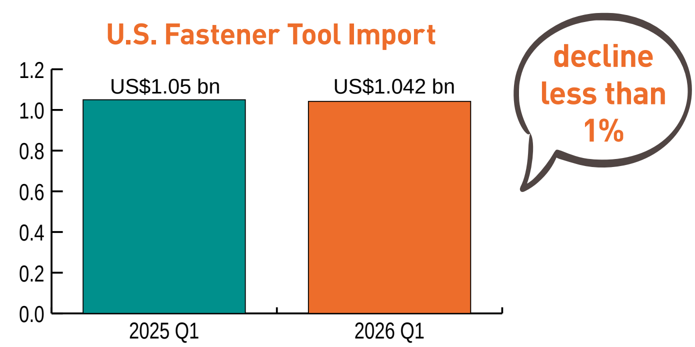
U.S. Fastener Tool Trade in Q1 2026: An Analysis of the Americas' Leading Trading Partners

Data note: The data for this article is derived from the US Census trade statistics. US Census trade statistics analyze imports across all modes of transportation. The value is calculated in CIF USD or FOB USD. The HS Codes represented in this article are 820411, 820412, 820420, 820540, 820570, and 8207.

The U.S. fastener tool market remained closely tied to global manufacturing supply chains during the first quarter of 2026, with imports continuing to play a critical role in supporting domestic demand across the automotive, construction, industrial equipment, and retail sectors. While official U.S. Census trade statistics provide the broad picture of import and export activity, shipment-level trade data offers additional insight into the companies and supply chains moving the greatest volumes of fastener tools into the United States. Together, these datasets illustrate both the scale of U.S. trade and the commercial relationships that underpin the market. The broader industrial distribution sector also continued to show healthy demand entering 2026, reflecting ongoing investment across manufacturing and industrial end markets.

Key Trade Trends from Q1 2026

During the first quarter of 2026, **the United States imported US$1.042 billion worth of fastener tools within this product category, representing a year-over-year decrease of less than 1% compared to Q1 2025.** This relatively flat performance indicates a stable import market despite ongoing shifts in global trade and supply chain dynamics.

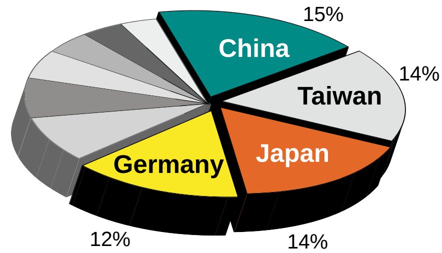


▼ United States - Import by Country (2025Q1 vs 2026Q1)

Country of Origin	2025 - Q1		2026 - Q1		Volume Change	
	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%
China	228,476,881	21.75	155,785,650	14.95	-72,691,231	-31.82
Taiwan	172,390,888	16.41	149,503,104	14.35	-22,887,784	-13.28
Japan	83,377,812	7.94	144,691,933	13.88	61,314,121	73.54
Germany	120,786,025	11.50	126,587,135	12.15	5,801,110	4.81
Vietnam	50,105,442	4.77	70,462,052	6.76	20,356,610	40.63
S. Korea	44,312,285	4.22	63,671,050	6.11	19,358,765	43.69
Canada	95,400,817	9.08	47,765,975	4.59	-47,634,842	-49.94
Thailand	22,368,227	2.13	38,736,551	3.72	16,368,324	73.18
Italy	29,358,241	2.80	32,084,987	3.08	2,726,746	9.29
India	35,280,040	3.36	28,437,039	2.73	-6,843,001	-19.40
Total	1,050,702,703	100.00	1,042,453,724	100.00	-8,248,979	-0.79

China remained the leading source of U.S. fastener tool imports, accounting for nearly 15% of total import value. Taiwan and Japan followed closely, each contributing approximately 14%, while Germany represented 12% of total imports. Germany's position among the leading suppliers is consistent with its advanced manufacturing sector, particularly its automotive and industrial machinery industries, where precision tooling plays a critical role.

U.S. Fastener Tool Source



Monthly import activity peaked in March 2026, reaching US$386 million, the highest monthly value of the quarter. During March, Japan and Taiwan emerged as the leading trading partners, while January—the second strongest month of the quarter—was led by China, Taiwan, and Germany. These monthly shifts highlight the dynamic nature of global sourcing and production schedules while reinforcing the consistent importance of these major supplier markets.

