



In the context of steadily growing global industrial demand, Latin America is increasingly asserting its importance as an emerging market. With ongoing development in infrastructure, automotive, and manufacturing sectors in this region, the Latin American market for fasteners is expanding steadily and showing a clear reliance on imports. Fierce competition among the United States, China, and Europe contributes to a complex and dynamic international trade environment within Latin America. Taiwan has also gradually penetrated this market, demonstrating its influence within the global industrial supply chain. This report offers an in-depth analysis of the Latin American fastener market in 2024. It examines the trade structure, key country roles, international competitive landscape, and policy risks. The aim is to provide the industry with comprehensive and forward-looking market insights to help enterprises grasp opportunities, meet challenges, and continuously optimize their deployment and strategic adjustments.

“ The report offers Fastener Products Analysis illustrated with charts presenting trade statistics for Latin America covering the full year of 2024 and partial months of 2025. It highlights the top 15 importing and exporting countries in the region and delves into the primary trade partners of the top 5 countries. It also features Taiwan's top ten export destinations in the region during the same period to illustrate trade flows between Taiwan and Latin American countries. ”

The Latin American trade data are sourced from Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which provides data based on trade values. Taiwan's trade data come from the International Trade Administration of Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs, which include both trade values and weights. Given the fact that not all Latin American countries' data for 2025 are updated to the same month, the timeframes of the 2025 data for respective countries have been clearly marked in a separate table column. As for Taiwan's trade statistics, the 2025 data are currently updated through June. Since not all Latin American countries publicly disclose data, this report focuses the analysis on countries listed by the Inter-American Development Bank.

// Part One: Fastener Products //

Latin American Countries

• Ranking of Fastener Trading Countries in Latin America •

Table 1 ranks the top 15 Latin American countries by their fastener import values for 2024 from the highest to the lowest. The top five were: Mexico (imports of USD 2.8 billion, exports of USD 270.6 million), Brazil (imports of USD 1.0 billion, exports of USD 152.5 million), Argentina (imports of USD 219.9 million, exports of USD 9.7 million), Chile (imports of USD 198.2 million, exports of USD 13.0 million), Peru (imports of USD 176.5 million, exports of USD 6.7 million). Mexico's import value accounted for about 58.5% of the combined total of these 15 countries—roughly 2.6 times (refer to **Figure 1**) that of Brazil (21.7%) and 12.9 times that of Argentina (4.5%).



This large gap illustrates Mexico's clear dominance over other countries in the Latin American fastener import market. In terms of exports, Mexico held about 56.6% of the total among the 15 countries, which was 1.7 times (refer to **Figure 2**) that of Brazil (31.9%) and 27.8 times that of Argentina (2.0%). In other words, **Mexico controlled over half of both the fastener import and export markets in Latin America, while Brazil commanded around 20-30%.**

The combined total of these 15 countries indicates that **the fastener import market size in Latin America reached at least USD 4.8 billion in 2024, while exports totalled at least USD 477.5 million.** The region's overall fastener imports were more than 10 times its exports, revealing that **Latin America had a strong dependence on imports for fastener products.** For the first three to four months of 2025, import rankings largely mirrored the 2024 pattern. However, there are some changes in export rankings for this period. The combined import value of this period for these 15 countries was USD 1.3 billion, with exports totaling USD 133.2 million.

Table 1. Fastener Trade Values of Top 15 Latin American Countries
(HS Code 7318;Unit: USD;Source: IDB)

