

Fastener World Exclusive! Full Breakdown: Trade Statistics Report on Fasteners and Fastening Tools in Latin America

惠達獨家！全方位拆解：中南美洲扣件與緊固工具貿易統計分析報告



In the context of steadily growing global industrial demand, Latin America is increasingly asserting its importance as an emerging market. With ongoing development in infrastructure, automotive, and manufacturing sectors in this region, the Latin American market for fasteners and fastening tools is expanding steadily and showing a clear reliance on imports. Fierce competition among the United States, China, and Europe contributes to a complex and dynamic international trade environment within Latin America. Taiwan has also gradually penetrated this market, demonstrating its influence within the global industrial supply chain. This report offers an in-depth analysis of the Latin American fastener and fastening tool market in 2024. It examines the trade structure, key country roles, international competitive landscape, and policy risks. The aim is to provide the industry with comprehensive and forward-looking market insights to help enterprises grasp opportunities, meet challenges, and continuously optimize their deployment and strategic adjustments.

The report is divided into two parts. Part One is Fastener Product Analysis illustrated with charts presenting trade statistics for Latin America covering the full year of 2024 and partial months of 2025. This section highlights the top 15 importing and exporting countries in the region and delves into the primary trade partners of the top 5 countries. It also features Taiwan's top ten export destinations in the region during the same period to illustrate trade flows between Taiwan and Latin American countries. Part Two is Fastening Tool Analysis following the same analytical framework as the first part for fastening tools.

The Latin American trade data are sourced from Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which provides data based on trade values. Taiwan's trade data come from the International Trade Administration of Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs, which include both trade values and weights. Given the fact that not all Latin American countries' data for 2025 are updated to the same month, the time frames of the 2025 data for respective countries have been clearly marked in a separate table column. As for Taiwan's trade statistics, the 2025 data are currently updated through June. Since not all Latin American countries publicly disclose data, this report focuses the analysis on countries listed by the Inter-American Development Bank.

◆ Part One: Fastener Products ◆

Latin American Countries

· Ranking of Fastener Trading Countries in Latin America

Table 1 ranks the top 15 Latin American countries by their fastener import values for 2024 from the highest to the lowest. The top five were: Mexico (imports of USD 2.8 billion, exports of USD 270.6 million), Brazil (imports of USD 1.0 billion, exports of USD 152.5 million), Argentina (imports of USD 219.9 million, exports of USD 9.7 million), Chile (imports of USD 198.2 million, exports of USD 13.0 million), Peru (imports of USD 176.5 million, exports of USD 6.7 million). Mexico's import value accounted for about 58.5% of



the combined total of these 15 countries—roughly 2.6 times (refer to **Figure 1**) that of Brazil (21.7%) and 12.9 times that of Argentina (4.5%). This large gap illustrates Mexico's clear dominance over other countries in the Latin American fastener import market. In terms of exports, Mexico held about 56.6% of the total among the 15 countries, which was 1.7 times (refer to **Figure 2**) that of Brazil (31.9%) and 27.8 times that of Argentina (2.0%). In other words, **Mexico controlled over half of both the fastener import and export markets in Latin America, while Brazil commanded around 20-30%.**

The combined total of these 15 countries indicates that **the fastener import market size in Latin America reached at least USD 4.8 billion in 2024, while exports totalled at least USD 477.5 million.** The region's overall fastener imports were more than 10 times its exports, revealing that **Latin America had a strong dependence on imports for fastener products.**

For the first three to four months of 2025, import rankings largely mirrored the 2024 pattern. However, there are some changes in export rankings for this period. The combined import value of this period for these 15 countries was USD 1.3 billion, with exports totaling USD 133.2 million.

Table 1. Fastener Trade Values of Top 15 Latin American Countries
(HS Code 7318; Unit: USD; Source: IDB)

Ranking	Country	Trade Type	Year	
			Full Year 2024 (In descending order of import value)	Partial Months of 2025
1	Mexico	Import	2,847,213,725	687,478,794
		Export	270,623,040	72,879,169
2	Brazil	Import	1,058,102,580	379,265,694
		Export	152,500,438	45,819,630
3	Argentina	Import	219,986,019	79,019,358
		Export	9,727,606	2,560,133
4	Chile	Import	198,283,136	68,828,782
		Export	13,014,760	5,112,665
5	Peru	Import	176,537,608	42,145,391
		Export	6,745,170	1,290,833
6	Colombia	Import	134,204,501	34,052,838
		Export	7,980,283	2,325,700
7	Costa Rica	Import	54,611,906	10,191,093
		Export	11,611,369	2,310,822
8	Ecuador	Import	37,895,009	9,470,110
		Export	776,537	118,940
9	Guatemala	Import	35,346,912	3,263,646
		Export	1,328,217	96,142
10	Paraguay	Import	23,676,652	7,735,975
		Export	81,065	3,417
11	Honduras	Import	21,724,082	5,079,095
		Export	289,127	74,882
12	El Salvador	Import	17,170,363	4,925,289
		Export	2,222,398	570,954
13	Panama	Import	16,426,201	3,357,727
		Export	6,875	467
14	Bolivia	Import	15,596,315	4,191,412
		Export	616,750	115,360
15	Belize	Import	6,429,940	1,501,070
		Export	4,620	1,627
0	Sum of 15 countries	Import	4,863,204,949	1,340,506,274
		Export	477,528,255	133,280,741