Looking at product categories, **HS 820730 (tools for pressing, stamping, or punching) represented the largest share of imports, accounting for nearly 24% of total import value during Q1 2026. This was followed by HS 820750 (tools for drilling) at approximately 14% and HS 820420 (socket wrenches) at 9.5%.** These three categories also ranked as the leading imports during Q1 2025, demonstrating continued demand for core industrial tooling products.

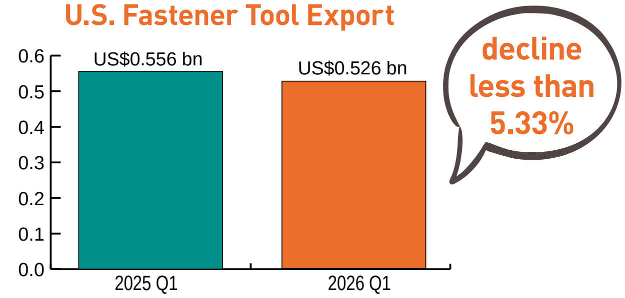
While the overall product mix remained relatively consistent, several categories experienced notable year-over-year changes. Imports of HS 820750 declined by nearly 6%, while HS 820420 increased by approximately 12%. HS 820790 (interchangeable tools not elsewhere specified) recorded a 17% decrease, whereas HS 820719 (interchangeable tools for hand tools) experienced the strongest growth of any category, increasing 46% compared to the first quarter of 2025.

▼ United States - Import by Category (2025Q1 vs 2026Q1)

HS Code (6)	2025 - Q1		2026 - Q1		Volume Change	
	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%
820730 - Tools For Pressing, Stamping Or Punching, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	212,968,030	20.27	249,251,151	23.92	36,283,121	17.04
820750 - Tools For Drilling, Other Than Rock Drilling, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	154,264,771	14.69	145,308,994	13.94	-8,955,777	-5.81
820420 - Socket Wrenches With Or Without Handles, Drives And Extensions, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	111,119,336	10.58	98,023,019	9.41	-13,096,317	-11.79
820790 - Other Interchangeable Tools, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	110,336,396	10.51	91,332,279	8.77	-19,004,117	-17.23
820770 - Tools For Milling, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	78,574,463	7.48	80,204,677	7.70	1,630,214	2.08
820411 - Spanners And Wrenches, Hand-Operated, Non-Adjustable, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	83,921,652	7.99	75,559,250	7.25	-8,362,402	-9.97
820719 - Interchangeable Tools For Handtools, Whether Or Not Power-Operated, Or For Machine-Tools, Including Rock Drilling Or Earth Boring Tools; Base Metal Parts	48,274,915	4.60	70,764,876	6.79	22,489,961	46.59
820570 - Vises, Clamps And The Like, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	44,860,802	4.27	46,410,803	4.46	1,550,001	3.46
820540 - Screwdrivers, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	47,384,959	4.51	43,663,437	4.19	-3,721,522	-7.86
820740 - Tools For Tapping Or Threading, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	44,184,078	4.21	35,718,119	3.43	-8,465,959	-19.17
820412 - Spanners And Wrenches, Hand-Operated, Adjustable, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	37,716,156	3.59	30,946,584	2.97	-6,769,572	-17.95
820713 - Rock Drilling Or Earth Boring Tools With Working Part Of Cermets, And Parts Thereof	27,604,497	2.63	26,781,192	2.57	-823,305	-2.99
820760 - Tools For Boring Or Broaching, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	20,970,037	2.00	20,320,230	1.95	-649,807	-3.10
820720 - Dies For Drawing Or Extruding Metal, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	19,081,853	1.82	19,928,971	1.92	847,118	4.44
820780 - Tools For Turning, Of Base Metal	9,440,758	0.90	8,240,142	0.80	-1,200,616	-12.72
Total	1,050,702,703	100.00	1,042,453,724	100.00	-8,248,979	-0.79

On the export side, the United States shipped approximately US$526 million in fastener tools during Q1 2026. Canada and Mexico remained the country's dominant export destinations, together accounting for roughly 40% of total export value, underscoring the importance of North American manufacturing supply chains. The United Kingdom and Germany followed as secondary export markets, each representing approximately 4% of total exports.

U.S. Fastener Tool Export



The leading export categories were HS 820720 (dies for drawing or extruding metal) and HS 820719 (interchangeable tools for hand tools), each accounting for approximately 19% of total export value, followed by HS 820750 (tools for drilling) at 10%. Despite remaining among the largest export categories, several products experienced notable declines compared to Q1 2025. Exports of HS 820740 (tools for tapping or threading) fell by 24%, while HS 820720 declined by 28%, suggesting softer demand within these product segments during the quarter.

