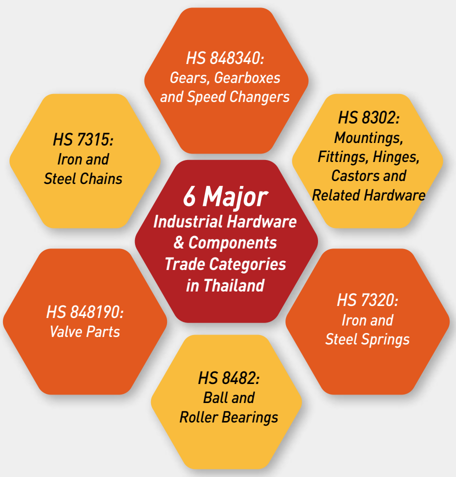
Thailand's 2025
Trade in Industrial Hardware and Components
2025泰國工業五金及零組件貿易分析

Thailand recorded substantial two-way trade in industrial hardware and mechanical components during 2025. Across the six product groups examined—HS 7315, 7320, 8302, 848190, 8482 and 848340—the country **imported approximately US$1.752 billion and exported approximately US$1.544 billion.** This produced a combined **trade deficit of approximately US$208.7 million.** Exports covered approximately 88.1% of imports, showing that Thailand is simultaneously a major buyer, producer and exporter of these products.

2025 Trade Summary:



Unit: US$

HS Code	Imports	Exports	Trade Balance	Export/ Import Coverage	Import Growth, 2024–2025	Export Growth, 2024–2025
7315	126.43m	78.33m	-48.10m	62.0%	+19%	+5%
7320	157.08m	125.98m	-31.09m	80.2%	+14%	+16%
8302	450.84m	341.56m	-109.28m	75.8%	+31%	-2%
848190	253.02m	146.72m	-106.30m	58.0%	+21%	+39%
8482	593.58m	692.83m	+99.25m	116.7%	+4%	+7%
848340	171.34m	158.13m	-13.21m	92.3%	+5%	+7%
Selected-product total	1,752.28m	1,543.55m	-208.73m	88.1%	—	—

The combined figures indicate that **import demand expanded faster than export performance in 2025.** Based on the product-level growth rates reported in the Trade Map files, the selected import basket increased by approximately 14%, while exports grew by roughly 8%.

Import Supply Is Highly Concentrated

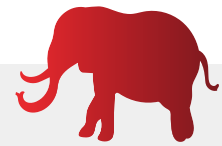
Across the six selected product groups, China supplied approximately US$796.6 million, representing 45.5% of Thailand's combined imports. Japan supplied another US$427.4 million, or 24.4%. Together, **China and Japan accounted for approximately 69.8% of the selected import value.**

Main Supplier	Combined Value Across Selected Products	Share of Selected Imports
China	US$796.56m	45.5%
Japan	US$427.37m	24.4%
USA	US$86.75m	5.0%
Germany	US$86.63m	4.9%
India	US$38.95m	2.2%

The five largest supplying countries represented approximately 82% of total imports across these product categories.

This concentration is commercially significant. New international suppliers are not entering an open market. They are competing against:

- China's price, scale and product breadth;
- Japan's long-standing automotive and industrial relationships;
- German and American technical brands;
- Domestic and foreign-owned manufacturers operating inside Thailand.



Thailand's Exports Are More Geographically Diversified

Thailand's exports were distributed more widely than its imports. **The five largest destinations accounted for approximately 48.6% of the selected export value,** compared with 82% concentration among the five largest import sources.

This distribution demonstrates that Thailand functions as a regional and international production platform. Its component exports serve North America, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Main Export Destination	Combined Value Across Selected Products	Share of Selected Exports
USA	US$256.70m	16.6%
China	US$168.32m	10.9%
Japan	US$121.12m	7.8%
Indonesia	US$117.09m	7.6%
South Africa	US$87.55m	5.7%

HS 8302: Mountings, Fittings, Hinges, Castors and Related Hardware

HS 8302 was Thailand's second-largest import category among the six product groups examined. Thailand imported approximately US$450.84 million and exported approximately US$341.56 million of HS 8302 products in 2025, creating a trade deficit of US$109.28 million. Imports increased by 31%, while exports declined by 2%. This was the widest divergence between import and export performance among the selected categories.

