Turkish News

provided by Irem Yaren BAYSAL,
Editor of Fastener Eurasia Magazine
www.fastenereurope.com

Türkiye Fastener Industry Analysis

The fastener industry in Türkiye is a horizontal link within the industrial supply chain. Millions of vehicles in the automotive industry, millions of structural components in construction, millions of tons of production in the iron and steel industry, and high-tech products in the aerospace sector continuously generate demand for fasteners with different specifications. Therefore, the performance of the sector should not be assessed solely based on its own production volume, but also in relation to the performance of the major industries it supplies.

In Türkiye's fastener trade, HS Code 7318 serves as the main reference point. This tariff heading covers screws, bolts, nuts, coach screws, screw hooks, rivets, cotters, cotter pins, washers and similar products made of iron or steel. Trade Map data included in the Turkish Ministry of Trade's 2025 country profiles show that Türkiye's exports in the HS Code 7318 product group reached approximately USD 776 million in 2024. For example, Switzerland's imports of products under HS Code 7318 from around the world amounted to USD 530.2 million in 2024, while Türkiye's exports to Switzerland stood at only USD 7.4 million. This indicates that there is still significant untapped export potential for Türkiye in the European market.

The geographical distribution of Türkiye's fastener exports also highlights the sector's Europe-oriented structure. Germany remained Türkiye's largest market, with approximately USD 280 million in exports, while increases were also recorded in markets such as France, Italy and the United Arab Emirates. In contrast, exports to the United States declined during the same period.

One of the sector's most significant advantages is its geographical proximity to Europe, as well as its access to strong customer industries such as automotive, household appliances, machinery, construction and energy. At the same time, Türkiye's fastener industry faces intense cost competition from major Asian producers, particularly China and Taiwan. Price pressure is especially high in standard products. Therefore, it does not appear sustainable for Türkiye to base its competitive advantage solely on low production costs. High-strength products, special components, automotive fasteners, specialized products for the energy sector, stainless steel fasteners, advanced coating technologies and engineering solutions are expected to become increasingly important for the sector's future growth.

Another advantage for Türkiye's fastener industry is the diversity of its export markets. Trade shipment data shows that Turkish fastener exports are distributed across a wide range of countries, with Russia, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa offering important opportunities alongside the European market. At the same time, geopolitical developments, freight costs, EU trade policies, anti-dumping measures and carbon regulations are directly influencing the sector's export strategy.

Türkiye Steel Industry Report

Production

In June 2026, Türkiye's crude steel production increased by 14.7% compared with the same month of the previous year, reaching 3.3 million tonnes. In the first half of the year, production increased by 8.1%, reaching 19.8 million tonnes.

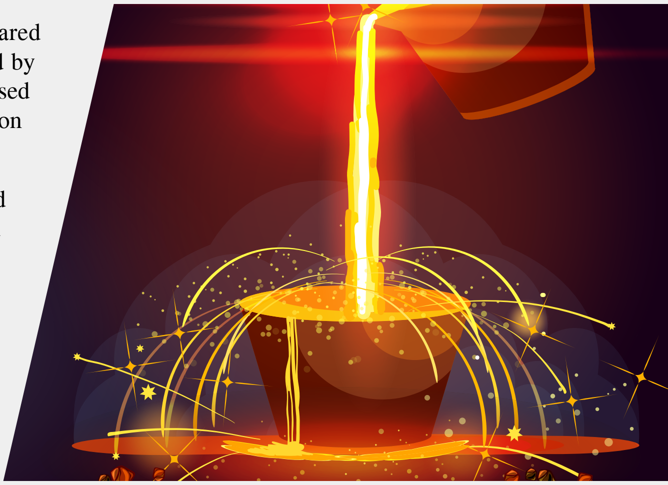
Consumption

In June 2026, finished steel product consumption increased by 0.4% compared with the same month of 2025, reaching 3.1 million tonnes. In the first half of the year, finished steel product consumption increased by 6.6%, reaching 19.9 million tonnes.

Trade

In June 2026, steel product exports increased by 28.4% in volume terms compared with the same month of 2025, reaching 1.7 million tonnes, while their value increased by 29.7% to USD 1.2 billion. During the January-June period, steel product exports increased by 2.5% in volume terms compared with the same period of 2025, reaching 7.8 million tonnes, while their value increased by 1.3% to USD 5.3 billion.

In June 2026, steel product imports decreased by 0.8% in volume terms compared with the same month of 2025, reaching 1.8 million tonnes, while their value increased by 3.7% to USD 1.2 billion. During the January-June period, steel product imports increased by 0.3% in volume terms compared with the same period of 2025, reaching 9.3 million tonnes, while their value decreased by 2.4% to USD 6.3 billion.



Trade Balance

The export-to-import coverage ratio, which stood at 80% in the January-June period of 2025, increased to 83% in the same period of 2026, supported by the upward trend in exports.

Assessment

The Turkish steel industry increased its crude steel production by 14.7% year-on-year in June, reaching 3.3 million tonnes. As a result, production in the first half of the year increased by 8.1% to 19.8 million tonnes. With this performance, Türkiye maintained its position as the world's seventh-largest crude steel producer, ahead of Germany.

A positive picture also emerged in steel product exports, with exports increasing by 28.4% in June. The decline recorded during the first five months of the year was reversed thanks to the strong performance in June, resulting in a 2.5% increase in exports during the first half of the year. Strong demand, particularly from the Middle East and South American markets, was a key factor behind this development. In June, exports to the Middle East increased by 80% to 212,600 tonnes, while exports to South America surged by 406% to 182,500 tonnes. During the first six months of the year, the United Kingdom and South America were among the standout markets, with exports to the UK increasing by 246% to 407,000 tonnes and exports to South America rising by 81% to 643,000 tonnes.

In contrast, the European Union market continued to show a weak performance. During the first half of the year, steel product exports to the EU declined by 22% to 2.6 million tonnes, making the EU the only regional market where Türkiye recorded a decrease in exports.

Türkiye Automotive Industry Report

In the January–July 2026 period, total automotive production decreased by 8%, while automobile production declined by 19% compared with the same period of the previous year. During this period, total production stood at 767,216 units, while automobile production amounted to 424,667 units. In the January–July 2026 period, the total market decreased by 11% compared with the same period of the previous year, reaching 661,249 units. During this period, the automobile market contracted by 12%, reaching 502,712 units.

In the commercial vehicle segment, production increased by 9% in the January–July 2026 period, while heavy commercial vehicle production increased by 4% and light commercial vehicle production increased by 10% compared with the previous year. During the January–July period, the commercial vehicle market declined by 5%, while the heavy commercial vehicle market decreased by 8% and the light commercial vehicle market declined by 5%.

In the January–July 2026 period, total automotive exports decreased by 14% in unit terms compared with the same period of the previous year, while automobile exports declined by 29%. During the January–July period, total automotive exports amounted to 542,401 units, while automobile exports stood at 255,679 units. According to data from the Uludağ Automotive Industry Exporters' Association (OIB), total automotive exports increased by 2% in US dollar terms compared with the same period of the previous year, reaching USD 23.9 billion in the January–July 2026 period. During the January–July period, automobile exports decreased by 9%, reaching USD 6.3 billion. ■