Ranking	Country	Trade Type	Year	
			Full Year 2024 (In descending order of import value)	Partial Months of 2025
1	Mexico	Import	2,847,213,725	687,478,794
		Export	270,623,040	72,879,169
2	Brazil	Import	1,058,102,580	379,265,694
		Export	152,500,438	45,819,630
3	Argentina	Import	219,986,019	79,019,358
		Export	9,727,606	2,560,133
4	Chile	Import	198,283,136	68,828,782
		Export	13,014,760	5,112,665
5	Peru	Import	176,537,608	42,145,391
		Export	6,745,170	1,290,833
6	Colombia	Import	134,204,501	34,052,838
		Export	7,980,283	2,325,700
7	Costa Rica	Import	54,611,906	10,191,093
		Export	11,611,369	2,310,822
8	Ecuador	Import	37,895,009	9,470,110
		Export	776,537	118,940
9	Guatemala	Import	35,346,912	3,263,646
		Export	1,328,217	96,142
10	Paraguay	Import	23,676,652	7,735,975
		Export	81,065	3,417
11	Honduras	Import	21,724,082	5,079,095
		Export	289,127	74,882
12	El Salvador	Import	17,170,363	4,925,289
		Export	2,222,398	570,954
13	Panama	Import	16,426,201	3,357,727
		Export	6,875	467
14	Bolivia	Import	15,596,315	4,191,412
		Export	616,750	115,360
15	Belize	Import	6,429,940	1,501,070
		Export	4,620	1,627
0	Sum of 15 countries	Import	4,863,204,949	1,340,506,274
		Export	477,528,255	133,280,741

HS 7318: Screws, bolts, nuts, threaded hooks, rivets, washers
(including spring washers), cotter pins and similar products of iron or steel

Fig. 1. Fastener Import Values of Top 5 Latin American Countries

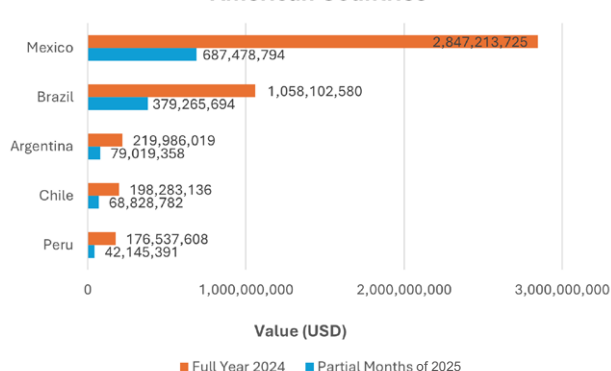
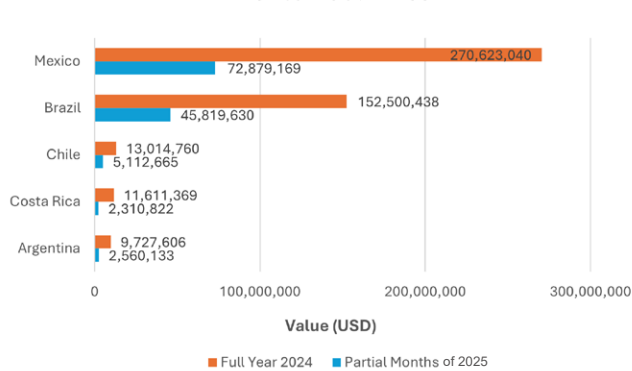


Fig. 2. Fastener Export Values of Top 5 Latin American Countries

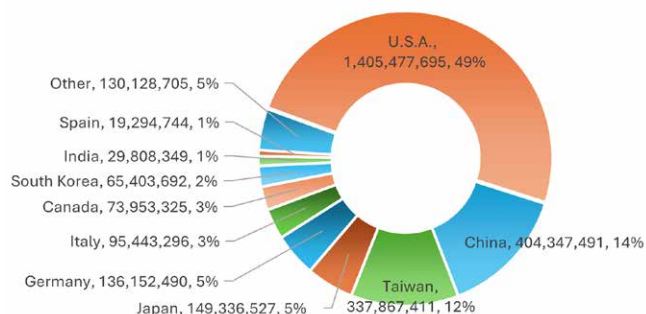


· Fastener Trade Partners of Primary Latin American Countries ·

This article extracts and analyzes the top five Latin American countries from **Table 1**, analyzing their top ten import and export trading partners. The data are visually presented side-by-side as pie charts in **Table 2**.

