

# China's Role in U.S. Fastening Tool Imports: A Shifting Supply Chain

中國在美緊固工具進口的角色：  
改變中的供應鏈

*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. For the purposes of this analysis, HS Code 8205 refers to hand tools; HS Code 8207 refers to interchangeable tools for hand or machine tools; and HS Code 8204 refers to hand-operated spanners and wrenches.*

During the first three quarters of 2025, U.S. imports of fastening tools under HS Codes 8204, 8205, and 8207 reflected a supply chain that remains closely tied to China, yet increasingly shaped by adjustment and recalibration. On a CIF basis, imports from China totaled 867 million USD across Q1–Q3, though China's share of total U.S. import value varied significantly by quarter, representing 26% in Q1, declining to 16% in Q2, and recovering to 21% in Q3. Rather than signaling a clear shift away from Chinese sourcing, these quarter-to-quarter movements point to changing ordering strategies among U.S. buyers. Inventory drawdowns following earlier stock-building, selective reallocation of volume to alternate suppliers, and ongoing uncertainty around trade policy and logistics costs all contributed to uneven purchasing patterns. Within this environment, China continues to serve as a core supplier for a broad range of fastening tools, even as buyers balance cost, lead time, and risk exposure across a more diversified sourcing landscape.

## China's Position and Fastening Tool Overview

While China maintained its position as the United States' top trading partner for fastening tools under HS Codes 8204, 8205, and 8207 during the first and third quarters of 2025, the second quarter reflected a temporary reordering of supplier rankings. In Q2 2025, Taiwan accounted for 18% of total U.S. import value, surpassing China to become the leading trading partner for that quarter. **The shift was most pronounced in June 2025, when China's share of U.S. fastening tool imports fell to 13%, down**

sharply from 30% in January. This decline coincided with the period when the impact of newly enforced or anticipated tariff measures began to materialize, prompting U.S. buyers to delay orders, draw down existing inventories, or redirect sourcing to alternative suppliers. Following China and Taiwan, Germany, Japan, and Vietnam rounded out the top trading partners during this period, reflecting a more diversified sourcing mix as buyers reassessed risk exposure.

★ Table 1. U.S. Monthly Fastening Tool Imports by Country in 2025

Country of Origin	2025 - JAN		2025 - FEB		2025 - MAR		2025 - APR		2025 - MAY	
	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%								
CHINA	135,191,420	29.77	119,951,092	28.00	96,924,896	20.93	94,669,629	20.59	72,902,196	16.09
TAIWAN	79,609,392	17.53	71,169,953	16.62	83,188,032	17.96	79,674,651	17.33	75,353,719	16.64
GERMANY	39,325,940	8.66	40,911,051	9.55	47,933,036	10.35	51,194,398	11.14	49,373,937	10.90
VIETNAM	19,203,112	4.23	22,404,808	5.23	25,586,295	5.53	25,991,380	5.66	20,052,962	4.43
JAPAN	25,401,961	5.60	25,757,845	6.02	36,317,871	7.85	42,829,227	9.32	61,358,923	13.55
CANADA	32,687,286	7.20	35,924,900	8.39	36,502,146	7.89	17,267,511	3.76	22,175,996	4.90
S. KOREA	18,343,623	4.04	12,151,464	2.84	15,515,562	3.35	19,910,468	4.33	18,085,086	4.00
INDIA	18,486,158	4.08	15,072,713	3.52	20,116,381	4.35	18,673,559	4.07	20,520,662	4.53
MEXICO	15,377,240	3.39	15,314,279	3.58	18,055,953	3.90	18,492,967	4.03	22,403,213	4.95
THAILAND	7,221,661	1.60	6,115,648	1.43	11,103,191	2.40	12,155,619	2.65	15,557,919	3.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>454,185,377</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>428,417,005</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>463,209,605</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>459,883,824</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>453,097,500</b>	<b>100</b>

