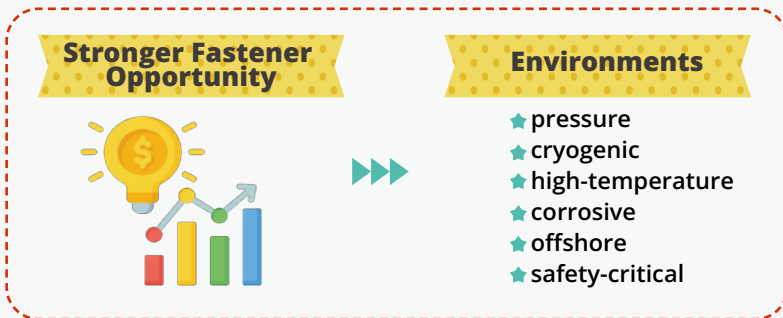
2026 Update of Gas & Oil Industry's Fastener Demand in China

2026 中國油氣緊固件需求

► Why China's Oil and Gas Sector Still Matters for Fastener Suppliers

China remains one of the most important demand centers for oil and gas fasteners in 2026. For fastener manufacturers, traders, coating specialists, distributors, and exporters, the key point is not only whether China consumes more oil or gas. The more practical question is where physical investment, plant operation, pipeline construction, maintenance, and replacement demand are taking place.

The answer is clear: China's oil and gas sector continues to generate demand across upstream production, natural gas development, pipeline construction, LNG terminals, gas storage, refining, petrochemical upgrading, offshore facilities, and maintenance of existing assets. These activities require large quantities of stud bolts, heavy hex nuts, anchor bolts, structural bolts, U-bolts, flange fasteners, pressure-equipment fasteners, heat-resistant bolts, low-temperature bolting, coated fasteners, and corrosion-resistant products.



For fastener readers, the most important change is that China's oil and gas fastener demand is no longer only a volume story. Standard carbon-steel bolts and nuts remain important, but they are also exposed to strong price competition. The stronger opportunity is increasingly found in certified, traceable, and application-specific fasteners used in pressure, cryogenic, high-temperature, corrosive, offshore, and safety-critical environments.

► Data Signals: What the 2025 and Early 2026 Numbers Show

China's oil and gas activity remained strong entering 2026. Official data show continued growth in crude oil production, natural gas production, and crude oil processing. These three indicators are directly relevant to fastener suppliers because they represent physical activity in fields, plants, refineries, pipelines, terminals, and related equipment.

▼ Table 1. China's Oil and Gas Indicators Directly Linked to Fastener Demand

Indicator	Latest Full-year Data, 2025	Early 2026 Data	What It Means for Fastener Demand
Crude oil production	216.05 million tons, up 1.5% year on year	35.73 million tons in Jan-Feb 2026, up 1.9% year on year	Supports steady demand for upstream field equipment, wellhead fasteners, pumps, compressors, skids, valves, and flange bolting
Natural gas production	261.9 billion cubic meters, up 6.2% year on year	44.6 billion cubic meters in Jan-Feb 2026, up 2.9% year on year	Supports demand for gas-treatment facilities, compressor stations, metering stations, storage facilities, LNG connections, and pipeline bolting



Indicator	Latest Full-year Data, 2025	Early 2026 Data	What It Means for Fastener Demand
Crude oil processing	737.59 million tons, up 4.1% year on year	122.63 million tons in Jan-Feb 2026, up 2.9% year on year	Supports refinery maintenance, petrochemical processing, pressure-equipment bolting, heat-exchanger fasteners, and turnaround demand
Oil and gas infrastructure construction	Nearly 40 oil and gas infrastructure projects reported in 2026, including more than 9,000 km of pipelines	Projects advancing toward 2026 and 2027 completion	Supports demand for anchor bolts, structural bolts, coated fasteners, valve-station bolting, compressor-station fasteners, and pipeline facility hardware
Petrochemical capacity expansion	More than 60% of global ethylene capacity additions from 2020 to 2025 came from China	Continued capacity push reported in 2026 despite margin pressure	Supports demand for high-temperature bolts, alloy steel studs, stainless fasteners, pressure-vessel bolts, reactor fasteners, and chemical-plant maintenance fasteners

This table shows that the most relevant fastener demand signals are not abstract economic indicators. They are physical-production and infrastructure indicators. Oil output supports upstream and field-equipment demand. Gas production supports pipelines, compressor stations, and LNG-related systems. Crude processing supports refineries, petrochemical plants, pressure equipment, and maintenance cycles. Pipeline construction supports large volumes of anchor, structural, coated, and flange-related fasteners.

The strongest message for 2026 is that gas and downstream processing are especially important. Natural gas production has been growing faster than crude oil production, while crude oil processing recovered strongly in 2025 and continued to grow in early 2026. For fastener companies, this means demand is likely to come not only from oilfields, but also from gas infrastructure, LNG facilities, petrochemical projects, and plant maintenance.