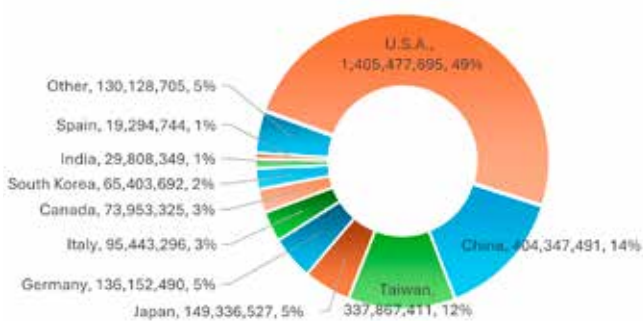
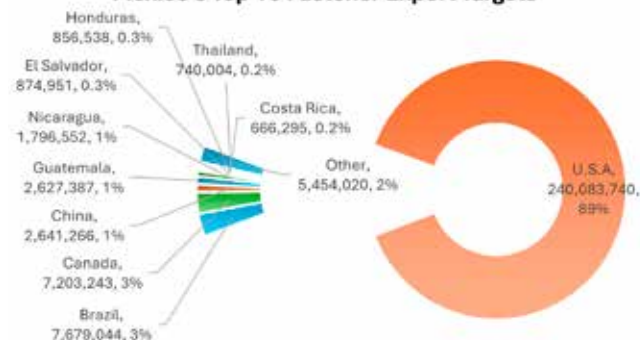
HS 7318: Screws, bolts, nuts, threaded hooks, rivets, washers
(including spring washers), cotter pins and similar products of iron or steel



Fig. 1. Fastener Import Values of Top 5 Latin American Countries**Fig. 2. Fastener Export Values of Top 5 Latin American Countries**

Fastener Trade Partners of Primary Latin American Countries

This article extracts and analyzes the top five Latin American countries from **Table 1**, analyzing their top ten import and export trading partners. The data are visually presented side-by-side as pie charts in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Trade Partners of Top 5 Fastener Trading Countries in Latin America in 2024 (Source: IDB :Unit: USD)**Mexico's Top 10 Fastener Import Sources****Mexico's Top 10 Fastener Export Targets**

1. The largest import sources for Mexico: The United States, China, Taiwan.
2. The United States held nearly a 50% market share in Mexico.
3. The import proportions from Taiwan and China both exceeded 10%. Taiwan and China were mutual competitors in Mexico.

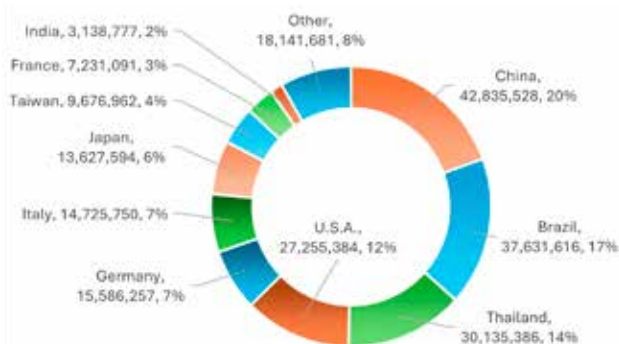
1. The United States dominated Mexico's fastening export market, accounting for as much as 89%.
2. The proportion of Mexico's exports to Latin American countries was at least 5.8%, with Brazil (3%) being the largest recipient.
3. Mexico's main export destinations were the United States and Latin American countries.

Brazil's Top 10 Fastener Import Sources**Brazil's Top 10 Fastener Export Targets**

1. Brazil's largest import sources: China, The United States, Germany.
2. China and the United States were mutual major competitors in Brazil.
3. Brazil imported at least 79% from mid-to-high-end fastener manufacturing countries (The U.S., Germany, Italy, Japan, France, Taiwan, Switzerland, S. Korea), at least 25% from Europe, and at least 43% from Asia.

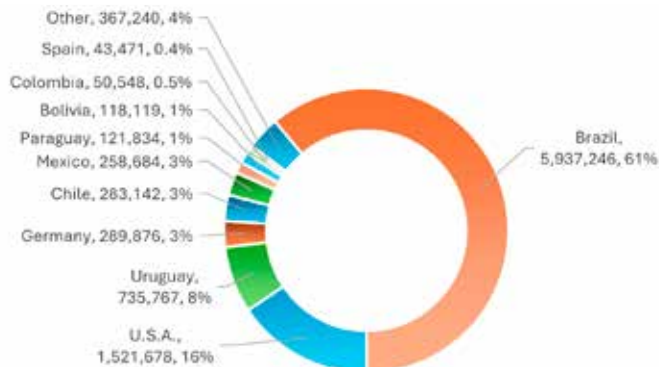
1. Argentina and the United States jointly dominated Brazil's fastener export market, each accounting for about 20%.
2. The proportion of Brazil's exports to Latin American countries was at least 50%, exports to Europe at least 10%, and exports to mid-to-high-end fastener manufacturing countries (The U.S., France, Germany) at least 35%.
3. Brazil's main export destinations were the United States and Latin American countries.

Argentina's Top 10 Fastener Import Sources



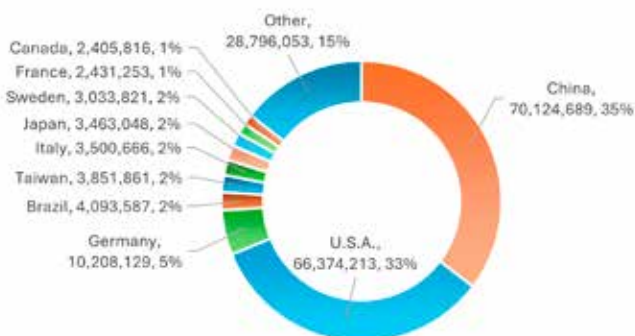
1. Argentina's largest import sources were China, Brazil, Thailand, and the United States. These four countries directly competed with each other.
2. Argentina imported at least 39% from mid-to-high-end fastener manufacturing countries, at least 46% from Asia, and at least 17% from Europe.