China supplied approximately US$303.55 million, equivalent to 67.3% of Thailand's HS 8302 imports. The next largest suppliers were:

- **USA:** US$29.99 million;
- **Japan:** US$24.96 million;
- **Germany:** US$14.11 million;
- **Philippines:** US$12.66 million.

The United States was the largest destination for Thai HS 8302 exports, purchasing approximately US$96.99 million, or 28.4% of the total. Other important destinations included South Africa, Malaysia, Japan and Argentina. The strong import growth indicates substantial demand across vehicle hardware, architectural fittings, furniture hardware, material handling and industrial mounting applications.

HS 8482: Ball and Roller Bearings

Bearings were the largest product category in both imports and exports. Thailand imported approximately US$593.58 million and exported US$692.83 million of ball and roller bearings and parts in 2025. The category generated a trade surplus of US$99.25 million, making **HS 8482 the only net-exporting product group among the six categories examined.**

Imports increased by 4%, while exports grew by 7%. Japan supplied approximately US$233.06 million, representing 39.3% of imports. China supplied another US$170.57 million, or 28.7%. Together, the two countries controlled approximately 68% of Thailand's bearing imports.

The principal export destinations were:

- **China:** US$122.66 million;
- **Indonesia:** US$66.26 million;
- **Singapore:** US$56.72 million;
- **Japan:** US$53.97 million;
- **Hong Kong:** US$52.72 million.

The results show that Thailand is not simply an end market for bearings. It is an important manufacturing and export base. Foreign bearing suppliers must therefore compete not only with imports but also with major production operations located within Thailand.

HS 848190: Valve Parts

Thailand imported approximately US$253.02 million and exported US$146.72 million of valve parts in 2025. The resulting trade deficit was US$106.30 million, the second-largest deficit among the selected product groups. Imports grew by 21%, while exports increased by a much stronger 39%. The rapid export expansion indicates that Thailand's valve-component manufacturing base was developing, but domestic and industrial demand still required significantly more imported products than the country exported. China supplied approximately US$129.96 million, accounting for 51.4% of imports. Japan supplied another US$53.16 million, or 21.0%. Together, China and Japan supplied approximately 72.4% of Thailand's imported valve parts.

The main export destinations were:

- **USA:** US$34.20 million;
- **Japan:** US$30.94 million;
- **China:** US$16.83 million;
- **Vietnam:** US$10.24 million;
- **Germany:** US$9.59 million.

Exports to the United States increased by 100% between 2024 and 2025. Exports to Germany grew by 44%, while exports to China increased by 43%. The category offers an opportunity, but it is already highly competitive. **A new supplier will require a clear specialization in areas such as corrosion resistance, hygienic processing, high-pressure applications, leakage reduction or rapid spare-parts availability.**

HS 848340: Gears, Gearboxes and Speed Changers

Thailand imported approximately US$171.34 million and exported US$158.13 million of gears, gearing, ball or roller screws, gearboxes and other speed changers in 2025. The trade deficit was relatively limited at US$13.21 million, and exports covered approximately 92.3% of imports. Imports increased by 5%, while exports grew by 7%. China supplied approximately US$90.70 million, representing 52.9% of imports. Japan supplied a further US$34.01 million, or 19.9%.

Thailand's export side was highly concentrated:

- **USA:** US$70.67 million, or 44.7%;
- **South Africa:** US$41.74 million, or 26.4%;
- **Argentina:** US$22.05 million, or 13.9%.

These three countries accounted for approximately 85% of Thailand's HS 848340 exports.

This concentration is a risk. A decline in demand, a customer relocation or a change in purchasing policy in any of these markets could materially affect Thai exports in the category. At the same time, the near-balanced trade position confirms that **Thailand possesses meaningful local manufacturing and assembly capability in power-transmission components.**

HS 7320: Iron and Steel Springs

Thailand imported approximately US$157.08 million and exported approximately US$125.98 million of iron and steel springs in 2025.

The trade deficit was US$31.09 million, while exports covered 80.2% of imports.