► Where Fastener Demand Is Most Likely to Grow

Gas Pipelines and Stations: the Clearest Volume Opportunity

Gas infrastructure is one of the clearest fastener demand drivers in China in 2026. Nearly 40 oil and gas infrastructure projects, including pipelines totaling more than 9,000 km, have been reported under construction. For fastener suppliers, this is significant because pipeline projects require far more than pipe.

The larger fastener demand often comes from the facilities connected to the pipeline network. These include compressor stations, metering stations, valve stations, pigging stations, pressure-control systems, LNG receiving connections, and gas storage facilities. These facilities require large quantities of stud bolts, heavy hex nuts, washers, anchor bolts, structural bolts, U-bolts, expansion bolts, and fasteners for valves, supports, skids, pumps, and compressors. This segment offers volume, but it is also competitive. Standard products face strong local price pressure. The stronger opportunity is in project-ready supply: consistent dimensions, reliable coating quality, complete traceability, fast delivery, and the ability to meet EPC and equipment-manufacturer specifications.

LNG and Gas Storage: Smaller Volume, Higher Specification

LNG terminals and gas storage facilities are highly relevant to fastener suppliers because they require more technical products than many general industrial projects. LNG facilities include cryogenic storage tanks, process piping, vaporizers, unloading arms, compressors, pumps, marine structures, safety systems, and loading equipment.

These applications create demand for low-temperature bolting, stainless steel fasteners, coated fasteners, corrosion-resistant products, and pressure-rated bolting packages. The volumes may be lower than pipeline construction, but the specification level is higher. This gives technically capable fastener suppliers a better chance to compete on quality, documentation, and application reliability rather than price alone.

For manufacturers, LNG-related demand also highlights the importance of material control. Buyers often require mechanical testing, material certificates, heat-number traceability, coating reports, and correct packaging. In this segment, weak documentation can be as damaging as weak product quality.

Refining and Petrochemicals: Recurring Demand from Operation and Maintenance

China's crude oil processing reached 737.59 million tons in 2025 and continued to grow in the first two months of 2026. This is highly relevant for fastener readers because refining and petrochemical plants consume fasteners not only during construction, but throughout their operating life.

Refineries and petrochemical plants require fasteners for heat exchangers, reactors, pressure vessels, pipe flanges, pumps, compressors, furnaces, storage tanks, loading systems, and maintenance shutdowns. Key product categories include alloy steel studs, heavy hex nuts, high-temperature bolts, stainless fasteners, coated fasteners, pressure-vessel bolts, and replacement bolting for turnaround work.

The petrochemical side is especially important. China accounted for more than 60% of global ethylene capacity additions from 2020 to 2025, and capacity expansion continues despite profit pressure in the sector. For fastener suppliers, this suggests two things. First, new and upgraded petrochemical plants will continue to require technical fasteners. Second, cost pressure in the sector means buyers may be strict on price, so suppliers must differentiate through quality, certification, delivery reliability, and technical suitability.



Offshore and Coastal Energy Facilities: Premium But Demanding





Offshore and coastal oil and gas facilities are smaller in fastener volume than pipelines or refineries, but they are often more attractive in value. Offshore platforms, marine terminals, floating systems, subsea-related equipment, coastal loading systems, and offshore processing facilities expose fasteners to saltwater corrosion, vibration, pressure, and cyclic loading.

This creates demand for stainless steel, duplex stainless steel, coated alloy steel, nickel alloy, and other corrosion-resistant products. These are not ordinary fasteners. They are safety-critical components used in harsh environments, where failure can create shutdown, leakage, repair cost, and safety risk.

For fastener companies with strong material sourcing, machining control, coating capability, and inspection systems, offshore and coastal projects can offer better positioning. However, entry requirements are higher. Buyers usually expect full traceability, consistent certificates, mechanical test records, dimensional inspection, coating verification, and reliable batch control.