▼ United States - Export by Country (2025Q1 vs 2026Q1)

Country of Origin	2025 - Q1		2026 - Q1		Volume Change	
	FOB Value (USD)	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	FOB Value (USD)	%
Canada	162,894,795	29.29	161,805,089	30.73	-1,089,706	-0.67
Mexico	104,509,027	18.79	104,732,346	19.89	223,319	0.22
U.k.	20,888,572	3.76	22,711,500	4.32	1,822,928	8.73
Germany	22,542,329	4.06	22,618,921	4.30	76,592	0.34
China	12,894,550	2.32	15,116,728	2.88	2,222,178	17.24
Australia	12,988,119	2.34	13,116,347	2.50	128,228	0.99
Netherlands	11,004,045	1.98	12,710,342	2.42	1,706,297	15.51
Saudi Arabia	11,739,282	2.12	11,849,695	2.26	110,413	0.95
Japan	17,965,677	3.23	11,085,464	2.11	-6,880,213	-38.30
India	7,529,314	1.36	9,059,284	1.73	1,529,970	20.33
Total	556,216,819	100.00	526,577,382	100.00	-29,639,437	-5.33

▼ United States - Export by Category (2025Q1 vs 2026Q1)

HS Code (6)	2025 - Q1		2026 - Q1		Volume Change	
	FOB Value (USD)	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	FOB Value (USD)	%
820730 - Tools For Pressing, Stamping Or Punching, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	104,036,709	18.71	102,902,417	19.55	-1,134,292	-1.10
820719 - Interchangeable Tools For Handtools, Whether Or Not Power-Operated, Or For Machine-Tools, Including Rock Drilling Or Earth Boring Tools; Base Metl Parts	121,648,165	21.88	102,411,077	19.45	-19,237,088	-15.82
820750 - Tools For Drilling, Other Than Rock Drilling, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	49,934,879	8.98	52,441,766	9.96	2,506,887	5.03
820790 - Other Interchangeable Tools, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	52,393,732	9.42	45,911,732	8.72	-6,482,000	-12.38
820411 - Spanners And Wrenches, Hand-Operated, Non-Adjustable, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	42,456,111	7.64	40,638,714	7.72	-1,817,397	-4.29
820770 - Tools For Milling, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	33,244,216	5.98	38,737,733	7.36	5,493,517	16.53
820713 - Rock Drilling Or Earth Boring Tools With Working Part Of Cermets, And Parts Thereof	31,726,223	5.71	31,190,939	5.93	-535,284	-1.69
820570 - Vises, Clamps And The Like, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	21,640,325	3.90	21,722,485	4.13	82,160	0.38
820420 - Socket Wrenches With Or Without Handles, Drives And Extensions, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	19,969,545	3.60	21,603,912	4.11	1,634,367	8.19

▼ United States - Export by Category (2025Q1 vs 2026Q1)

HS Code (6)	2025 - Q1		2026 - Q1		Volume Change	
	FOB Value (USD)	%	FOB Value (USD)	%	FOB Value (USD)	%
820760 - Tools For Boring Or Broaching, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	17,090,182	3.08	17,109,106	3.25	18,924	0.12
820412 - Spanners And Wrenches, Hand-Operated, Adjustable, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	11,279,446	2.03	12,518,225	2.38	1,238,779	10.99
820740 - Tools For Tapping Or Threading, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	16,187,630	2.92	12,360,293	2.35	-3,827,337	-23.65
820720 - Dies For Drawing Or Extruding Metal, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	17,077,778	3.08	12,204,791	2.32	-4,872,987	-28.54
820540 - Screwdrivers, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	9,933,777	1.79	8,048,619	1.53	-1,885,158	-18.98
820780 - Tools For Turning, Of Base Metal	7,598,101	1.37	6,775,573	1.29	-822,528	-10.83
Total	556,216,819	100.00	526,577,382	100.00	-29,639,437	-5.33

Supply Chains Continue to Reflect Industrial Demand

Shipment data for the quarter indicates that trade remained concentrated among large industrial distributors, retailers, and automotive manufacturers. Companies such as Apex Tool Group, The Home Depot, and Toyota ranked among the leading U.S. importers by shipment activity, reflecting the diverse industries that depend on fastener tools. On the supplier side, manufacturers including Apex Tool facilities in China, Toyota in Japan, and Toyo Sun Machinery in Japan accounted for a significant share of shipments entering the U.S.

Rather than representing shifts toward a single supplier or geography, these rankings reinforce the **continued importance of established manufacturing networks across Asia. Automotive manufacturers, in particular, remain prominent participants in fastener tool trade** as specialized tools move alongside broader vehicle production and maintenance supply chains.

