



Analysis of Major Industries of Sweden Showing Great Fastener Demand

Sweden, as one of Europe's most industrialized nations with a diversified manufacturing base, offers a fertile ground to examine demand potential for fasteners. By analyzing Sweden's industry structure, output, and key industrial segments, we can identify where fastener demand likely concentrates — which may offer useful signals for suppliers, traders, or exporters.

Overview of Sweden's Industrial Landscape

Manufacturing is a Major Economic Pillar

According to a recent sector breakdown, the industrial sector (which includes manufacturing, mining, energy, construction) contributed about 22.6% of GDP in 2024. More narrowly, manufacturing value added reached US\$ 84.15 billion in 2024. Historically, manufacturing has accounted for nearly 20% of GDP.

Within manufacturing, **traditional heavy industry segments, such as steel (basic metals and metal products), automotive, industrial machinery, and metal fabrication, remain substantial contributors.** Sweden's "advanced manufacturing/industrial engineering" sector is estimated to be about US\$ 40 billion, contributing significantly to exports. Around 75% of Swedish exports reportedly come from manufacturing/industrial engineering.

The manufacturing sector also provides employment to a large workforce — many hundreds of thousands: some sources estimate around 700,000–800,000 people employed in manufacturing in recent years. This broad industrial base implies that Sweden remains heavily reliant on production sectors where mechanical joining (fasteners) is essential.

Diversity of Sectors — from Metals to Forestry to Machinery

Sweden's industrial profile is broad and heavy duty — exactly the kind that generates sustained demand for fasteners across many use cases. Sweden's industrial diversity spans:

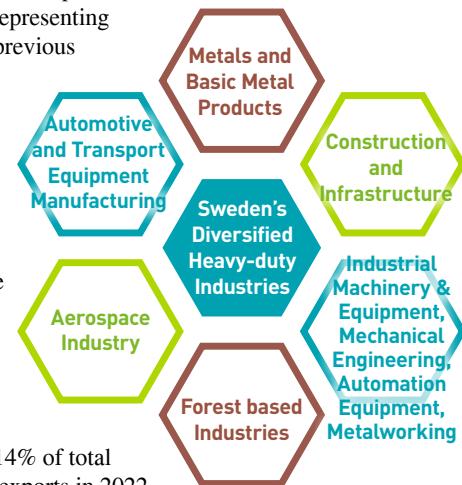
- **Metals and Basic Metal Products:**

Every metal fabrication job, whether building a steel structure, frame, machine casing, sheet metal housing, or heavy-duty structural parts, requires fasteners or welded assemblies, including steel production, metal processing, and metal fabricated goods. In 2024, Sweden's metals and basic metal products industry had revenues of approximately US\$9.2 billion, with a 0.9% contraction in the industry. Ore production was just over 80 million tonnes, a 5% decrease from 2023, though the number of active mines increased to thirteen. Despite production declines, Sweden remains a leader in sustainable and fossil-free advanced metallic material production, supported by its natural resources and energy system.¹

- **Automotive and Transport Equipment Manufacturing (vehicles, trailers, semi trailers, heavy vehicles):**

It is part of "motor vehicles and transport equipment" classification within manufacturing. In 2024, Sweden's automotive and transport equipment manufacturing industry had an estimated revenue of US\$5.2 billion and produced 270,500 units, representing a decline from previous years due to the transition to electric vehicles.

The sector employed approximately 60,400 full-time equivalent employees in 2023, with a significant export value of approximately 14% of total Swedish goods exports in 2022, notes Shoring Sweden.²



- **Industrial Machinery & Equipment, Mechanical Engineering, Automation Equipment, Metalworking:**

The Sweden Industrial Process Automation Market size was valued at US\$390.6 million in 2024 and was projected to grow to US\$407.9 million by 2025. Additionally, the industry is expected to continue its growth trajectory, reaching US\$ 446.4 million by 2030, at a CAGR of 2.25% from 2025 to 2030.³

- **Forest based Industries, Including Timber, Pulp/Paper, Wood Products, and Wooden Building Materials:**

In 2024, Sweden's forest-based industry was a major economic force, with exports valued at US\$19.6 billion, representing about 85% of its products. The industry is a significant employer,

¹ <https://www.sgu.se/en/about-sgu/news-from-sgu/2025/june/swedish-mining-industry-continues-to-grow--despite-decreased-ore-production-in-2024/#:~:text=The%20ore%20production%20in%20Sweden,extending%20the%20lifespan%20of%20mines>



supporting 140,000 jobs, and consumes approximately 15% of Sweden's total electricity for its operations, which are largely powered by bioenergy. The sector has also invested billions, with US\$ 6.9 billion invested between 2020-2024.⁴

• **Aerospace Industry:** In 2024, Sweden's aerospace industry was valued at approximately US\$14 billion (Market Cap) and had a 2021 sales revenue of about US\$2.586 billion, with projections to reach US\$5.24 billion by 2033. The sector is driven by a strong focus on defense, with companies like Saab experiencing significant order growth. It also has a leading role in the development of electric aviation technology, with initiatives like ELISE (Electric Aviation in Sweden).