Argentina's Top 10 Fastener Export Targets



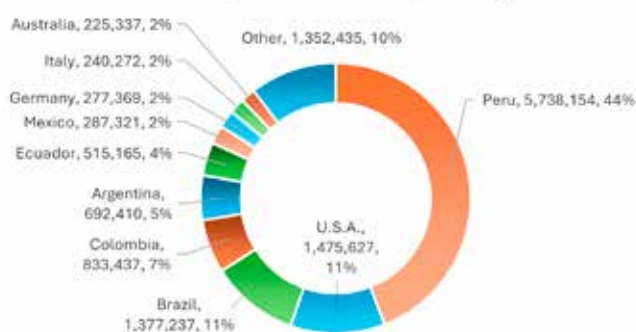
1. Brazil dominated Argentina's fastener export market, accounting for as much as 61%.
2. At least 77.5% of Argentina's exports went to Latin American countries, 16% to the United States, and at least 3.4% to Europe.
3. Brazil's main export destinations were Latin American countries.

Chile's Top 10 Fastener Import Sources



1. Chile's largest import sources were China and the United States. These two countries directly competed with each other, each accounting for about 30%.
2. Chile imported at least 48% from mid-to-high-end fastener manufacturing countries, at least 39% from Asia, and at least 10% from Europe.

Chile's Top 10 Fastener Export Targets



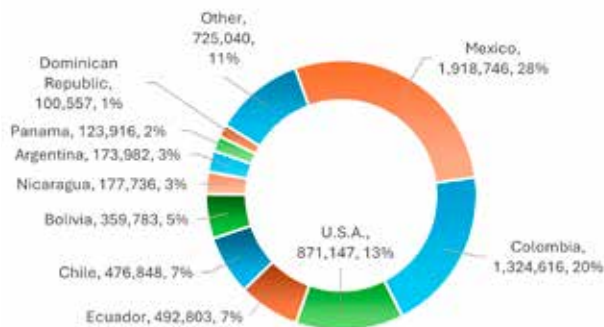
1. Peru dominated Chile's fastener export market, accounting for as much as 44%.
2. At least 73% of Peru's exports went to Latin American countries, 11% to the United States, and at least 4% to Europe.
3. Chile's main export destinations were Latin American countries.

Peru's Top 10 Fastener Import Sources



1. Peru's largest import sources were China and the United States. These two countries directly competed with each other.
2. Peru imported at least 50% from mid-to-high-end fastener manufacturing countries, at least 43% from Asia, and at least 15% from Europe.

Peru's Top 10 Fastener Export Targets



1. Peru's largest export destinations were Mexico, Colombia, the United States.
2. At least 76% of Peru's exports went to Latin American countries, 13% to the United States, and there were no European countries among its top ten export destinations.
3. Chile's main export destinations were Latin American countries.





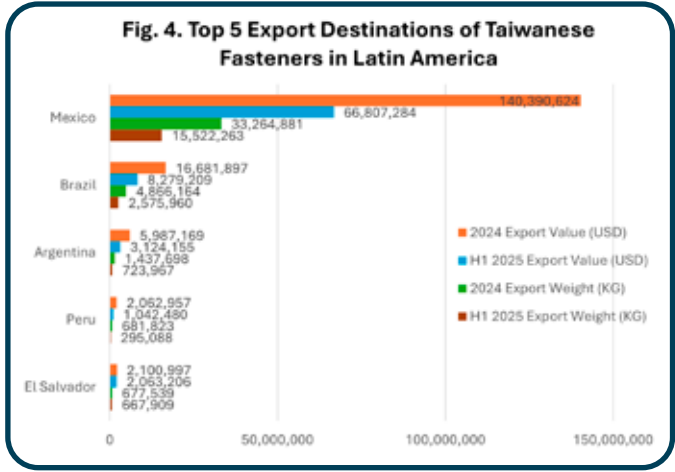
Sub-results	
1. Taiwan's fastener products were included in the top ten rankings of all the above five countries.	1. The top five fastener exporting countries in Latin America primarily exported to other Latin American countries. Among them, Mexico and Brazil also counted on the United States as a main export destination. Mexico's exports to the U.S. were even 15 times higher than its exports to other Latin American countries, showing Mexico's heavy reliance on U.S. demand for fasteners.
2. In Latin America, only in the Mexican market could the United States and Taiwan compete with China in terms of market share. In Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Peru, China's market share surpassed that of the U.S. and far exceeded Taiwan's.	2. Argentina, Chile, and Peru's fastener exports were highly dependent on Latin American countries.
3. China occupied a large market share in Latin America. Against the backdrop of tense U.S.-China relations and the unified 50% tariffs imposed by the Trump administration on global steel and aluminum products, China is expected to accelerate expanding its market share and intensify competition in the Latin American market to diversify its market risks.	

Taiwan

· Export Destinations of Taiwanese Fasteners in Latin America

Taiwan's fastener exports to Latin America are primarily export-driven and Taiwan imports only a small volume from the region, so this section analyzes the export aspect only. According to **Table 3**, Taiwan's top 10 export destinations in Latin America in 2024, ranked by weight from the highest to the lowest, were: Mexico (USD 140.3 million in export value, 33,264.8 tons), Brazil (USD 16.6 million, 4,866.1 tons), Argentina (USD 5.9 million, 1,437.6 tons), Peru (USD 2.0 million, 681.8 tons), El Salvador (USD 2.1 million, 677.5 tons). **In 2024, Taiwan's total fastener exports to Latin America amounted to USD 181.6 million by value and 45,533.4 tons by weight.** In the first half of 2025, exports totaled USD 88.0 million and 21,972.7 tons. Based on this, the export weight and value in 2025 might decline by about 3% compared to 2024. **Figure 3** highlights that Taiwan's fastener exports to Mexico alone accounted for 38% of its total export weight to Latin America—6.8 times the weight exported to Brazil (5%). This substantial gap emphasizes **Mexico's critical role as Taiwan's most important export market in the region.**