The presence of suppliers from China and Japan, alongside importers spanning industrial distributors, retailers, and automotive manufacturers, illustrates that sourcing strategies remain diversified rather than concentrated in a single market. Many manufacturers continue to balance cost, manufacturing expertise, quality requirements, and lead times when selecting suppliers, particularly for specialized industrial tools.

Tariffs and Trade Compliance have Become Increasingly Complex

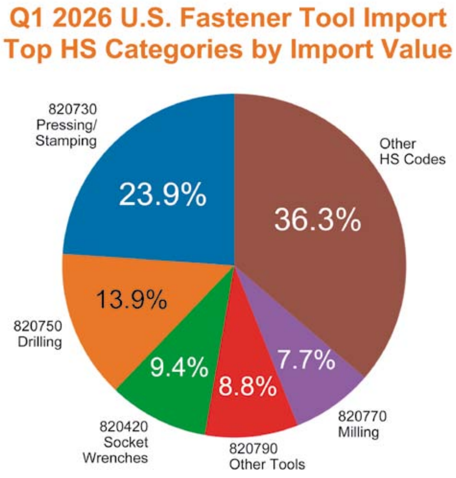
Tariffs remain an important consideration for companies importing industrial tools and components. While shipment data alone cannot determine whether sourcing decisions were driven by tariff policies, manufacturers continue to evaluate supplier locations alongside landed costs, customs duties, logistics expenses, and overall supply chain resilience.

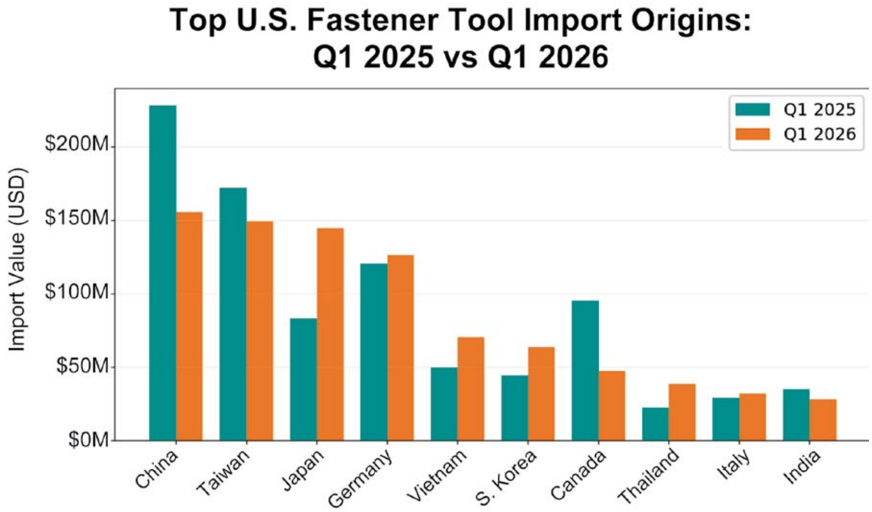
Beyond pricing and availability, importers must navigate an increasingly complex trade compliance environment. Product classification, country of origin determinations, customs valuation, sanctions screening, and evolving import regulations all play an important role in ensuring shipments move efficiently through customs while minimizing compliance risk.

Automotive Continues to Influence Trade Patterns

The prominence of automotive manufacturers among both importers and exporters highlights the sector's ongoing influence on fastener tool demand. Vehicle production relies heavily on precision fastening equipment throughout manufacturing, maintenance, and aftermarket operations, making automotive supply chains a consistent driver of international trade volumes.

Industrial distributors and home improvement retailers also remain significant participants, serving professional contractors, manufacturers, and consumers through extensive distribution networks. The mix of importers observed during Q1 2026 demonstrates that demand extends well beyond any single industry, reflecting the essential role fastener tools play across manufacturing, infrastructure, and commercial construction.





The automotive sector continues to be a major consumer of fastening tools throughout vehicle manufacturing, assembly, maintenance, and aftermarket operations. As vehicle production evolves, including the growth of electric vehicles and advanced manufacturing techniques—the demand for specialized tooling remains an important driver of international trade.

As manufacturers continue to balance cost, availability, regulatory requirements, and geopolitical uncertainty, trade data will remain an important indicator of how sourcing strategies evolve. Monitoring both official trade statistics and shipment-level activity provides a more complete picture of where demand is growing, which suppliers are expanding their presence, and how global supply chains continue to adapt. ■