Country of Origin	2025 - JUN		2025 - JUL		2025 - AUG		2025 - SEP	
	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%						
CHINA	61,164,848	13.08	114,320,077	21.74	97,637,874	22.89	75,052,460	18.37
TAIWAN	94,516,273	20.21	77,590,824	14.76	64,310,466	15.08	71,541,754	17.51
GERMANY	51,622,762	11.04	58,603,730	11.15	40,227,069	9.43	47,448,599	11.61
VIETNAM	22,972,268	4.92	30,000,468	5.71	39,075,988	9.16	32,343,706	7.92
JAPAN	53,322,388	11.41	47,608,993	9.06	34,187,500	8.02	30,607,813	7.49
CANADA	23,114,484	4.95	22,065,393	4.20	17,296,083	4.06	21,824,365	5.34
S. KOREA	33,489,493	7.17	40,572,382	7.72	21,152,656	4.96	19,010,748	4.66
INDIA	18,771,707	4.02	17,516,053	3.34	19,618,641	4.60	18,089,844	4.43
MEXICO	17,664,060	3.78	16,243,013	3.09	15,066,789	3.54	15,694,183	3.84
THAILAND	12,792,905	2.74	14,364,994	2.74	18,080,418	4.24	13,743,019	3.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>467,716,465</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>525,863,228</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>426,608,871</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>408,781,199</b>	<b>100</b>

★ Table 2. U.S. Quarterly Fastening Tool Imports by Country in Q1-3 2025

Country of Origin	2025 - Q1		2025 - Q2		2025 - Q3	
	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%
CHINA	352,067,408	26.17	228,736,673	16.57	287,010,411	21.09
TAIWAN	233,967,377	17.39	249,544,643	18.08	213,443,044	15.68
GERMANY	128,170,027	9.53	152,191,097	11.03	146,279,398	10.75
JAPAN	87,477,677	6.50	157,510,538	11.41	112,404,306	8.26
VIETNAM	67,194,215	5.00	69,016,610	5.00	101,420,162	7.46
S. KOREA	46,010,649	3.42	71,485,047	5.18	80,735,786	5.94
CANADA	105,114,332	7.82	62,557,991	4.54	61,185,841	4.50
INDIA	53,675,252	3.99	57,965,928	4.20	55,224,538	4.06
MEXICO	48,747,472	3.63	58,560,240	4.25	47,003,985	3.46
THAILAND	24,440,500	1.82	40,506,443	2.94	46,188,431	3.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,345,811,987</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,380,697,789</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,361,253,298</b>	<b>100</b>

By product category, fastening tools imported from China under **HS Code 8205** represented the largest share of import value throughout 2025, accounting for nearly 45% of total value in January. Although this share declined modestly in subsequent months, it rebounded toward the end of the third quarter, again approaching 45%, and showcasing China's continued strength in broad hand-tool manufacturing. **HS Code 8207** displayed greater month-to-month stability, with China's share peaking in June 2025 at 46%, before leveling off. Imports under **HS Code 8204** also reached a high point in June, representing 18% of total value, compared with 16–17% in preceding months. By the final two months of Q3, however, China's share in this category eased to approximately 14%, reflecting both seasonal ordering patterns and increased sourcing from competing suppliers.

★ Table 3. U.S. Monthly Fastening Tool Imports from China by Category in 2025

HS Code (4)	2025 - JAN		2025 - FEB		2025 - MAR		2025 - APR		2025 - MAY	
	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%								
8205 - HANDTOOLS OTHERS; BLOW TORCHES, ETC.; VISES, CLAMPS AND THE LIKE OTHERS; ANVILS; PORTABLE FORGES; GRINDING WHEELS WITH FRAMEWORKS; BASE METAL PARTS	60,452,541	44.72	51,948,179	43.31	41,082,467	42.39	40,897,853	43.21	28,859,013	39.59
8207 - INTERCHANGEABLE TOOLS FOR HANDTOOLS (POWER-OPERATED OR NOT) OR FOR MACHINE-TOOLS, INCLUDING DIES FOR EXTRUDING METAL, AND BASE METAL PARTS THEREOF	51,692,183	38.24	48,560,476	40.49	38,853,414	40.09	37,573,841	39.69	31,956,622	43.84
8204 - HAND-OPERATED SPANNERS AND WRENCHES, INCLUDING TORQUE METER WRENCHES (NOT TAP WRENCHES); SOCKET WRENCHES, WITH HANDLES, ETC. OR NOT; BASE METAL PARTS	23,046,696	17.05	19,442,437	16.21	16,989,015	17.53	16,197,935	17.11	12,086,561	16.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>135,191,420</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>119,951,092</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96,924,896</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>94,669,629</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>72,902,196</b>	<b>100</b>