Table 3. Top 10 Export Destinations of Taiwanese Fasteners in Latin America (Source: International Trade Administration, MOEA)					
Ranking	Region/Country	Export Value (USD)		Export Weight (KG)	
		2024	H1 2025	2024(In descending order of this column)	H1 2025
0	Latin America	181,694,409	88,061,489	45,533,413	21,972,761
1	Mexico	140,390,624	66,807,284	33,264,881	15,522,263
2	Brazil	16,681,897	8,279,209	4,866,164	2,575,960
3	Argentina	5,987,169	3,124,155	1,437,698	723,967
4	Peru	2,062,957	1,042,480	681,823	295,088
5	El Salvador	2,100,997	2,063,206	677,539	667,909
6	Puerto Rico	2,448,868	748,075	675,616	190,503
7	Colombia	2,168,969	1,307,531	672,368	490,312
8	Chile	1,969,521	865,300	630,968	265,524
9	Guatemala	1,237,952	451,078	615,224	216,283
10	Dominican Republic	996,542	689,390	348,754	238,144



◆ Part Two: Fastening Tools ◆

Latin American Countries

· Ranking of Fastening Tool Trading Countries in Latin America

Table 4 ranks the top 15 Latin American countries by their fastening tool import values for 2024 from the highest to the lowest. The top five were: Mexico (USD 1.5 billion in imports and USD 233.1 million in exports), Brazil (USD 451.8 million in imports and USD 150.9 million in exports), Peru (USD 159.8 million in imports and USD 10.3 million in exports), Chile (USD 157.9 million in imports and USD 25.2 million in exports), Argentina (USD 140.4 million in imports and USD 364,634 in exports). Mexico accounted for approximately 54.7% of the combined import value among the top 15 countries, which was 3.3 times (refer to **Figure 5**) larger than Brazil's 16.1% share and 9.5 times Peru's 5.7% share. This significant margin confirms Mexico's dominant position in the fastening tools import market within the region. On the export side, Mexico controlled about 52.9% of the total, 1.5 times (refer to **Figure 6**) Brazil's 34.2%, 9.2 times Chile's 5.7%, and 22.5 times Peru's 2.3% share. In short, **Mexico occupied over half of both import and export markets for fastening tools in Latin America, with Brazil taking between 10% and 30%.**

The aggregate market size for these 15 countries in 2024 reached at least USD 2.7 billion in fastening tool imports and at least USD 440.4 million in exports. Overall, the region's fastening tool import value exceeded exports by more than six times, highlighting a heavy reliance on imports. Excluding Panama, 14 of these countries showed substantial import values far surpassing their exports in 2024, emphasizing **Latin America's dependence on importing fastening tools.** For the first three to four months of 2025, the total import value among these 15 countries was about USD 760.2 million, while exports reached USD 104.4 million.

Table 4. Fastening Tool Trade Values of Top 15 Latin American Countries (Unit: USD :Source: IDB)

Ranking	Country	Trade Type	Full Year 2024				Partial Months of 2025				
			HS Code			Sum (In descending order of import value)	HS Code			Sum	Time Frame
			HS 8204	HS 8205	HS 8207		HS 8204	HS 8205	HS 8207		
1	Mexico	Import	111,019,333	157,337,597	1,259,605,135	1,527,962,065	28,910,913	40,820,200	297,702,610	367,433,723	Jan-
		Export	30,311,707	90,068,969	112,797,395	233,178,071	7,339,356	24,533,055	22,385,359	54,257,770	Mar
2	Brazil	Import	63,923,878	89,603,569	298,337,549	451,864,996	21,427,645	30,727,052	96,756,724	148,911,421	Jan-
		Export	7,871,975	35,498,018	107,563,216	150,933,209	2,892,095	5,188,574	27,038,108	35,118,777	Apr
3	Peru	Import	21,855,798	29,700,708	108,332,796	159,889,302	5,531,545	7,686,933	27,868,920	41,087,398	Jan-
		Export	295,990	2,842,518	7,222,203	10,360,711	56,499	456,205	920,878	1,433,582	Mar
4	Chile	Import	21,502,860	42,033,980	94,455,445	157,992,285	6,998,178	15,561,092	34,291,585	56,850,855	Jan-
		Export	558,558	5,080,032	19,607,598	25,246,188	178,943	1,354,424	5,497,887	7,031,254	Apr
5	Argentina	Import	17,678,111	23,147,079	99,576,244	140,401,434	7,916,942	11,327,554	40,425,816	59,670,312	Jan-
		Export	60,521	205,376	98,737	364,634	714	29,948	5,209	35,871	Apr
6	Colombia	Import	14,828,195	26,639,646	47,257,775	88,725,616	4,436,287	8,659,441	12,317,103	25,412,831	Jan-
		Export	424,408	1,911,352	5,867,725	8,203,485	202,381	486,215	695,269	1,383,865	Mar
7	Ecuador	Import	8,585,852	13,567,799	29,564,323	51,717,974	2,624,997	4,142,267	8,072,490	14,839,754	Jan-
		Export	67,202	188,286	5,172,352	5,427,840	19,161	141,490	1,797,005	1,957,656	Mar
8	Costa Rica	Import	5,815,752	18,529,324	19,915,218	44,260,294	1,310,204	3,582,717	4,036,316	8,929,237	Jan-
		Export	355,018	1,053,816	1,715,839	3,124,673	69,487	211,446	437,220	718,153	Mar
9	El Salvador	Import	4,633,052	30,849,178	8,109,919	43,592,149	1,472,602	7,535,313	2,536,432	11,544,347	Jan-
		Export	546,609	981,970	407,586	1,936,165	215,517	843,119	82,548	1,141,184	Mar
10	Guatemala	Import	11,152,984	17,205,301	15,202,615	43,560,900	1,021,976	1,967,142	1,342,348	4,331,466	Jan-
		Export	122,367	399,530	385,140	907,037	9,113	28,583	48,516	86,212	Jan
11	Honduras	Import	5,871,570	9,291,876	8,524,464	23,687,910	1,443,619	2,326,484	1,918,354	5,688,457	Jan-
		Export	23,213	199,933	23,434	246,580	1,213	23,635	23,018	47,866	Mar
12	Bolivia	Import	3,360,090	4,607,923	13,381,378	21,349,391	1,306,436	1,120,647	2,651,036	5,078,119	Jan-
		Export	14,561	68,598	330,578	413,737	4,952	13,467	135,273	153,692	Mar
13	Paraguay	Import	4,852,393	6,317,347	6,765,161	17,934,901	1,440,669	2,368,922	2,631,460	6,441,051	Jan-
		Export	6,453	15,797	38,973	61,223	9055.56	2915.91	17649.43	29620.9	Apr
14	Panama	Import	2,498,308	6,960,430	4,940,424	14,399,162	695,270	1,543,249	999,386	3,237,905	Jan-
		Export	No data disclosed								
15	Belize	Import	685,445	1,789,517	1,076,116	3,551,078	126,474	486,633	190,242	803,349	Jan-
		Export	27,038	9,015	0	36,053	3,851	1,040,786	58	1,044,695	Mar
0	Sum of 15 Countries	Import	298,263,621	477,581,274	2,015,044,562	2,790,889,457	86,663,757	139,855,646	533,740,822	760,260,225	
		Export	40,685,620	138,523,210	261,230,776	440,439,606	11,002,338	34,353,863	59,083,997	104,440,198	

