

What percentage of hand tools does the U.S. import from China and Taiwan? Has hand tool trade between the U.S. and China and Taiwan stabilized in 2021 in comparison to 2020? Finally, are hand tool imports decreasing during the first months of 2022 due to the newly enforced shutdowns in China?

Data note: The data for this article is derived from Descartes™ Datamyne' s US Census trade statistics. US Census trade statistics analysis import and export on all modes of transportation. That value is calculated in USD by general CIF for imports and FOB for exports. Hand tools in this article are defined as any product under HS Code 8203 (files, rasps, pliers, pincers, metal cutting shears, pipe cutters, bolt cutters and similar hand tools), HS Code 8204 (hand-operated spanners and wrenches, including torque meter wrenches (not tap wrenches), socket wrenches), HS Code 8205 (hand tools others, blow torches, vises, clamps and the like), and HS Code 8207 (interchangeable tools for hand tools (power operated or not) or for machine-tools, not including dies for extruding metal).

	US Imports of Fastening Tools											
	2019				2020			Volume Change				
Country of Origin	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%
China	2,046,809,529.00	54.51	1,963,146,481.00	35.85	1,592,924,886.00	54.62	1,818,175,960.00	35.41	-453,884,643.00	-22.18	-144,970,521.00	-7.39
Taiwan	547,974,709.00	14.60	696,929,743.00	12.73	466,925,532.00	16.01	763,334,951.00	14.87	-81,049,177.00	-14.80	66,405,208.00	9.53
Japan	51,586,081.00	1.38	633,835,751.00	11.58	25,154,930.00	0.87	548,906,925.00	10.69	-26,431,151.00	-51.24	-84,928,826.00	-13.40
Germany	138,806,017.00	3.70	544,617,204.00	9.95	61,181,706.00	2.10	434,167,619.00	8.46	-77,624,311.00	-55.93	-110,449,585.00	-20.29
Canada	102,789,016.00	2.74	271,616,373.00	4.96	49,078,645.00	1.69	253,130,796.00	4.93	-53,710,371.00	-52.26	-18,485,577.00	-6.81
S. Korea	19,897,405.00	0.53	266,399,745.00	4.87	18,978,273.00	0.66	303,552,228.00	5.92	-919,132.00	-4.62	37,152,483.00	13.95
Mexico	414,117,672.00	11.03	192,813,900.00	3.53	409,713,366.00	14.05	155,363,839.00	3.03	-4,404,306.00	-1.07	-37,450,061.00	-19.43
India	84,158,513.00	2.25	130,540,043.00	2.39	68,152,788.00	2.34	117,880,014.00	2.30	-16,005,725.00	-19.02	-12,660,029.00	-9.70
Italy	29,108,485.00	0.78	110,176,336.00	2.02	18,411,010.00	0.64	103,166,236.00	2.01	-10,697,475.00	-36.76	-7,010,100.00	-6.37
United Kingdom	52,141,123.00	1.39	68,630,318.00	1.26	15,800,945.00	0.55	54,119,810.00	1.06	-36,340,178.00	-69.70	-14,510,508.00	-21.15
Total	3,755,347,384.00	100.00	5,476,171,081.00	100.00	2,916,858,513.00	100.00	5,134,871,977.00	100.00	-838,488,871.00	-22.33	-341,299,104.00	-6.24





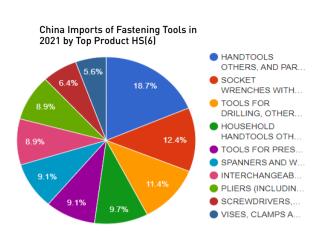
Prior to the start of the pandemic in early 2020, the U.S. imported a total value of 5.47 million USD of hand tools from its foreign trade partners around the world. Of those imported hand tools, nearly 36% of the value was imported from China, followed by nearly 13% from Taiwan. Other countries such as Germany, Japan and Canada made up the remaining 49%. For the majority of 2020 the pandemic caused unrest in the global shipping industry leading to supply chain shortages causing the total value of hand tool imports into the U.S to drop by 6.2% in value and about 22% in overall quantity. China hand tool exports to the U.S. dropped in value by 7.3% and a little over 22% in quantity. Meanwhile, Taiwan saw an increase in value of 9.5% in 2020, but a decrease in quantity of nearly 15%. While the pandemic remained a reality throughout 2021, global trade stabilized and overall demand for goods increased significantly. With the increased demand for housing and manufacturing in the U.S., it is believed that imports of raw materials, fasteners and hand tools were in high demand to keep up with the market demand. Understanding that China and Taiwan are the two most significant trading partners for the U.S., what can be interpreted given the 2021 U.S. imports of hand tools?

