

Brazilian News

A Short Comparison Between 2014 and 2023

The January 2024 Issue of Anuário do Parafuso— a special edition under Revista do Parafuso— published a brief comparison among some sectors extremely involved with consumption of bolts, screws, nuts, similar fasteners, among others. This article, originally written in the Brazilian language, is now rewritten into English for global readers' reference to further understand the Brazilian fastener market in real figures (*Fig. 1*).

Firstly, it is important to inform that Brazil has more than 211 million habitants, 4.5% above the 202 million mark in 2014. There were around 372 local fastener manufacturers in 2023, 18% less than 450 manufacturers 10 years ago. From December 2022 to November 2023, the local steel production volume was 31.846 million tons, around 8% lower than the 33.897 million tons produced in 2014. On the other hand, the local petroleum production volume jumped more than 71% from 2.1 million per day in 2014 to 3.6 million, up to last year. During January-December 2023 Brazil imported 189,900 tons of fasteners (4.34% above the volume in 2014), valued at US\$ 977 million (up 1.5%, with FOB price at US\$ 5.15 /kg), compared to 182,000 tons valued at US\$ 962 million (FOB price at US\$ 5.28 /kg) recorded in 2014. On another note, the Brazilian fasteners export reached 30,700 tons (18.5% above the volume in 2014), valued at US\$ 182 million (up 28%, with FOB price at US\$ 5.92 /kg), compared to 25,000 tons, valued at US\$ 131 million (FOB price at US\$ 5.16 p/kg) recorded in 2014.

The interesting point lies in auto-vehicles, in which the motorcycles sector produced 1.573 million units in 2023, the best historic result, higher than 1.517 million units recorded in 2014. If passenger cars, buses and trucks were at the same increase rate in Brazil, maybe they could have made a comeback to be a highlight on "The Economist Magazine" front cover, as they did in November 2009. However, 2023 closed with 2.324 million units produced (121,133 buses and trucks), which is a 35% plus gap from 3.151 million units (more than 172,902 buses and trucks) recorded in 2014.

Sources: Abraciclo, Anfavea, Brazil Steel Institute, IBGE, Mdic, Sinpa

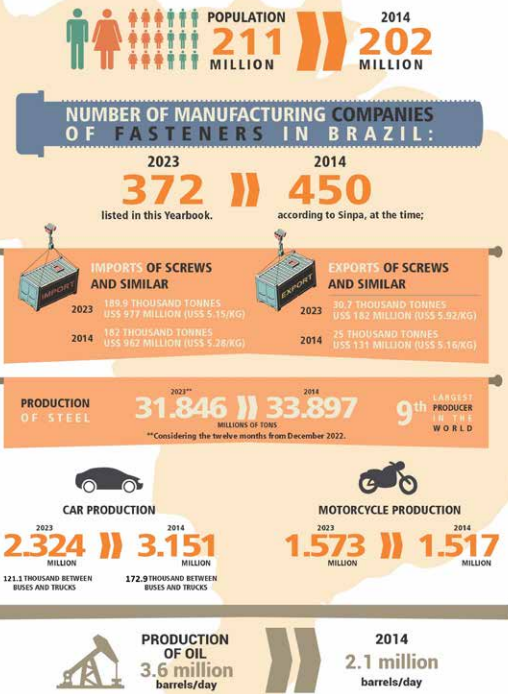


Fig. 1

Belenus Celebrates 20 Years

Currently, the company is the biggest Brazilian fastener manufacturer

The history of the company started in 1960 with former taxi driver João Lucas (who has left this world). In 1978 he opened his own resale business, with his son João Marcos Lucas (JM) at his side.

Under JM, the resale company had got a meteoric trajectory and prosperity. In 2004, with Sergio Lucas, JM's son, at his side, JM founded a new company named Belenus, starting a new era as fastener manufacturer. In the last two decades, Belenus surged and changed the history of the fastener market in Brazil.

Besides fastener production, Belenus became a group, with operations in other areas, such as distribution of hardware, tools, and various types of equipment and peripheral products to solar energy installations.



Fig. 2. Sergio Lucas and J. M. Lucas (Belenus directors)

In total, the group has 1.7 thousand employees, and a capacity to process 10 thousand tons of fasteners per month. ■

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Fig. 3. Belenus headquarters (Vinhedo Town, SP, Brazil)