HS 8204: Hand-operated spanners and wrenches

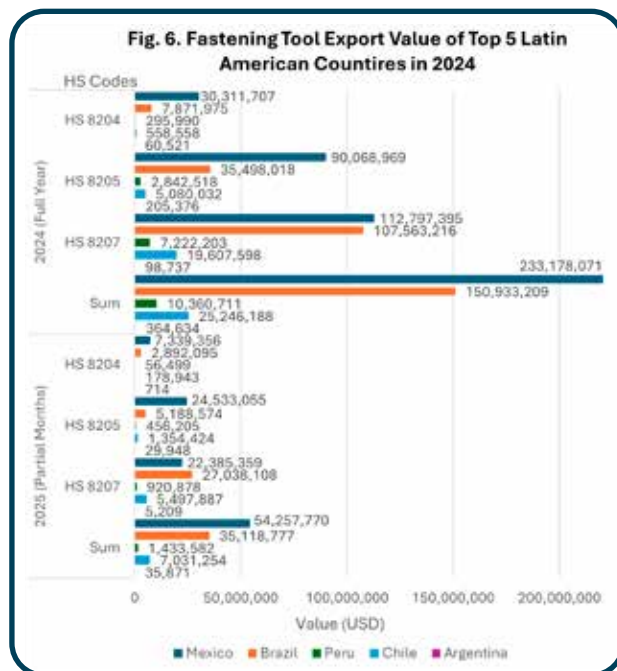
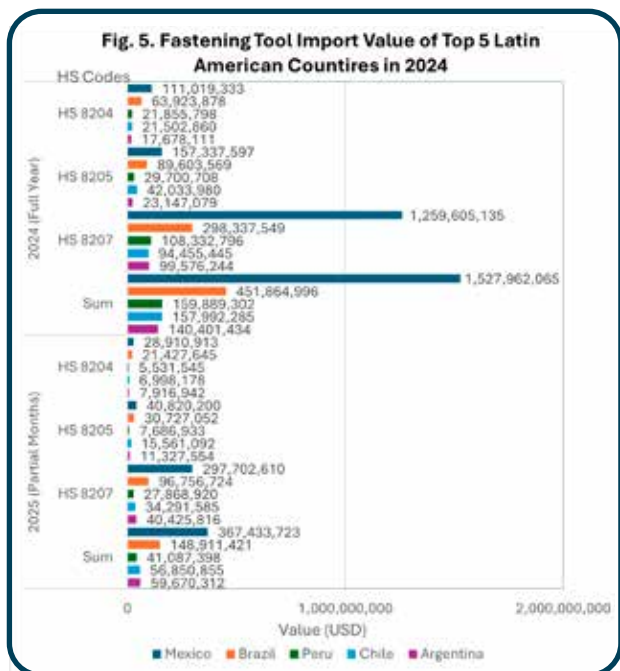
HS 8205: Other hand tools, blow torches, etc.

HS 8207: Interchangeable tools for hand tools, whether or not power-operated, or for machine tools



In the wrench product category (HS 8204), Mexico accounted for 37.2% of the total imports of the 15 countries for 2024, followed by Brazil with 21.4%, Peru 7.3%, Chile 7.2%, and Argentina 5.9%. On the export side, Mexico's share was 74.5%, with Brazil at 19.3%, Chile 1.3%, Peru 0.7%, and Argentina 0.1%. **Figures 5 and 6** illustrate that Mexico led in both imports and exports of wrenches among the top 5 fastening tool trading countries in Latin America, confirming that **Mexico was Latin America's largest wrench market, followed by Brazil.**