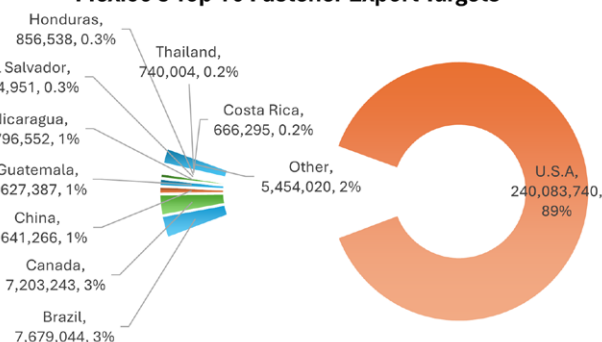
Table 2. Trade Partners of Top 5 Fastener Trading Countries in Latin America in 2024 (Source: IDB:Unit: USD)

Mexico's Top 10 Fastener Import Sources



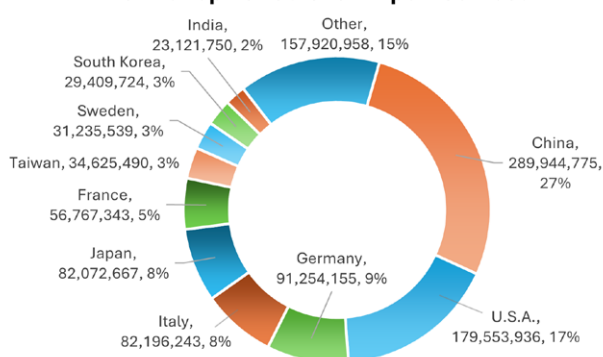
1. The largest import sources for Mexico: The United States, China, Taiwan.
2. The United States held nearly a 50% market share in Mexico.
3. The import proportions from Taiwan and China both exceeded 10%. Taiwan and China were mutual competitors in Mexico.

Mexico's Top 10 Fastener Export Targets



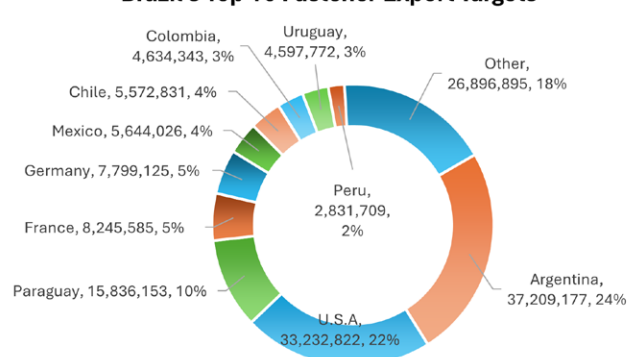
1. The United States dominated Mexico's fastener export market, accounting for as much as 89%.
2. The proportion of Mexico's exports to Latin American countries was at least 5.8%, with Brazil (3%) being the largest recipient.
3. Mexico's main export destinations were the United States and Latin American countries.

Brazil's Top 10 Fastener Import Sources



1. Brazil's largest import sources: China, The United States, Germany.
2. China and the United States were mutual major competitors in Brazil.
3. Brazil imported at least 79% from mid-to-high-end fastener manufacturing countries (The U.S., Germany, Italy, Japan, France, Taiwan, Switzerland, S. Korea), at least 25% from Europe, and at least 43% from Asia.

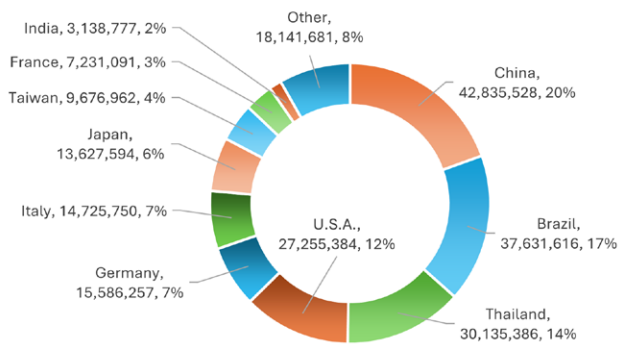
Brazil's Top 10 Fastener Export Targets



1. Argentina and the United States jointly dominated Brazil's fastener export market, each accounting for about 20%.
2. The proportion of Brazil's exports to Latin American countries was at least 50%, exports to Europe at least 10%, and exports to mid-to-high-end fastener manufacturing countries (the U.S., France, Germany) at least 35%.
3. Brazil's main export destinations were the United States and Latin American countries.