	US Imports of Fastening Tools 2020 vs 2021											
Country	2020				2021			Volume Change				
of Origin	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%
China	1,592,924,886.00	54.62	1,818,175,960.00	35.41	1,681,471,981.00	58.32	2,019,714,380.00	32.82	88,547,095.00	5.56	201,538,420.00	11.09
Taiwan	466,925,532.00	16.01	763,334,951.00	14.87	572,351,724.00	19.85	1,020,531,198.00	16.59	105,426,192.00	22.58	257,196,247.00	33.70
Japan	25,154,930.00	0.87	548,906,925.00	10.69	27,798,416.00	0.97	608,334,163.00	9.89	2,643,486.00	10.51	59,427,238.00	10.83
Germany	61,181,706.00	2.10	434,167,619.00	8.46	70,287,444.00	2.44	507,844,974.00	8.26	9,105,738.00	14.89	73,677,355.00	16.97
S. Korea	18,978,273.00	0.66	303,552,228.00	5.92	18,308,705.00	0.64	265,581,354.00	4.32	-669,568.00	-3.53	-37,970,874.00	-12.51
Canada	49,078,645.00	1.69	253,130,796.00	4.93	54,480,759.00	1.89	330,568,423.00	5.38	5,402,114.00	11.01	77,437,627.00	30.60
Mexico	409,713,366.00	14.05	155,363,839.00	3.03	43,887,804.00	1.53	190,474,149.00	3.10	-365,825,562.00	-89.29	35,110,310.00	22.60
India	68,152,788.00	2.34	117,880,014.00	2.30	111,382,090.00	3.87	196,279,245.00	3.19	43,229,302.00	63.43	78,399,231.00	66.51
Italy	18,411,010.00	0.64	103,166,236.00	2.01	19,699,411.00	0.69	135,861,927.00	2.21	1,288,401.00	7.00	32,695,691.00	31.70
Vietnam	48,653,125.00	1.67	54,609,348.00	1.07	157,007,931.00	5.45	149,045,445.00	2.43	108,354,806.00	222.71	94,436,097.00	172.94
Total	2,916,858,513.00	100.00	5,134,871,977.00	100.00	2,883,592,944.00	100.00	6,154,659,165.00	100.00	-33,265,569.00	-1.15	1,019,787,188.00	19.87

Imports of Fastening Tools from China 2021 HS										
	2021									
Product HS (6)	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%						
820559 - Handtools Others, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	297,789,484.00	17.72	286,516,936.00	14.19						
820750 - Tools For Drilling, Other Than Rock Drilling, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	226,004,531.00	13.45	271,563,663.00	13.45						
820551 - Household Handtools Others, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	204,100,076.00	12.14	235,211,023.00	11.65						
820730 - Tools For Pressing, Stamping Or Punching, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	2,210,680.00	0.14	191,661,616.00	9.49						
820320 - Pliers (Including Cutting Pliers), Pincers, Tweezers, And Similar Tools, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	48,874,639.00	2.91	166,351,597.00	8.24						
820790 - Interchangeable Tools Others, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	289,739,795.00	17.24	125,310,422.00	6.21						
820570 - Vises, Clamps And The Like, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	55,186,746.00	3.29	116,734,901.00	5.78						
820411 - Spanners And Wrenches, Hand-Operated, Non-Adjustable, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	110,181,103.00	6.56	115,260,128.00	5.71						
820420 - Socket Wrenches With Or Without Handles, Drives And Extensions, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	145,694,223.00	8.67	90,320,610.00	4.48						
820540 - Screwdrivers, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	169,075,546.00	10.06	70,102,686.00	3.48						
Total	1,681,471,981.00	100.00	2,019,714,380.00	100.00						

Main query filters: Product HS: 8203 - Files, Rasps, Pliers, Pincers, Metalcutting Shears, Pipe Cutters, Bolt Cutters And Similar Hand Tools, And Base Metal Parts Thereof Or 8204 - Hand-Operated Spanners And Wrenches, Including Torque Meter Wrenches (Not Tap Wrenches); Socket Wrenches, With Handles Etc. Or Not; Base Metal Parts Or 8207 - Interchangeable Tools For Handtools (Power-Operated Or Not) Or For Machine-Tools, Including Dies For Extruding Metal, And Base Metal Parts Thereof Or 8205 - Handtools Others; Blow Torches Etc.; Vises, Clamps And The Like Others; Anvils; Portable Forges; Grinding Wheels With Frameworks; Base Metal Parts