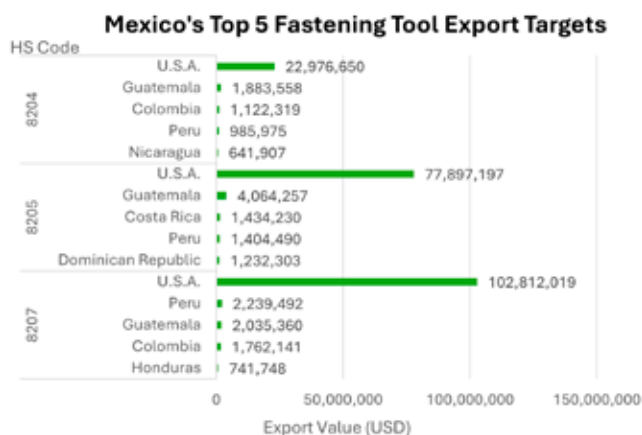
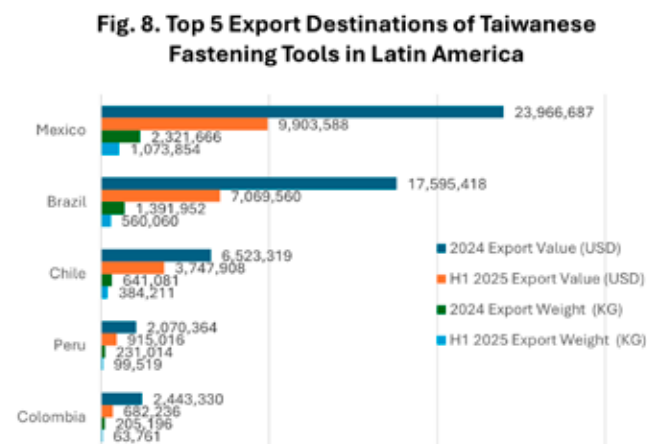
Similarly, Mexico and Brazil were also the top two importers and exporters in the HS 8205 category (Other hand tools, blow torches, etc.) and HS 8207 (Interchangeable tools for hand tools, whether or not power-operated, or for machine tools). For HS 8205, Chile ranks third in both imports and exports, while for HS 8207, Peru is the third largest importer and Chile the third largest exporter. The data for the first three to four months of 2025 show that Mexico and Brazil remained the top two importers and exporters in HS 8204 and HS 8205 categories.



Fastening Tool Trade Partners of Primary Latin American Countries

This article extracts and analyzes the top five Latin American countries from **Table 4**, analyzing their top ten import and export trading partners. The data are visually presented side-by-side as pie charts in **Table 5**.

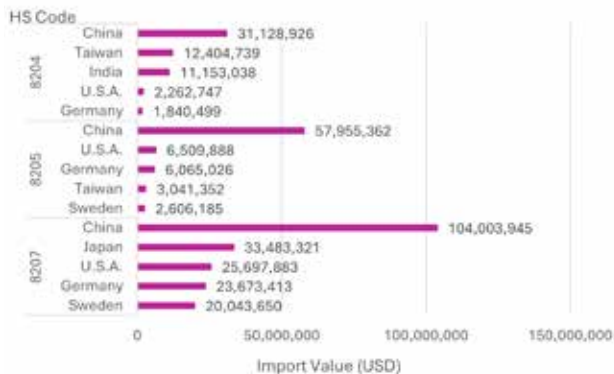
Table 5. Trade Partners of Top 5 Fastening Tool Trading Countries in Latin America in 2024 (Source: IDB Unit: USD)



1. The proportion of wrenches (HS 8204) imported by Mexico from China was much higher than those imported from Taiwan and the United States, indicating that Mexico was highly dependent on Chinese wrenches. A similar phenomenon also occurred in category 8205.
2. In category 8207, the proportion of hand tools from the United States surpassed those from China and South Korea. The gap between China and the United States was 19.5%, which, although seemingly significant, showed that China was already closely trailing behind.

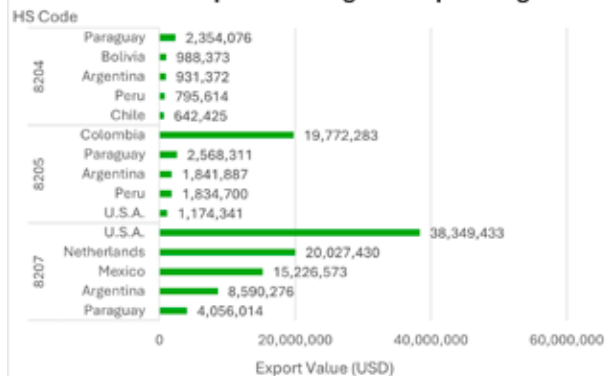
1. The United States simultaneously dominated categories 8204, 8205, and 8207.
2. Mexico was highly dependent on the United States as its primary export destination.
3. For Mexico, aside from the United States, the main export destinations were Latin American countries.

Brazil's Top 5 Fastening Tool Import Sources



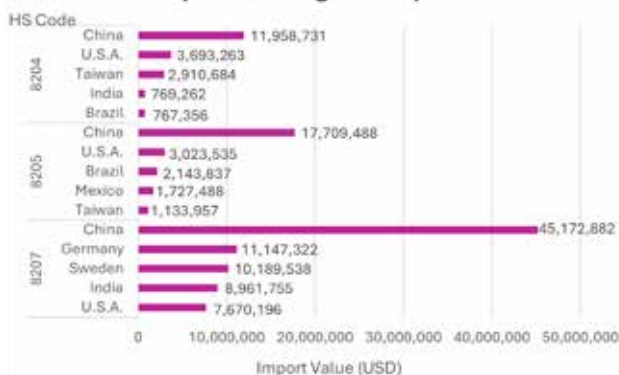
1. China simultaneously dominated the proportions in categories 8204, 8205, and 8207, far ahead of Taiwan and other countries in the ranking.
2. In category 8204, the gap between Taiwan and India was 11.2% (India had a chance to surpass). In category 8205, the gap between the United States and Germany was 7.3% (Germany had a chance to surpass). In category 8207, the gap between Japan and the United States was 30.2%.

Brazil's Top 5 Fastening Tool Export Targets



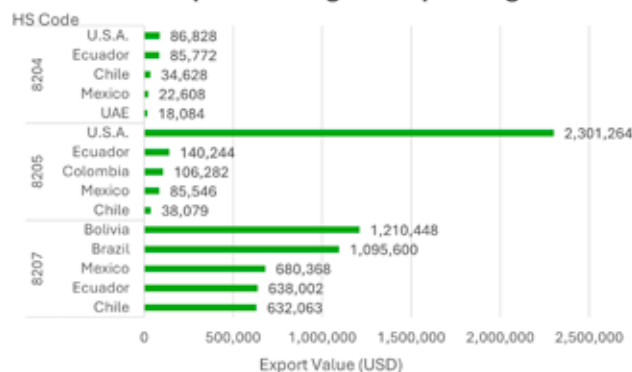
1. Except for category 8207, primarily exported to the United States, Brazil mainly exported categories 8204 and 8205 to Latin American countries.
2. Colombia dominated category 8205.