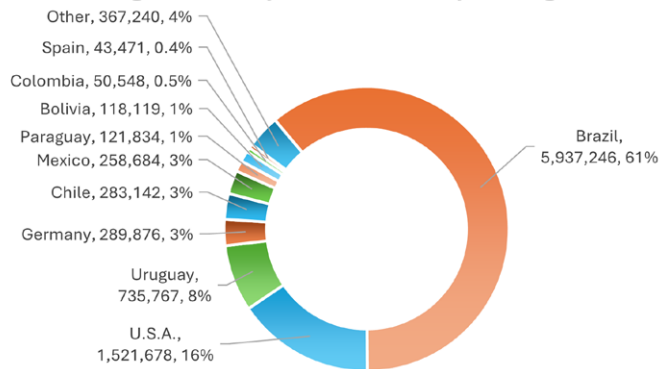


Argentina's Top 10 Fastener Import Sources



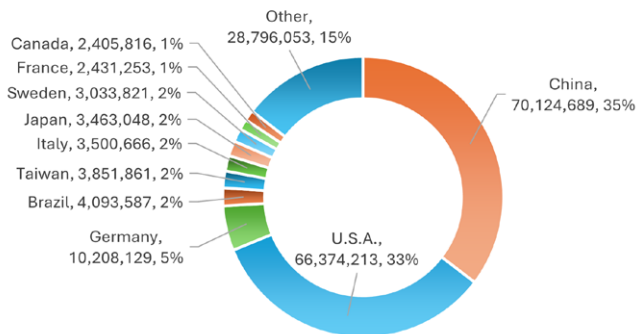
1. Argentina's largest import sources were China, Brazil, Thailand, and the United States. These four countries directly competed with each other.
2. Argentina imported at least 39% from mid-to-high-end fastener manufacturing countries, at least 46% from Asia, and at least 17% from Europe.

Argentina's Top 10 Fastener Export Targets



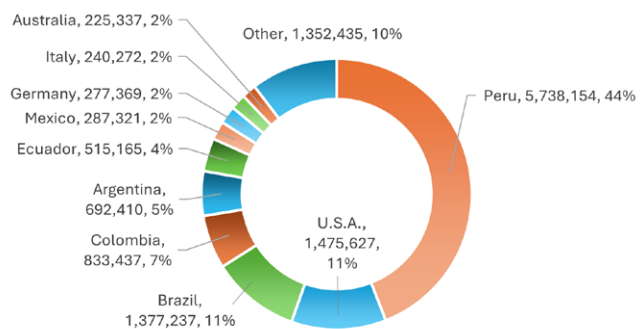
1. Brazil dominated Argentina's fastener export market, accounting for as much as 61%.
2. At least 77.5% of Argentina's exports went to Latin American countries, 16% to the United States, and at least 3.4% to Europe.
3. Argentina's main export destinations were Latin American countries.

Chile's Top 10 Fastener Import Sources



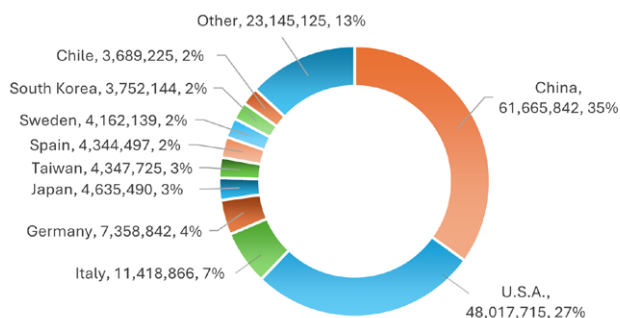
1. Chile's largest import sources were China and the United States. These two countries directly competed with each other, each accounting for about 30%.
2. Chile imported at least 48% from mid-to-high-end fastener manufacturing countries, at least 39% from Asia, and at least 10% from Europe.

