



Turkish NEWS

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Turkish Fastener Import and Export Analysis

The fastener sector has a critical place in Türkiye's industrial production. This field, which is directly integrated with strategic sectors such as automotive, construction, white goods, machinery manufacturing and defense industries, also makes a significant contribution to the country's economy in terms of foreign trade performance. In recent years, many factors such as transformations in global supply chains, regional export opportunities and exchange rate effects directly affect Türkiye's import and export figures.

Most of Türkiye's Exports are Made to Developed Industrial Countries

Türkiye's Fastener Export Destinations by Country				
Unit: USD Thousand Source: Trademap				
Ranking	Importers	Export Value In 2022	Export Value In 2023	Export Value In 2024
0	World	803,915	803,466	776,084
1	Germany	282,830	278,507	269,087
2	France	42,997	48,868	48,312
3	USA	37,840	41,781	48,217
4	Italy	39,329	31,449	25,560
5	Poland	28,870	24,178	22,544
6	Slovakia	20,204	21,157	21,614
7	Russia	19,526	27,834	19,483
8	UK	14,321	18,660	19,180
9	Romania	15,538	16,224	18,340
10	Spain	22,231	19,128	17,645
11	Netherlands	21,910	19,534	16,700
12	Czechia	15,887	18,064	15,050
13	Kazakhstan	7,210	16,682	14,941
14	UAE	6,868	5,026	14,192
15	Bulgaria	10,161	13,745	11,692
16	Belgium	11,859	11,621	11,055
17	Austria	16,968	15,059	10,766
18	Sweden	11,791	11,720	10,188
19	Egypt	4,614	5,166	9,158
20	Morocco	7,362	6,188	8,884



European Union countries account for more than 60% of Türkiye's total exports. This demonstrates Türkiye's strong integration and technical compatibility with Europe.

In the post-2020 period, especially with the need for global supply chain security after COVID-19, the orientation towards regional production bases such as Türkiye has increased. This orientation has contributed to Turkish fastener manufacturers becoming more competitive in exports. In addition, as of 2023, the demand for special fasteners used in new industrial applications such as electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, and modular building solutions has diversified the export product range.

Structure of Imports and Risk of Dependency

Türkiye's Fastener Import Sources by Country				Unit: USD Thousand Source: Trademap
Ranking	Exporters	Import Value In 2022	Import Value In 2023	Import Value In 2024
0	World	623,701	700,821	692,123
1	Germany	132,168	157,426	137,304
2	China	98,324	98,444	108,874
3	USA	61,764	69,007	73,465
4	Italy	57,376	65,974	65,880
5	Japan	45,190	47,939	52,332
6	France	34,371	45,492	52,050
7	Taiwan	31,672	32,603	29,894
8	South Korea	19,597	22,861	23,552
9	Czechia	19,958	21,697	20,843
10	Spain	17,777	23,052	20,187
11	UK	17,301	17,246	19,962
12	India	12,711	19,069	17,602
13	Malaysia	21,260	20,450	13,902
14	Poland	7,463	10,076	9,907
15	Switzerland	6,768	7,472	6,007
16	Sweden	4,892	6,231	4,412
17	Netherlands	2,446	2,953	3,375
18	Thailand	5,447	2,969	3,018
19	Vietnam	2,907	2,385	2,495
20	Bosnia and Herzegovina	4,488	3,564	2,426

While Türkiye generally imports products with high added value, it exports more standard and voluminous products. Most of the imports come from high-tech manufacturing countries such as Germany, China, Taiwan, South Korea and Italy. Foreign dependency continues, especially in special fasteners used in advanced technology applications such as aviation, medical devices and defense industries. In addition, Türkiye's domestic production capacity has not yet reached a sufficient level for products that require certain alloy steel and special coating technologies. This leaves the industry vulnerable to fluctuations in exchange rate and increases the unpredictability of costs. In this context, it is critical to strengthen domestic production capacity, encourage new investments and increase R&D-oriented production.

Net Trade Balance and Strategic Assessment

When the foreign trade balance of the sector is examined as of 2023, it is seen that Türkiye's import-export gap has narrowed. In total, exports exceed imports in terms of quantity, while the difference in terms of value remaining lower. The main reason for this is that the majority of exports consist of lower value-added products.

However, this table also shows a potential. Türkiye can further improve its foreign trade balance in favor of exports by increasing its product diversity in this sector, which has an existing infrastructure, and by producing more high-tech and value-added fasteners. As a matter of fact, the investment incentives provided by the state, the obligation to transition to low-carbon production within the framework of the European Green Deal and the increasing foreign demands support this transformation.



Negative Effects of U.S.-China Tariffs on Türkiye

U.S. tariffs on China have directly targeted China's competitiveness in low-cost products such as steel and fasteners. As a result of these barriers faced by China in the US market, Chinese manufacturers began to direct their goods to alternative markets. At this point, a large amount of dumped product inflows was observed in the regions including Türkiye, especially in Europe.

Especially in the fastener sector, bolts, nuts and screws of Chinese origin entered the Turkish market at very low prices, putting domestic manufacturers under pressure. Price competition has become a serious threat for Turkish companies with high production costs. Small and medium-sized producers have either reduced their margins or reduced their effectiveness in the domestic market because they could not resist these prices.

In addition to China, Taiwan has also started to target secondary markets such as Europe and Türkiye more aggressively to compensate for the contraction in the US market. Especially in the high-quality segment, Taiwanese products have created difficulties for Turkish industrialists both in the domestic market and in export competition.

In addition, Türkiye has come under pressure due to these tariffs in the European Union market, where it competes directly with China. When Chinese companies increased their exports to EU countries instead of the USA, there were price breaks and market losses in Türkiye's fastener exports to the EU.

The negative effects are not limited to this. Since many companies in Türkiye depend on China for the supply of intermediate products and raw materials, disruptions in logistics, increases in container costs and shocks in the supply chain during the China-US tension disrupted production plans. In particular, high carbon taxes and the tightening of environmental controls in the EU have also made visible the environmental standards that Türkiye has been weak in competing with China.



Turkish Automotive and Steel Industry Report (January-April, 2025)

In the January-April period of 2025, the automotive production decreased by 2 percent compared to the same period of the previous year. In this period, the automobile production was 295,377 units. In the commercial vehicle group, the heavy commercial vehicle group decreased by 25 percent, and the light commercial vehicle group by 1 percent compared to the previous year. Compared to the same month of the previous year, automobile exports decreased by 6 percent, landing at 194,530 units. In dollar terms, automobile exports increased by 8 percent to USD 3.6 billion.

The Turkish steel industry's performance during the first four months of 2025 lagged behind last year's figures. Persistently high production costs and ongoing economic fluctuations remain key challenges for producers. Against the backdrop of a sluggish domestic market, foreign trade flows also weakened during the reporting period. Steel imports in January-April edged up by less than 1% to 5.6 million tons. In contrast, Turkish steelmakers continued to focus on export markets in an effort to offset domestic demand weakness. Exports reached 5 million tons in January-April, marking a 17.3% rise.



The Turkish Steel Producer Association (TCUD) concluded that to ensure the sustainability of the Turkish steel sector, it is essential to "create alternative input opportunities for scrap, to limit the increasing dumped imports from Far Eastern countries, to place the Inward Processing Regime application within a framework that prioritizes domestic supply, and to increase the contribution of the steel sector to the elimination of the current account balance deficit." ■