HS Code (4)	2025 - JUN		2025 - JUL		2025 - AUG		2025 - SEP	
	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%						
8205 - HANDTOOLS OTHERS; BLOW TORCHES, ETC.; VISES, CLAMPS AND THE LIKE OTHERS; ANVILS; PORTABLE FORGES; GRINDING WHEELS WITH FRAMEWORKS; BASE METAL PARTS	21,864,544	35.75	50,929,706	44.56	44,352,370	45.43	33,238,696	44.29
8207 - INTERCHANGEABLE TOOLS FOR HANDTOOLS (POWER-OPERATED OR NOT) OR FOR MACHINE-TOOLS, INCLUDING DIES FOR EXTRUDING METAL, AND BASE METAL PARTS THEREOF	28,229,453	46.16	44,116,054	38.59	39,548,832	40.51	30,651,058	40.84
8204 - HAND-OPERATED SPANNERS AND WRENCHES, INCLUDING TORQUE METER WRENCHES (NOT TAP WRENCHES); SOCKET WRENCHES, WITH HANDLES, ETC. OR NOT; BASE METAL PARTS	11,070,851	18.11	19,274,317	16.86	13,736,672	14.07	11,162,706	14.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,164,848</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>114,320,077</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>97,637,874</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>75,052,460</b>	<b>100</b>

From a logistics standpoint, fastening tools imported from China were predominantly cleared through the Los Angeles, California customs district, followed by the Chicago, Illinois district, and finally Cleveland, Ohio ranking as the third-largest district by import value. These inland destinations reflect the structure of U.S. distribution networks rather than end-market consumption. Chicago serves as the largest rail and intermodal hub in North America, while Cleveland anchors a dense Midwestern industrial corridor supporting automotive and manufacturing supply chains. Fastening tools classified under HS Codes 8204, 8205, and 8207 are heavily utilized across manufacturing and assembly operations, automotive and aerospace production, and industrial maintenance, repair, and operations, making proximity to these industrial centers a key factor in importer routing and inventory strategy.

★ Table 4. U.S. Monthly Fastening Tool Imports from China by Port in 2025

District of Entry	2025 - JAN		2025 - FEB		2025 - MAR		2025 - APR		2025 - MAY	
	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%								
LOS ANGELES, CA	37,581,369	27.80	25,088,591	20.92	17,081,712	17.63	22,522,942	23.80	9,677,555	13.28
CHICAGO, IL	12,228,257	9.05	8,557,176	7.14	8,992,530	9.28	7,537,650	7.97	6,456,971	8.86
CLEVELAND, OH	7,168,131	5.31	5,446,734	4.55	6,704,324	6.92	6,099,843	6.45	6,354,375	8.72
CHARLESTON, SC	6,612,750	4.90	6,352,987	5.30	7,369,432	7.61	5,749,085	6.08	6,739,777	9.25
NEW ORLEANS, LA	13,593,892	10.06	12,925,793	10.78	8,594,667	8.87	10,699,291	11.31	6,378,060	8.75
NEW YORK CITY, NY	8,220,566	6.09	11,008,205	9.18	7,357,258	7.60	7,606,609	8.04	6,164,898	8.46
SAVANNAH, GA	7,868,737	5.83	11,541,490	9.63	10,298,684	10.63	7,086,843	7.49	6,617,985	9.08
NORFOLK, VA	3,831,203	2.84	4,183,744	3.49	4,378,667	4.52	3,665,238	3.88	4,250,250	5.84
ST. LOUIS, MO	6,439,943	4.77	5,292,155	4.42	3,595,680	3.71	2,915,153	3.08	2,138,888	2.94
SEATTLE, WA	5,704,780	4.22	5,172,899	4.32	3,360,027	3.47	3,145,058	3.33	1,862,072	2.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>135,191,420</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>119,951,092</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96,924,896</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>94,669,629</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>72,902,196</b>	<b>100</b>