Chile's Top 10 Fastener Export Targets



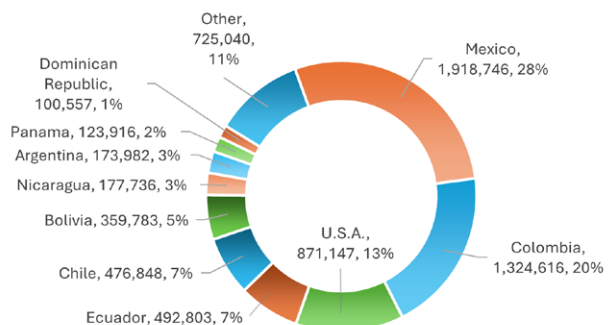
1. Peru dominated Chile's fastener export market, accounting for as much as 44%.
2. At least 73% of Peru's exports went to Latin American countries, 11% to the United States, and at least 4% to Europe.
3. Chile's main export destinations were Latin American countries.

Peru's Top 10 Fastener Import Sources



1. Peru's largest import sources were China and the United States. These two countries directly competed with each other.
2. Peru imported at least 50% from mid-to-high-end fastener manufacturing countries, at least 43% from Asia, and at least 15% from Europe.

Peru's Top 10 Fastener Export Targets



1. Peru's largest export destinations were Mexico, Colombia, the United States.
2. At least 76% of Peru's exports went to Latin American countries, 13% to the United States, and there were no European countries among its top ten export destinations.
3. Peru's main export destinations were Latin American countries.



Sub-results

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Taiwan's fastener products were included in the top ten rankings of all the above five importing countries. 2. In Latin America, only in the Mexican market could the United States and Taiwan compete with China in terms of market share. In Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Peru, China's market share surpassed that of the U.S. and far exceeded Taiwan's. 3. China occupied a large market share in Latin America. Against the backdrop of tense U.S.-China relations and the unified 50% tariffs imposed by the Trump administration on global steel and aluminum products, China is expected to accelerate expanding its market share and intensify competition in the Latin American market to diversify its market risks. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The top five fastener exporting countries in Latin America primarily exported to other Latin American countries. Among them, Mexico and Brazil also counted on the United States as a main export destination. Mexico's exports to the U.S. were even 15 times higher than its exports to other Latin American countries, showing Mexico's heavy reliance on U.S. demand for fasteners. 2. Argentina, Chile, and Peru's fastener exports were highly dependent on Latin American countries. |
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Taiwan

· Export Destinations of Taiwanese Fasteners in Latin America ·

Taiwan's fastener exports to Latin America are primarily export-driven and Taiwan imports only a small volume from the region, so this section analyzes the export aspect only. According to **Table 3**, Taiwan's top 10 export destinations in Latin America in 2024, ranked by weight from the highest to the lowest, were: Mexico (USD 140.3 million in export value, 33,264.8 tons), Brazil (USD 16.6 million, 4,866.1 tons), Argentina (USD 5.9 million, 1,437.6 tons), Peru (USD 2.0 million, 681.8 tons), El Salvador (USD 2.1 million, 677.5 tons).

In 2024, Taiwan's total fastener exports to Latin America amounted to USD 181.6 million by value and 45,533.4 tons by weight. In the first half of 2025, exports totaled USD 88.0 million and 21,972.7 tons. Based on this, the export weight and value in 2025 might decline by about 3% compared to 2024. **Figure 3** highlights that Taiwan's fastener exports to Mexico alone accounted for 38% of its total export weight to Latin America—6.8 times the weight exported to Brazil (5%). This substantial gap emphasizes **Mexico's critical role as Taiwan's most important export market in the region.**

Table 3. Top 10 Export Destinations of Taiwanese Fasteners in Latin America
(Source: International Trade Administration, MOEA)

Ranking	Region/Country	Export Value (USD)		Export Weight (KG)	
		2024	H1 2025	2024(In descending order of this column)	H1 2025
0	Latin America	181,694,409	88,061,489	45,533,413	21,972,761
1	Mexico	140,390,624	66,807,284	33,264,881	15,522,263
2	Brazil	16,681,897	8,279,209	4,866,164	2,575,960
3	Argentina	5,987,169	3,124,155	1,437,698	723,967
4	Peru	2,062,957	1,042,480	681,823	295,088
5	El Salvador	2,100,997	2,063,206	677,539	667,909
6	Puerto Rico	2,448,868	748,075	675,616	190,503
7	Colombia	2,168,969	1,307,531	672,368	490,312
8	Chile	1,969,521	865,300	630,968	265,524
9	Guatemala	1,237,952	451,078	615,224	216,283
10	Dominican Republic	996,542	689,390	348,754	238,144