Peru's Top 5 Fastening Tool Import Sources



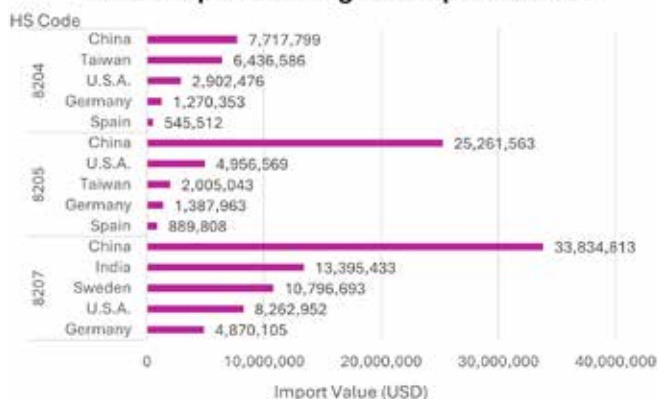
1. China simultaneously dominated the three categories.
2. In category 8204, the gap between the United States and Taiwan was 26.8%; in category 8205, the gap between the United States and Brazil was 41.0%; in category 8207, the gap between Germany and Sweden was 9.3% (Sweden had a chance to surpass).

Peru's Top 5 Fastening Tool Export Targets



1. In category 8204, Ecuador had a chance to surpass the United States (with a gap of only 1.2%) to become Peru's largest export destination.
2. The United States dominated category 8205.
3. In category 8207, the gap between Bolivia and Brazil was 10.4% (Brazil had a chance to surpass Bolivia).

Chile's Top 5 Fastening Tool Import Sources



1. China simultaneously dominated the three categories.
2. In category 8204, the gap between China and Taiwan was 19.9% (relatively small; Taiwan still had a chance to surpass), and the gap between Taiwan and the United States was 121.7%. In category 8205, the gap between the United States and Taiwan was 147.2%. In category 8207, the gap between India and Sweden was 24.0%.

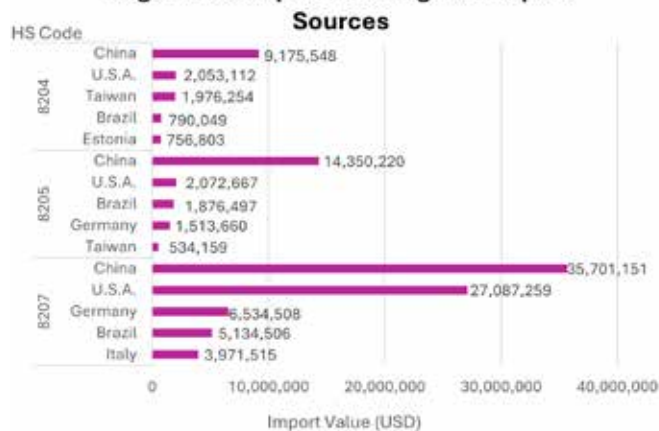
Chile's Top 5 Fastening Tool Export Targets



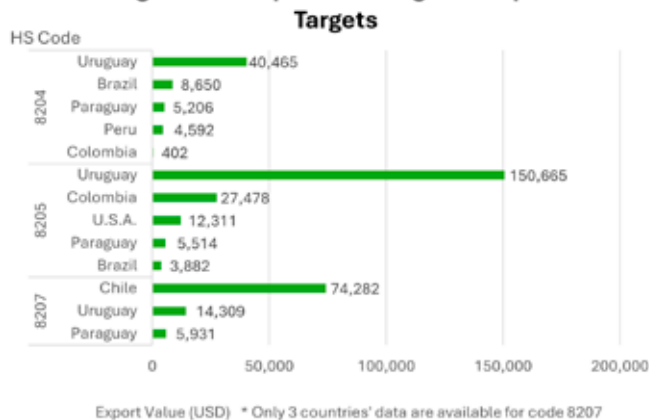
1. In category 8204, Peru had a chance to surpass the United States (with a gap of 13.9%).
2. The United States dominated category 8205.
3. In category 8207, the competition among Brazil, Mexico, Peru, and the United States was intense.



Argentina's Top 5 Fastening Tool Import



Argentina's Top 5 Fastening Tool Export



1. China simultaneously dominated the three categories.
2. In category 8204, the gap between the United States and Taiwan was 3.8% (Taiwan had a chance to surpass); in category 8205, the gap between the United States and Brazil was 10.4% (Brazil had a chance to surpass); in category 8207, the gap between the United States and Germany was 314.5%.

1. Argentina mainly exported to Latin American countries.
2. Uruguay dominated categories 8204 and 8205.
3. Chile dominated category 8207.

Sub-results

1. In categories 8204 and 8205, Taiwan's hand tool products ranked among the top five exporters.
2. These five countries primarily imported hand tools from China and the United States, with some imports also coming from Europe, India, and Brazil.
3. China held a significant market share in the Latin American fastening tool market. Against the backdrop of tense US-China relations and the uniform 50% tariffs imposed by the Trump administration on global steel and aluminum products, China is expected to accelerate expanding its market share to diversify market risks, thereby intensifying competition in the Latin American market.

1. Except for Mexico, which is highly dependent on the United States, the five countries listed above mainly exported to countries in Latin America.
2. Overall, among the five countries listed above, the proportion of exports to the United States was still significant.

