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Economic Growth Slows - Signs of Weakening Supply and Demand for Fasteners in Brazil by 2025

According to the latest comprehensive market data report, Brazil's economic performance in each quarter of 2025 and across the year exhibited significant fluctuations. First-quarter GDP growth benefited from robust export momentum (a 1.4% quarterly increase compared to Q4 2024), placing Brazil at the forefront among all G20 nations- even outperforming China and Turkey.

The second quarter saw a turning point, with economic momentum slowing and facing multiple challenges.

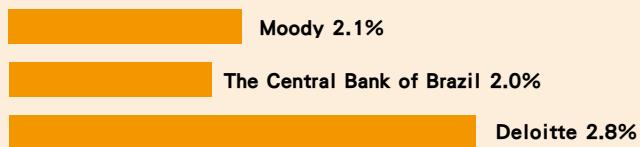
However, the good times did not last. The second quarter saw a turning point, with economic momentum slowing and facing multiple challenges, which was primarily due to persistently rising inflationary pressures in the market (with some

Brazilian economists projecting the annual inflation rate for 2025 to reach 4.45%), forcing the Central Bank of Brazil to maintain its benchmark interest rate at a high of 10.75%. This has dampened investment sentiment and consumer demand in the domestic market to a certain extent. Additionally, the Brazilian government's recent implementation of stricter fiscal measures to achieve budgetary targets indirectly contributed to the deceleration in economic growth.

Market analyses generally suggest that Brazil's GDP performance for the full year of 2025 may not see a significant growth surge, with forecasts potentially declining to around 2% (Moody's projects 2.1%, the Central Bank of Brazil projects 2.0%, and Deloitte projects 2.8%). Growth

projections for the subsequent years of 2026 and 2027 may also be revised downward to below 2%. Furthermore, following U.S. President Trump's imposition of 50% tariffs on global steel and aluminum imports, declining U.S. orders have slowed market demand. This has also imposed substantial operational cost pressures on related industries within South America's largest economy. Under these combined market and regulatory impacts, Brazil's fastener industry (a key pillar supporting various sectors) is beginning to sense signs of gradually cooling supply and demand within the local market.

Forecast of Brazil's GDP Performance for the Full Year of 2025



The following statistics show the changes in Brazil's fastener imports and exports in 2023, 2024, and Jan.-Oct. of 2025. Although official Brazilian statistics are currently only updated through October 2025 at the time of writing, extrapolating from the average monthly import and export weights and values in 2023 already indicates downward signals in Brazil's fastener market supply and demand. **It is projected that both exports and imports of Brazilian fasteners for the full year of 2025 will likely remain below the previous year's performance.**



Imports ////

HS 7318 Iron and steel screws, bolts, nuts, screw hooks, rivets, washers (incl. spring washers), cotter pins and similar articles

Ranking	Import Source	2023(KG)	2024(KG)	Jan.-Oct. 2025(KG)	2023(USD)	2024(USD)	Jan.-Oct. 2025 (USD)
0	Global	173,081,126	230,540,186	207,692,951	921,454,730	1,059,363,375	966,786,606
1	China	93,848,116	145,015,045	132,801,538	221,048,188	290,193,849	267,015,413
2	Italy	10,950,656	12,592,622	11,925,209	71,281,714	82,230,744	83,488,018
3	Japan	9,947,884	11,009,975	10,165,856	74,918,089	82,093,242	77,672,177
4	USA	9,771,977	9,110,397	6,643,571	180,088,252	179,607,660	154,711,566
5	Germany	7,256,242	7,752,200	6,588,451	82,760,609	91,535,615	81,875,424
6	Taiwan	6,009,282	6,525,401	6,264,111	29,119,514	34,653,980	33,244,630
7	S. Korea	5,192,836	5,531,747	5,222,885	27,204,933	29,422,351	25,353,340
8	India	5,842,567	4,933,610	4,117,741	25,078,653	23,264,495	22,073,745
9	France	3,270,221	3,883,839	3,721,990	47,882,221	56,769,299	54,173,649
10	Hong Kong	2,996,403	4,662,633	3,073,795	6,127,269	9,297,488	6,351,494