District of Entry	2025 - JUN		2025 - JUL		2025 - AUG		2025 - SEP	
	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%						
LOS ANGELES, CA	17,556,152	28.71	23,810,054	20.83	18,596,555	19.05	13,907,860	18.54
CHICAGO, IL	6,010,290	9.83	13,653,804	11.95	7,806,278	8.00	8,072,478	10.76
CLEVELAND, OH	5,301,743	8.67	7,242,008	6.34	9,152,072	9.38	6,647,423	8.86
CHARLESTON, SC	1,848,765	3.03	9,139,198	8.00	7,544,923	7.73	6,492,875	8.66
NEW ORLEANS, LA	4,811,237	7.87	9,416,751	8.24	10,923,023	11.19	6,199,974	8.27
NEW YORK CITY, NY	3,892,040	6.37	10,717,711	9.38	9,290,668	9.52	4,886,936	6.52
SAVANNAH, GA	3,954,682	6.47	7,251,422	6.35	7,379,528	7.56	4,723,619	6.30
NORFOLK, VA	3,420,659	5.60	4,565,496	4.00	5,068,915	5.20	3,606,199	4.81
ST. LOUIS, MO	1,010,660	1.66	4,625,522	4.05	3,268,702	3.35	3,126,003	4.17
SEATTLE, WA	2,614,312	4.28	4,441,583	3.89	3,267,332	3.35	2,962,383	3.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,164,848</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>114,320,077</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>97,637,874</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>75,052,460</b>	<b>100</b>



## 2025 in Context: How Current Import Trends Differ from Previous Years

When compared with the first three quarters of 2024, U.S. imports of fastening tools from China under HS Codes 8204, 8205, and 8207 declined in total value during the same period in 2025. **Imports under HS 8205 fell by nearly 18%, while HS 8204 declined by 19%, and HS 8207 decreased by approximately 12%, resulting in an average of 16% across the three categories.** This year-over-year decline reflects a combination of factors, including the lingering effects of tariff-related cost pressures, more cautious purchasing behavior as U.S. buyers worked through existing inventories accumulated in prior years, and a gradual reallocation of marginal volumes to alternative sourcing locations. Rather than a sudden shift away from China, the data suggests a period of adjustment in which buyers balanced price sensitivity, supply chain risk, and demand normalization following the elevated import activity seen in earlier cycles.

★ Table 5. U.S. First 3 Quarters Fastening Tool Imports from China by Category in 2021-2025

HS Code (4)	01/01/2021 - 09/30/2021		01/01/2022 - 09/30/2022		01/01/2023 - 09/30/2023		01/01/2024 - 09/30/2024		01/01/2025 - 09/30/2025	
	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%								
8205 - HANDTOOLS OTHERS; BLOW TORCHES, ETC.; VISES, CLAMPS AND THE LIKE OTHERS; ANVILS; PORTABLE FORGES; GRINDING WHEELS WITH FRAMEWORKS; BASE METAL PARTS	569,983,273	45.34	578,145,215	43.28	451,018,352	44.28	453,743,447	44.01	373,625,369	43.06
8207 - INTERCHANGEABLE TOOLS FOR HANDTOOLS (POWER-OPERATED OR NOT) OR FOR MACHINE-TOOLS, INCLUDING DIES FOR EXTRUDING METAL, AND BASE METAL PARTS THEREOF	503,269,118	40.03	551,943,660	41.32	406,596,853	39.92	400,919,931	38.89	351,181,933	40.47
8204 - HAND-OPERATED SPANNERS AND WRENCHES, INCLUDING TORQUE METER WRENCHES (NOT TAP WRENCHES); SOCKET WRENCHES, WITH HANDLES ETC. OR NOT; BASE METAL PARTS	184,055,316	14.64	205,851,981	15.41	161,000,224	15.81	176,382,536	17.11	143,007,190	16.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,257,307,707</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,335,940,856</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,018,615,429</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,031,045,914</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>867,814,492</b>	<b>100</b>