► Product Demand Outlook for Fastener Companies

▼ Table 2. Fastener Categories with the Strongest 2026 Opportunity

Fastener Category	Demand Outlook in 2026	Main Demand Source	Why It Matters
 Stud bolts and heavy hex nuts	Strong	Flanges, valves, pressure piping, refineries, gas stations, petrochemical plants	Core oil and gas bolting product with broad demand across construction and maintenance
 Anchor bolts and foundation bolts	Strong	Compressor stations, pumps, tanks, skids, pipeline facilities, terminal equipment	Supported by pipeline, terminal, and plant infrastructure projects
Structural bolts	Medium to strong	Pipe racks, platforms, support structures, terminals, offshore structures	Demand increases where large energy infrastructure and plant-support systems are built
Stainless steel fasteners	Medium to strong	LNG, coastal terminals, chemical plants, offshore facilities	Needed where corrosion resistance is important
Duplex and nickel alloy fasteners	Selective but high value	Offshore, marine, chemical, sour or severe-service environments	Lower volume, but technically attractive and less exposed to commodity pricing
Low-temperature bolting	Selective but attractive	LNG terminals, cryogenic storage, gas processing	Higher specification requirements make quality and certification important
 High-temperature alloy bolts	Strong	Refineries, petrochemical units, heat exchangers, reactors, furnaces	Supported by crude processing, petrochemical expansion, and recurring turnaround demand
 Coated fasteners	Strong	Pipelines, coastal facilities, gas stations, structural supports, terminals	Coating quality and inspection records are key differentiators
Maintenance and replacement fasteners	Stable and recurring	Refineries, petrochemical plants, terminals, storage facilities, pipelines	Important for distributors, stockists, and suppliers with quick delivery and proper certificates

The product outlook shows that China’s oil and gas fastener demand is not concentrated on one product group. Pipeline projects create broad demand for anchors, structural bolts, flange bolting, and coated products. LNG and offshore applications create demand for higher-grade corrosion-resistant and low-temperature products. Refineries and petrochemical plants create recurring demand for high-temperature, pressure-rated, and maintenance fasteners.

► What Fastener Suppliers Should Understand Before Entering or Expanding

China’s oil and gas sector offers demand, but it is not an easy market. Fastener suppliers should understand five practical realities.

- 1** First, basic fasteners are highly competitive. China has a strong domestic fastener manufacturing base, especially in standard carbon-steel bolts, nuts, washers, and construction fasteners. Competing only on price is difficult.



2 Second, oil and gas buyers are not only buying metal parts. They are buying reliability. In pressure systems, offshore facilities, LNG terminals, and petrochemical plants, fasteners are part of the safety chain. Material certificates, heat-number traceability, test reports, coating records, and packaging discipline are increasingly important.

3 Third, the most realistic customers may not be oil and gas operators. Many fastener purchases are made by EPC contractors, valve manufacturers, pressure-vessel manufacturers, pump and compressor manufacturers, offshore engineering firms, maintenance contractors, and industrial distributors. These companies should be priority targets for fastener suppliers.

4 Fourth, maintenance demand is a major opportunity. China already has a large installed base of refineries, chemical plants, pipelines, storage facilities, terminals, and offshore assets. Even when new construction slows, these assets require inspection, replacement, shutdown maintenance, emergency repair, and recurring fastener supply.

5 Fifth, product positioning matters. A supplier of ordinary commodity fasteners will face a different market from a supplier of certified alloy, stainless, duplex, coated, cryogenic, or high-temperature bolting. The stronger opportunity is in the technical middle and upper segments, where documentation, reliability, and application suitability support better margins.

► Fastener World Analysis: 2026 Expectations

Our view is that China's oil and gas fastener demand in 2026 will remain positive, but the most attractive opportunities will be selective rather than general. The market will continue to buy large volumes of standard fasteners, but the better business opportunity will be in products connected to gas infrastructure, LNG, petrochemicals, offshore facilities, and maintenance cycles.

The first expectation is stronger demand from gas infrastructure. Natural gas production continues to grow, and pipeline construction remains active. This supports demand for flange bolting, anchor bolts, structural bolts, coated fasteners, valve-station fasteners, compressor-station fasteners, and gas storage-related products.

The second expectation is that refining and petrochemical demand will remain important, even as fuel demand patterns change. China's crude processing volume remains high, and petrochemical capacity continues to expand. This supports high-temperature bolts, alloy steel studs, pressure-vessel fasteners, stainless products, and maintenance fasteners for plants operating under demanding conditions.

The third expectation is that LNG and offshore projects will favor suppliers with stronger technical capability. These segments are not only about volume. They require low-temperature performance, corrosion resistance, coating reliability, material control, and complete traceability. Suppliers that can meet these requirements will be better positioned than those offering only standard grades.

The fourth expectation is that maintenance and replacement demand will become increasingly important. The more China builds pipelines, terminals, refineries, petrochemical plants, and offshore facilities, the larger the installed base becomes. That installed base creates recurring fastener demand over many years.

The fifth expectation is that documentation will become a commercial advantage. In oil and gas applications, a bolt without complete certification may not be accepted, even if the product itself appears suitable. Fastener companies that treat certificates, testing, traceability, and batch control as part of the product will have a stronger position in this market.

Overall, China's oil and gas industry in 2026 remains a meaningful demand source for fastener suppliers. However, the best opportunity is not simply selling more bolts at lower prices. It is supplying reliable, certified, and application-specific fasteners for infrastructure, LNG, offshore, refining, petrochemical, and maintenance applications. For fastener companies that can combine competitive production with technical compliance, China remains a market worth watching closely in 2026. ■

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Resources

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