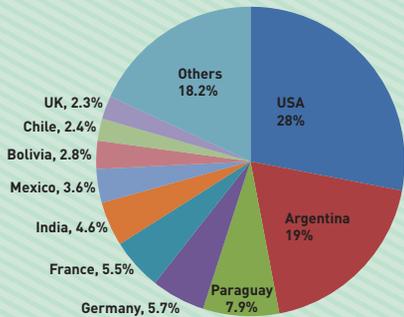


Bolts, screws, pins, nuts and other similar products made of iron or steel

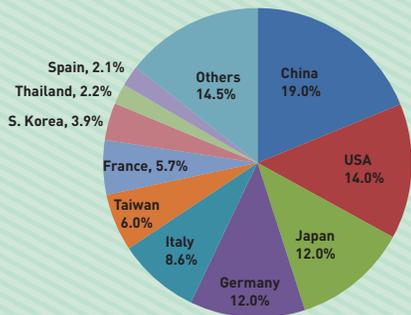
Export (Jan.-Dec. 2018)

| | Export | Variation Jan.-Dec. 2017/2018 |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Value | US\$ 147.99 million | 29.20 % |
| FOB Price | US\$ 5.826 p/kg | 23.00 % |
| Ton | 25.403 thousand | 4.50 % |



Import (Jan.-Dec. 2018)

| | Import | Variation Jan.-Dec. 2017/2018 |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Value | US\$ 648.74 million | 8.90 % |
| FOB Price | US\$ 5.262 p/kg | -0.90 % |
| Ton | 123.292 thousand | 9.90 % |



Fastener Import of Brazil Reaches US\$ 648 Million

The South American country closed its 2018 export and import results exceeding the figures recorded in 2017, which signals the trend to keep growing during 2019.

In January-December 2018, Brazil exported more than 25 thousand tons of fasteners (incl. bolts, screws, nuts and similar others made of steel or iron), showing an increase of 4.5% from 2017. The total revenue was almost US\$ 150 million and the average price was US\$ 5.826 per KG. Its 10 main export destinations were USA (28%), Argentina (19%), Paraguay (7.8%), Germany (5.7%), France (5.5%), India (4.6%), Mexico (3.6%), Bolivia (2.8%), Chile (2.4%), and UK (2.3%).

On the other hand, the quantity of fasteners bought by Brazilian companies reached 123 thousand tons, an increase of 9.90% from 2017. Its total value was US\$ 648.74 million and the average price was US\$ 5.262 per KG. Its 10 main import origins were China (19%), USA (14%), Japan (12%), Germany (12%), Italy (8.6%), Taiwan (6%), France (5.7%), South Korea (3.9%), Thailand (2.2%), and Spain (2.2%).

However, the fastener import of Brazil doesn't consider products assembled, such as auto parts, machines and many others that have bolts, screws, nuts etc. applied, making us believe that the combined statistics will far exceed the mark of 128 thousand tons.

27 states of Brazil have an annual GDP of around US\$ 1.9 billion. São Paulo, the state representing around 32% on the GDP, received 48% of all fastener imports. Santa Catarina, representing 4.2% on the GDP, received 14% of all fastener imports, followed by Amazonas (9.85% of all fastener imports and 1.12% on the GDP), Paraná (9.62 of all fastener imports and 6% on the GDP), Rio Grande do Sul (4.25% of all fastener imports and 6.4% on the GDP), Rio de Janeiro (4% of all fastener imports and 11% on the GDP), Minas Gerais (3.35% of all fastener imports and 11% on the GDP), Bahia (2.59% of all fastener imports and 4.1% on the GDP), Pernambuco (1.39% of all fastener imports and 2.7% on the GDP), and Goias (0.85% of all fastener imports and 2.9% on the GDP).

In terms of export, the 10 Brazilian states with more share were São Paulo (42.5%), Rio de Janeiro (21%), Santa Catarina (19.3%), Rio Grande do Sul (7.28%), Minas Gerais (4.34%), Paraná (2.2%), Bahia (0.3%), Ceará (0.29%), Amazonas (0.046%), and Pará (0.0064%).

Brazilian Automotive Production Grows 6.7% in 2018 and Achieves an Increase of 10.2% in Jan. 2019

After a period of bitter and hard time, the production results of autos and motorcycles in Brazil were significantly improved in 2018 and are very likely to show continuous growth in 2019. In 2017 Brazil produced 2.699 million units of vehicles (incl. passenger cars, commercial vehicles, trucks and buses), and the figure in 2018, despite the lost part of May and June caused by a truck driver strike and elections, jumped to 2.880 million units in 2018 (a rise of 6.7%).

The production of motorcycles in 2017 reached 882,876 units, but jumped to 1.036 million units in 2018 (a rise of almost 17.5%), which is also expected to grow 6.2% by the end of 2019, good news to the fastener sector and relevant others.

| Automotive production in Brazil per year | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
| Volumes | 3,146,194 | 2,419,021 | 2,176,784 | 2,699,167 | 2,880,724 |

| Motorcycle production in Brazil per year 2014 - 2018 | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
| Volumes | 1,517,662 | 1,262,708 | 887,658 | 882,876 | 1,036,846 |

Brazilian News

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Metalac SPS is Accredited to AS9100

Metalac SPS is one of the most important Brazilian fastener companies, specialized in products for critical and high strength applications in the automotive industry. This unit is a subsidiary of Precision Castparts Corp. a worldwide manufacturer of a wide variety of complex metal products for aerospace and industrial applications.

With 65 years of activity in the industry, Metalac is celebrating the acquisition of AS9100, which is an important step forward for the company. The acquisition of AS9100 also makes the company become one of the most important suppliers in the aeronautical sector (the most rigorous sector in quality and technology). To acquire the certification requires significant investment in creation of a new operational division inside its headquarters located in Sorocaba City of São Paulo, which is a modern and integrated plant for global manufacture.

"This new area of expertise will certainly bring benefits to segments of automotive and industrial to the required new technical level, by adding new and differentiated equipment and improvements in the management", Metalac concluded in a press release.



Brazilian Walsywa Launches a Special Steel Anchor Bolt

The new product developed by Walsywa - Fastening Systems for Civil Construction is a special metallic anchor, developed for application in structural sections (Structural Hollow Section - SHS), which is usable in structures where the access is restricted to only one side. Its use extends to reinforcements in towers and metal poles, application on fastening systems on oil and gas platforms, peripherals in telecommunication towers, grids and guard bodies in structural hollow sections, fixation of facades in the steel structure (such as parts on glass). The steel bolt by Walsywa (which consists of a 8.8 grade hexagonal bolt and a jacket with hexagonal and cone collars) is galvanized, easy to apply, able to withstand high loads and can be applied with load shortly after installation. ■

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