• **Construction and Infrastructure:** It is especially given the importance of construction in complementing industrial activity and urban development. In 2024, the Swedish construction industry's value was around US\$ 49.30 billion, with a notable but shrinking transportation infrastructure sector valued at approximately US\$ 16.86 billion. While residential construction declined significantly due to high interest rates, investments in transportation and energy are expected to provide some support to the overall market, which is projected to shrink by about 3.9% in real terms for the year.⁵

Quantitative Perspective:

Fastener Import to Sweden (USD)	
Exporters	Year 2024
World	525,207,000
Germany	142,371,000
Taiwan	79,938,000
China	46,727,000
Italy	41,890,000

Sweden's import profile in 2024 shows a sharply concentrated sourcing pattern. Out of a total of US\$ 525.2 million, **Germany accounted for more than a quarter with US\$ 142.4 million**. The reasons may be: Germany sits close, offers stable logistics, and holds a strong reputation for industrial reliability.

More interesting is the second tier. **Taiwan, at US\$ 79.9 million, has secured a position far beyond what its size suggests.** This isn't an accident; it reflects specialization, consistency, and the kind of high-precision manufacturing that buyers can rely on. China, despite its global manufacturing scale, trailed at US\$ 46.7 million. This gap points to a purchasing environment where quality, trust, and technical standards matter as much as price—areas where Taiwan tends to outperform.

Italy's US\$ 41.9 million formed the tail of the top exporters, reinforcing a pattern: Sweden relies on partners that deliver engineering quality, predictable supply chains, and regulatory alignment. The hierarchy isn't driven by sheer production capacity but by assurance, precision, and consistency.

Sweden's Fastener Export Reach (USD)	
Importers	Year 2024
World	399,790,000
Norway	57,408,000
USA	41,283,000
Germany	33,077,000
Denmark	29,584,000
United Kingdom	25,225,000

Sweden's outward trade flows in 2024, totalling US\$ 399.8 million, reveal a pattern that is anything but random. The country's export footprint is broad, yet its commercial gravity remains firmly regional.

Norway led with US\$ 57.4 million, a familiar result given tightly integrated Nordic supply chains and low logistical friction. But notice the next positions: the United States at US\$ 41.3 million, followed closely by Germany at US\$ 33.1 million. This mix tells you Sweden succeeds where established trust, regulatory compatibility, and demand for advanced, reliable goods converge.

The presence of Denmark (US\$ 29.6 million) and the United Kingdom (US\$ 25.2 million) reinforce the point: Sweden's strongest markets are countries that value quality over scale and place a premium on dependable long-term partners. These are not markets won by price competition alone; they're shaped by technical standards, cultural proximity, and industrial alignment.

In short, the numbers expose a highly stable export ecosystem—broad internationally, but with undeniable concentration among Sweden's closest economic and regulatory allies.

Conclusion

Taken together, Sweden's industrial structure and its trade patterns point to a market where fastener demand is anchored in long-standing, technically demanding sectors rather than speculative growth pockets. **Heavy industries such as metals, automotive, machinery, and forest-based manufacturing continue to dominate both output and employment, ensuring a consistent baseline need for mechanical joining solutions.** Even in segments facing cyclical pressure—construction, vehicle production, or basic metals—the underlying **engineering intensity remains high.** These industries cannot function without reliable fastening systems, meaning suppliers who match Sweden's expectations for precision, certification, and supply-chain stability will remain relevant despite short-term fluctuations.

The country's import and export dynamics reinforce this industrial profile. Sweden relies on partners known for quality and engineering standards, not cheap volume, and its outward trade is the strongest with regions where industrial expectations mirror its own. This alignment suggests that the Swedish fastener market is not simply large—it is selective. For foreign suppliers or exporters, the opportunity is real but contingent on meeting the technical, regulatory, and reliability thresholds that Swedish industries treat as non-negotiable. In essence, the data describes a market where demand is robust, but access must be earned through capability rather than price. ■

² https://sharingsweden.se/app/uploads/2024/11/SI_IP_Transport_Overview_241101.pdf

³ <https://www.nextmsc.com/report/sweden-industrial-process-automation-market>

⁴ <https://www.nextmsc.com/report/sweden-industrial-process-automation-market>

⁵ <https://www.nextmsc.com/report/sweden-construction-market#:~:text=Sweden%20Construction%20Industry%20Overview%20The%20Sweden%20Construction,CAGR%20of%206.6%25%20from%202025%20to%202030.>