Imports of Fastening Tools from Taiwan in 2021 by District									
	2021								
District of Entry	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%					
Los Angeles, CA	478,064,603.00	28.44	436,982,655.00	21.64					
New Orleans, LA	95,822,579.00	5.70	204,357,887.00	10.12					
Savannah, GA	134,892,412.00	8.03	198,061,230.00	9.81					
New York City, NY	150,850,940.00	8.98	164,995,966.00	8.17					
Chicago, IL	99,838,755.00	5.94	143,310,406.00	7.10					
Charleston, SC	139,728,953.00	8.31	118,866,381.00	5.89					
Wilmington, NC	140,881,354.00	8.38	102,886,399.00	5.10					
Cleveland, OH	38,772,899.00	2.31	94,595,524.00	4.69					
Seattle, WA	47,548,373.00	2.83	76,399,039.00	3.79					
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	38,127,576.00	2.27	73,821,389.00	3.66					
Total	1,681,471,981.00	100.00	2,019,714,380.00	100.00					

Has China Remained the Leader in Hand Tool Exports to the U.S.?

During 2021, the U.S. imported a combined total of 6.15 billion USD worth of hand tools from its trading partners. China accounted for nearly 39% of the total value which was a little over 2 billion USD. In comparison to 2020, China exported a little over 200 million USD which amount to an 11% increase. The general quantity of hand tools being exported from China to the U.S. also increased by a total of 5.5%. Overall, general quantity of hand tool imports into the U.S. decreased by a little over 1% which is believed to be the residual effect of available supply not being able to keep up with the increased demand of hand tools. Over the course of 2021, Chinese hand tool exports decreased during the second quarter of the year to 470,412,012 USD from 478,892,273 USD during the first quarter. In the third quarter of the year the total value increased to 505,205,462, and then during the fourth quarter of the year there was the highest value of 565,204,63 USD. Given these trade data elements, it's evident that China continued to be the leading trading partner for the U.S. by a little over 16% in 2021, followed by Taiwan which is the second largest trading partner for the U.S..

Of the different hand tool subsets, 820559 was in the greatest demand throughout 2021, 820559 accounted for over 14% of hand tool imports from China, followed by 820750 (over 13%) and 820551 (over 11%). Most hand tool imports from China entered the U.S. through the Los Angeles district ports (Port of Long Beach, Port of Los Angeles), followed by the New Orleans district and the Savannah district.

Imports of Fastening Tools from Taiwan in 2021										
		20	021							
Product HS (6)	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%						
820420 - Socket Wrenches With Or Without Handles, Drives And Extensions, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	148,720,649.00	25.99	227,624,030.00	22.31						
820559 - Handtools Others, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	43,733,596.00	7.65	192,638,792.00	18.88						
820411 - Spanners And Wrenches, Hand-Operated, Non-Adjustable, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	69,343,731.00	12.12	117,353,988.00	11.50						
820790 - Interchangeable Tools Others, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	115,020,035.00	20.10	103,588,387.00	10.16						
820540 - Screwdrivers, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	67,071,618.00	11.72	93,200,872.00	9.14						
820320 - Pliers (Including Cutting Pliers), Pincers, Tweezers, And Similar Tools, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	6,733,046.00	1.18	62,255,033.00	6.11						
820730 - Tools For Pressing, Stamping Or Punching, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	1,513,507.00	0.27	41,657,093.00	4.09						
820560 - Blow Torches And Similar Self-Contained Torches, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	5,213,853.00	0.92	28,376,525.00	2.79						
820570 - Vises, Clamps And The Like, And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	28,879,566.00	5.05	26,420,424.00	2.59						
820520 - Hammers And Sledge Hammers And Parts Thereof, Of Base Metal	3,462,230.00	0.61	24,770,048.00	2.43						
Total	572,351,724.00	100.00	1,020,531,198.00	100.00						



U.S. Hand Tool Imports from Taiwan

Taiwan exported quantity of 572,351,724 in 2021 which was 22.5% higher than the total exported quantity in 2020. The imported

value in 2021 increased by over 33% in comparison to 2022, or 257,196,247 USD. The overall increase of Taiwan's hand tool exports to the U.S. and the way Taiwan was able to keep up with the U.S. demand for hand tools is likely due to Taiwan's response and navigation of the global pandemic. Unlike China's quarterly values that both increased and decreased, Taiwan exports to the U.S. were on a steady incline quarter over quarter during 2021. Taiwan began the year exporting a total of 213,291,765 USD during the first quarter, followed by 262,733,820 USD during the second quarter, 258,449,236 USD in the third quarter and wrapped up the year with a total of 286,056,377 USD during the last quarter. On the other hand, the total quantity of hand tools during the last quarter of 2021 decreased by a little over 12% while prices for hand tools increased. This could be due to a decrease in supply which would have increased the prices of available hand tools.