(Note: Table data sorted by weight for 2025; source: <http://comexstat.mdic.gov.br/en/geral>)

Brazil's imports of fasteners showed growth in both volume and value between 2023 and 2024, with only imports from the United States and India experiencing a reversal and decline. In the first ten months of 2025, Brazil imported approximately 207,700 metric tons of fastener products globally; in monetary terms, imports totaled about US\$9.668 billion. **China, Italy, and Japan were Brazil's top three import partners, with nearly 65% of imported fasteners originating from China**, clearly demonstrating China's dominant position in Brazil's fastener imports. Additionally, approximately 6% came from Italy and 5% from Japanese suppliers, though their supply volumes fell far short of those from Chinese manufacturers. Taiwan, alongside the United States and Germany, each held about a 3% market share in Brazil's fastener market. South Korea, India, and France also ranked among Brazil's top ten fastener import partners.

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Ranking	Export Destination	2023(KG)	2024(KG)	Jan.-Oct. 2025(KG)	2023(USD)	2024(USD)	Jan.-Oct. 2025 (USD)
0	Global	26,378,411	22,699,145	19,680,822	170,326,934	152,499,731	133,939,528
1	Argentina	11,145,338	7,585,393	7,043,060	51,873,309	37,208,188	32,385,339
2	Paraguay	4,455,281	4,996,817	4,303,371	14,938,941	15,836,152	12,854,297
3	USA	3,534,560	3,462,082	2,749,557	35,576,868	33,232,822	29,360,804
4	Uruguay	1,214,185	1,187,989	1,151,118	4,317,538	4,597,772	3,708,935
5	Germany	928,335	883,972	520,316	7,886,561	7,799,125	5,878,993
6	Chile	377,352	367,695	513,224	6,119,261	5,572,831	4,833,271
7	Bolivia	797,393	659,843	435,707	3,607,042	2,716,276	1,785,714
8	Mexico	525,527	527,840	390,835	5,698,335	5,644,026	4,332,367
9	France	686,820	684,762	362,555	7,639,124	8,245,585	11,416,177
10	Colombia	339,566	287,940	273,421	4,855,570	4,634,349	3,929,557

(Note: Table data sorted by weight for 2025; source: <http://comexstat.mdic.gov.br/en/geral>)

Export ////

Although Brazil is primarily an import-oriented country for fasteners, **its domestic fastener industry still exports a portion of its products to foreign markets. However, these exports are largely confined to the United States and South American nations**. Among Brazil's top ten export partners, only Germany and France are European countries. Brazil's fastener exports began showing signs of decline as early as 2023. In the first ten months of 2025, Brazil exported approximately 20,000 metric tons of fasteners globally, valued at around US\$133 million. A significant portion was exported to Argentina, Paraguay, the United States, and Uruguay. **Argentina accounted for about 36% of Brazil's total fastener exports**, Paraguay for approximately 22%, the United States for roughly 14%, and Uruguay for about 6%.

Conclusions ////

As one of the founding members of BRICS and a founding signatory of the Southern Common Market (Mercosur), Brazil stands as Latin America's largest country by land area, most populous nation (with approximately 200 million people), and one of the region's most robust economies. Its industrial strength has long rivaled Mexico's for supremacy in Latin America, making it a crucial barometer for the region's market economy. Its slightest shifts can ripple through neighboring economies in Central and South America, including Argentina, Chile, Peru, Colombia, Panama, Paraguay, etc. Despite a short-term weakening trend in Brazil's fastener supply and demand market, the country remains a crucial pillar supporting strategic industrial development in South America. This is due to its abundant iron ore reserves and mature manufacturing sectors, including automotive, aerospace, steel, and shipbuilding. Looking at Brazil's top fastener import partners in 2025, besides China, which holds a competitive edge in average pricing, many are nations specializing in supplying mid-to-high-end fastener products—such as Italy, Japan, the United States, Germany, and Taiwan. For manufacturers primarily focused on high-precision, specialized components, or mid-to-high-end industrial fasteners, these countries may also warrant inclusion in future product marketing expansion and market development strategies. ■