Taiwan

· Export Destinations of Taiwanese Fastening Tools in Latin America

Since Taiwan's fastening tools also rely on exports, this article only analyzes the export aspect here. **Table 6** is based on the export weight in 2024, ranking Taiwan's top 10 export destinations in Latin America from the largest to the smallest. The top five were Mexico (with the 2024 export value of USD 23.9 million and the export weight of 2,321.6 tons), Brazil (USD 17.5 million, 1,391.9 tons), Chile (USD 6.5 million, 641.0 tons), Peru (USD 2.0 million, 231.0 tons), and Colombia (USD 2.4 million, 205.1 tons). **Taiwan's total market size for fastening tool exports to Latin America in 2024 reached USD 61.7 million by value and 5,500.3 tons by weight.** In the first half of 2025, the export value reached USD 26.9 million and the weight reached 2,581.4 tons. Based on this current value, it is estimated that the total export value and weight for the entire 2025 may decrease by 12% and 6% respectively compared to 2024. **Figure 7** shows that Taiwan's export weight to Mexico accounted for 42% of Taiwan's total export weight, 1.6 times that of Brazil (25%), showing a significant gap between Mexico and other listed countries. **Mexico was Taiwan's most important fastening tool export destination in Latin America, with Brazil (25%) and Chile (12%) being the second and third largest export destinations respectively.**

Fig. 7. Export Weights of Taiwanese Fastening Tools to Latin American Countries in 2024 (KG)

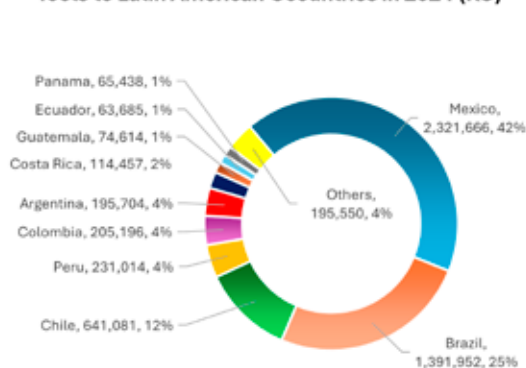


Fig. 8. Top 5 Export Destinations of Taiwanese Fastening Tools in Latin America

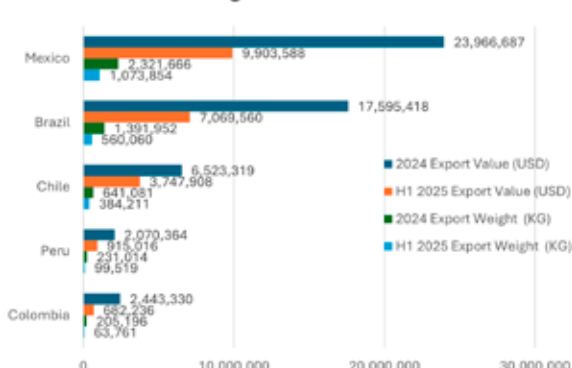


Table 6. Top 10 Export Destinations of Taiwanese Fastening Tools in Latin America
(Source: International Trade Administration, MOEA)

Ranking	Region/Country	Export Value (USD)		Export Weight (KG)	
		2024	H1 2025	2024 (In descending order)	H1 2025
0	Latin America	61,760,373	26,900,130	5,500,357	2,581,425
1	Mexico	23,966,687	9,903,588	2,321,666	1,073,854
2	Brazil	17,595,418	7,069,560	1,391,952	560,060
3	Chile	6,523,319	3,747,908	641,081	384,211
4	Peru	2,070,364	915,016	231,014	99,519
5	Colombia	2,443,330	682,236	205,196	63,761
6	Argentina	3,408,783	1,688,682	195,704	131,032
7	Costa Rica	1,150,947	662,414	114,457	58,390
8	Guatemala	788,944	423,596	74,614	43,916
9	Ecuador	798,088	310,110	63,685	32,167
10	Panama	618,927	411,586	65,438	49,624

◆ Summary ◆

The following key points based on the above analysis are summarized below

1. The fastener market size in Latin America (USD 4.8 billion) was 1.7 times that of the fastening tool market (USD 2.7 billion).
2. Exports of both fasteners and fastening tools in Latin America mainly relied on Latin American countries as well as the United States.
3. The import volumes of fasteners and fastening tools in Latin America were both greater than their export volumes.
4. Mexico and Brazil were the top two countries in both the fastener and fastening tool markets in Latin America.
5. Mexico's exports of fasteners and fastening tools were highly dependent on the United States.
6. Although Taiwan's exports of fasteners and fastening tools to Latin America were not large, they have made the rankings, indicating that Taiwan was also an important participant in the Latin American market.
7. The market shares of the United States, Europe, Taiwan, and others in the Latin American market were being greatly squeezed by China.
8. China was gradually dominating the import market for fasteners and fastening tools in Latin America. Against the backdrop of tense US-China relations, China's aggressive expansion in Latin America (and even globally) during Trump's administration has reached a peak.

Uncertainty of Trump's Tariff Policies: Risks and Opportunities in Latin America

The frequent reversals and high unpredictability of tariff policies initiated during the Trump administration remain one of the most significant unresolved risks shaping the international trade landscape. Although some countries have reached agreements with the U.S. by the end of July this year, which alleviated some trade tensions in the short term, overseas media analyses warn that the U.S. government could still initiate a new form of trade war based on changing domestic political or economic conditions or outcomes of trade investigations, using tariffs as leverage in negotiations. This persistent external risk means companies may face the dual burden of high tariffs and trade friction in the near term. **The instability and potential changes in Trump's tariff policies remain crucial risk factors restricting Latin America's economic development. The region is directly impacted by U.S.**

tariff hikes coupled with immigration enforcement pressures, creating significant short-term economic strain. However, this adversity is also accelerating regional integration and cooperation with other countries, highlighting Latin America's potential value as a risk mitigation option.

Businesses are advised to carefully assess the market environment and consider Latin America as a key region for risk diversification and hedging. Proactively developing regional supply chains and sales networks can reduce overreliance on the U.S. market and strengthen resilience to trade shocks. Preparing strategically for possible renewed trade conflicts will allow companies to maximize both risk avoidance and growth opportunities. ■