Taken together, the first three quarters of 2025 illustrate a U.S. fastening tool import market that is evolving through recalibration rather than disruption. **China remains a central supplier across HS Codes 8204, 8205, and 8207, particularly in high-volume hand tool categories,** even as its share of import value fluctuated quarter to quarter. The data reflects a year marked by inventory normalization, selective sourcing adjustments, and heightened sensitivity to trade costs, rather than a decisive shift away from Chinese manufacturing. While imports from China declined compared with the same period in 2024, alternative suppliers such as Taiwan, Germany, Japan, and Vietnam absorbed portions of the marginal volume as buyers diversified sourcing strategies and mitigated tariff exposure.

At the same time, China's ability to regain share in certain months and product categories underscores the continued competitiveness of its fastening tool supply base, especially in terms of scale, product breadth, and established logistics networks. The prominence of Los Angeles as the primary import gateway, alongside inland distribution through Chicago and Cleveland, further reflects mature supply chain structures designed to serve industrial end markets efficiently. As U.S. buyers plan for future procurement cycles, the 2025 data suggests that China is likely to remain embedded in fastening tool supply chains, albeit within a more balanced and risk-managed sourcing framework shaped by trade policy uncertainty and evolving buyer priorities.

★ Table 6. U.S. First 3 Quarters Fastening Tool Imports from China by Category in 2024-2025

HS Code (4)	01/01/2024 - 09/30/2024		01/01/2025 - 09/30/2025		Volume Change	
	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%
8205 - HANDTOOLS OTHERS; BLOW TORCHES, ETC.; VISES, CLAMPS AND THE LIKE OTHERS; ANVILS; PORTABLE FORGES; GRINDING WHEELS WITH FRAMEWORKS; BASE METAL PARTS	453,743,447	44.01	373,625,369	43.06	(80,118,078)	-17.66
8207 - INTERCHANGEABLE TOOLS FOR HANDTOOLS (POWER-OPERATED OR NOT) OR FOR MACHINE-TOOLS, INCLUDING DIES FOR EXTRUDING METAL, AND BASE METAL PARTS THEREOF	400,919,931	38.89	351,181,933	40.47	(49,737,998)	-12.41
8204 - HAND-OPERATED SPANNERS AND WRENCHES, INCLUDING TORQUE METER WRENCHES (NOT TAP WRENCHES); SOCKET WRENCHES, WITH HANDLES, ETC. OR NOT; BASE METAL PARTS	176,382,536	17.11	143,007,190	16.48	(33,375,346)	-18.93
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,031,045,914</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>867,814,492</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(163,231,422)</b>	<b>-15.84</b>

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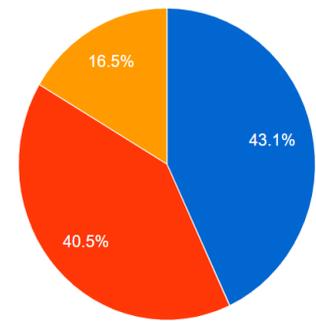
FAX: +886-4-8655738

E-MAIL: sc1986@shengching.com.tw

http://www.shengching.com



WEBSITE



- **8205-** Hand tools others; blow torches, etc.; vises, clamps and the link others; anvils; portable forges; grinding wheels with frameworks; base metal parts
- **8207-** Interchangeable tools for handtools (power-operated or not) or for machine-tools, including dies for extruding metal, and base metal parts thereof
- **8204-** Hand-operated spanners and wrenches, including torque meter wrenches (not tap wrenches); socket wrenches, with handles etc. or not; base metal parts

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