Based on value, subset 820420 was the hand tool that was imported the most in 2021, followed by 820559 and 820411. Much like so many imports coming from different parts of Asia, hand tool imports from Taiwan were primarily imported through the district of Los Angeles, followed by Savannah and Chicago.

Imports of Fastening Tools from Taiwan in 2021 by District										
	2021									
District of Entry	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%						
Los Angeles, CA	144,990,223.00	25.34	205,581,611.00	20.15						
Savannah, GA	67,979,526.00	11.88	119,000,529.00	11.67						
Chicago, IL	56,887,006.00	9.94	108,079,379.00	10.60						
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	23,371,196.00	4.09	98,078,921.00	9.62						
New Orleans, LA	21,130,654.00	3.70	96,216,524.00	9.43						
Cleveland, OH	11,640,253.00	2.04	59,717,679.00	5.86						
Charleston, SC	40,416,076.00	7.07	54,498,543.00	5.35						
Seattle, WA	22,483,680.00	3.93	51,465,918.00	5.05						
New York City, NY	35,621,069.00	6.23	41,198,616.00	4.04						
Wilmington, NC	37,414,578.00	6.54	38,641,614.00	3.79						
Total	572,351,724.00	100.00	1,020,531,198.00	100.00						

2022 Imports from Taiwan and China: Is COVID-19 Impacting Trade Yet Again?

During the first two months of 2022, the U.S. has imported a combined value of 561,110,808 USD from China and Taiwan. Of that value, 67% was the total from China and nearly 33% was the total from Taiwan. For China, this total value is 22.5% higher and the overall quantity was 28% higher than during the first two months of 2021. This analysis is important to consider since there have been reports of lockdowns due to COVID-19 in China during the first months of 2022 which in turn could have impacted export trade to the U.S. and other countries. Taiwan exports to the U.S. have also increased during 2022; the total value increased during the first two months of 2022 by 40% and the quantity increased by 83.5%.

The U.S. continues to report record demand for most commodities which is requiring corporations to source from multiple trading partners to meet demands. While countries like China and Taiwan remain the largest trading partners based on value and volume, new trading partners are emerging to meet newly required supplies of goods. During the end of 2021 and beginning of 2022, port delays and congestions have become the new norm generating increased delays in the shipping world. There is a sense of normalcy and stability on the horizon which will hopefully stabilize the overall supply chain for years to come.

	US Imports of Fastening Tools in 2022											
	01/01/2021 - 02/28/2021				01/01/2022 - 02/28/2022			Volume Change				
Country of Origin	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%	General Quantity	%	General Total Value CIF (USD)	%
China	217,668,894.00	56.77	306,998,430.00	35.50	279,476,786.00	53.37	376,276,714.00	35.72	61,807,892.00	28.40	69,278,284.00	22.57
Taiwan	83,857,872.00	21.87	131,728,813.00	15.23	153,904,538.00	29.39	184,834,094.00	17.55	70,046,666.00	83.54	53,105,281.00	40.32
Japan	3,902,864.00	1.02	107,864,562.00	12.48	2,639,329.00	0.51	78,702,505.00	7.47	-1,263,535.00	-32.38	-29,162,057.00	-27.04
Germany	9,512,613.00	2.49	70,385,148.00	8.14	11,704,528.00	2.24	84,791,253.00	8.05	2,191,915.00	23.05	14,406,105.00	20.47
Canada	7,236,802.00	1.89	41,310,787.00	4.78	5,754,062.00	1.10	53,297,713.00	5.06	-1,482,740.00	-20.49	11,986,926.00	29.02
S. Korea	2,099,266.00	0.55	38,684,392.00	4.48	3,868,360.00	0.74	35,722,331.00	3.40	1,769,094.00	84.28	-2,962,061.00	-7.66
Mexico	9,646,068.00	2.52	24,010,046.00	2.78	6,831,530.00	1.31	31,231,398.00	2.97	-2,814,538.00	-29.18	7,221,352.00	30.08
India	15,664,703.00	4.09	23,821,625.00	2.76	14,979,948.00	2.87	33,652,503.00	3.20	-684,755.00	-4.38	9,830,878.00	41.27
Italy	2,990,978.00	0.78	17,008,230.00	1.97	5,874,137.00	1.13	21,841,683.00	2.08	2,883,159.00	96.40	4,833,453.00	28.42
Vietnam	17,357,930.00	4.53	15,861,928.00	1.84	21,285,298.00	4.07	27,909,868.00	2.65	3,927,368.00	22.63	12,047,940.00	75.96
Total	383,473,853.00	100.00	864,935,476.00	100.00	523,715,275.00	100.00	1,053,598,544.00	100.00	140,241,422.00	36.58	188,663,068.00	21.82