Fig. 3. Export Weights of Taiwanese Fasteners to Latin American Countries in 2024 (KG)

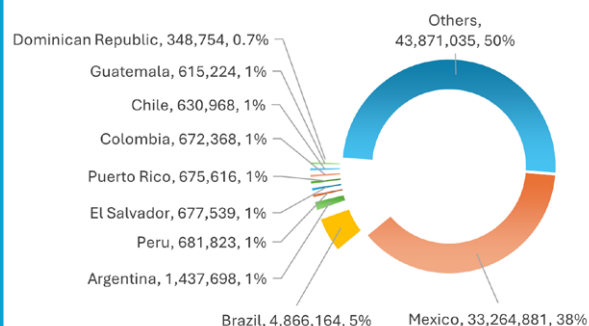
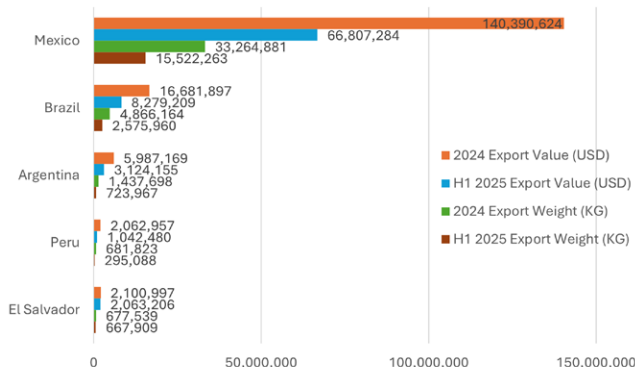


Fig. 4. Top 5 Export Destinations of Taiwanese Fasteners in Latin America



// Summary //

The following key points based on the above analysis are summarized below

1. Exports of fasteners in Latin America mainly rely on Latin American countries as well as the United States.
2. The import volumes of fasteners in Latin America are both greater than their export volumes.
3. Mexico and Brazil are the top two countries in the fastener market in Latin America.
4. Mexico's exports of fasteners are highly dependent on the United States.
5. Although Taiwan's exports of fasteners to Latin America are not large, they have made the rankings, indicating that Taiwan is also an important participant in the Latin American market.
6. The market shares of the United States, Europe, Taiwan, and others in the Latin American market are being greatly squeezed by China.
7. China is gradually dominating the import market for fasteners in Latin America. Against the backdrop of tense US-China relations, China's aggressive expansion in Latin America (and even globally) during Trump's administration has reached a peak.

Uncertainty of Trump's Tariff Policies: Risks and Opportunities in Latin America

The frequent reversals and high unpredictability of tariff policies initiated during the Trump administration remain one of the most significant unresolved risks shaping the international trade landscape. Although some countries have reached agreements with the U.S. by the end of July this year, which alleviated some trade tensions in the short term, overseas media analyses warn that the U.S. government could still initiate a new form of trade war based on changing domestic political or economic conditions or outcomes of trade investigations, using tariffs as leverage in negotiations. This persistent external risk means companies may face the dual burden of high tariffs and trade friction in the near term.

The instability and potential changes in Trump's tariff policies remain crucial risk factors restricting Latin America's economic development. The region is directly impacted by U.S. tariff hikes coupled with immigration enforcement pressures, creating significant short-term economic strain. However, this adversity is also accelerating regional integration and cooperation with other countries, highlighting Latin America's potential value as a risk mitigation option.

Businesses are advised to carefully assess the market environment and consider Latin America as a key region for risk diversification and hedging. Proactively developing regional supply chains and sales networks can reduce overreliance on the U.S. market and strengthen resilience to trade shocks. Preparing strategically for possible renewed trade conflicts will allow companies to maximize both risk avoidance and growth opportunities. ■