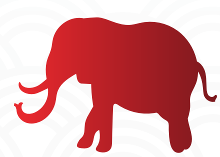
Both trade flows expanded:

- Imports increased by 14%;
- Exports increased by 16%.

China was Thailand's largest supplier, providing approximately US$51.15 million, or 32.6% of imports. Japan supplied US$36.16 million, or 23.0%. The United States, Indonesia and Malaysia were also significant suppliers.

The main export destinations were:

- **Indonesia:** US$19.57 million;
- **China:** US$14.10 million;
- **Vietnam:** US$11.56 million;
- **Philippines:** US$10.37 million;
- **South Africa:** US$9.55 million.



Exports to the Philippines increased by 62%, while exports to South Africa grew by 64% between 2024 and 2025. The export pattern is more geographically diversified than the import structure and shows that **Thailand serves both Asian manufacturing markets and more distant industrial destinations.**

HS 7315: Iron and Steel Chains

Thailand imported approximately US$126.43 million and exported US$78.33 million of iron and steel chains and parts in 2025. The trade deficit was US$48.10 million, and exports covered only 62.0% of imports. Imports increased by 19%, compared with export growth of only 5%. This widening difference indicates that **domestic and industrial demand expanded faster than Thailand's export performance.** China supplied approximately US$50.63 million, or 40.0% of imports. Japan supplied US$46.02 million, or 36.4%. Together, these two countries accounted for 76.4% of Thailand's chain imports.

Thailand's principal export destinations were:

- **Indonesia:** US$15.48 million;
- **Vietnam:** US$10.51 million;
- **China:** US$8.16 million;
- **Brazil:** US$7.04 million;
- **India:** US$5.95 million.

Exports to Brazil increased by 28%, while exports to the three largest markets—Indonesia, Vietnam and China—declined by 3%, 5% and 10%, respectively. This suggests that **export growth was being supported by secondary and emerging markets rather than Thailand's largest established destinations.**

Main Conclusions from the 2025 Data

1. Thailand is both an import market and a production platform

Exports of US$1.54 billion across the selected categories are too large to describe Thailand merely as a buyer of foreign industrial components. The country has significant manufacturing capability, particularly in bearings, gears, springs, mountings and valve components.

2. Bearings are Thailand's strongest export-oriented category

HS 8482 generated a US$99.25 million surplus and represented approximately 45% of combined exports across the selected product groups. This is a manufacturing-strength category, not an obvious import-substitution gap.

3. HS 8302 and valve parts produced the largest deficits

HS 8302 generated a deficit of US$109.28 million, while valve parts produced a deficit of US$106.30 million. Together, they accounted for more than the entire combined deficit because Thailand's bearing surplus offsets part of their shortfalls.

4. China dominates Thailand's imported hardware supply

China supplied almost half of all imports across the six selected categories. Its dominance was especially strong in:

- HS 8302: 67.3%;
- HS 848340: 52.9%;
- HS 848190: 51.4%;
- HS 7315: 40.0%.

Any supplier entering standard or price-sensitive products will face severe Chinese competition.

5. Japan remains strategically important

Japan represented approximately 24.4% of combined imports. Its strongest positions were in bearings, chains, springs and machinery-related components. This reflects Thailand's long-standing Japanese automotive, electronics and machinery ecosystem.

6. Thailand's export markets are more diversified than its supply base

China and Japan supplied nearly 70% of imports, while the five largest export destinations accounted for less than half of exports. This gives Thailand broader demand exposure internationally, although individual categories—particularly HS 848340—remain highly concentrated.

7. The opportunity is in specialization, not general hardware

The data do not support entering Thailand as another general hardware supplier. A more defensible opportunity exists in products that deliver longer service life, lower maintenance requirements, reduced downtime, improved corrosion resistance, stronger performance under high-load or high-temperature conditions, full traceability, compatibility with automated systems, faster local replacement, or application-specific engineering. These benefits give suppliers a clearer and more commercially relevant reason to compete beyond price alone. A catalogue is not a market position. To succeed in Thailand, a supplier must identify a specific operational problem within a clearly defined industry and demonstrate how its product solves that problem more effectively than the alternatives already available. ◻