



— EU Anti-Dumping — Tariffs Imposed on Steel Fasteners from **China**

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Data note: The data for this article is derived from Descartes™ Datamyne's EU Census trade statistics. EU (Eurostat) Import and Export data is based on all modes of transportation. That value is calculated in USD by CIF (imports). In this article fasteners are defined as any product under HS Code 7318 (screws, bolts, nuts, coach screws, rivets, cotters, cotter pins, washers and similar articles or iron or steel), as well as the subcategories of 7318.

The European Union has imposed anti-dumping tariffs on steel fastener imports that originated in China. According to the EU official journal and Reuters, the tariffs on steel fastener importers are due to Chinese fasteners being sold at extremely low prices. According to Reuters, the tariffs are between 22.1% and 86.5% and applied to fastener imports of steel products ranging from standard screws to high end fasteners used within the automotive, electrical and aviation industries. Several years ago, the U.S. also experienced a period when steel imports from China were being dumped into the country at lower-than-average market prices.

The reality remains very clear: China is the world's largest producer of steel and steel related commodities such as fasteners. Many of the largest Chinese steel manufacturers have faced challenges when it comes to overcapacity which leads them to resort to unfair trade such as dumping. Fortunately for countries like the U.S. and formed unions like the EU, anti-dumping duties were created to prevent damages caused by low priced commodities in the market. According to the World Trade Organization, dumping is defined by any commodity or product being exported into a foreign country at less than its normal value.



EU's Fastener Trade with China

EU's Major Imported Fastener Categories from China in 2021

Product HS (6)	2021			
	CIF Value (USD)	%	Net Weight (Kg)	%
731815 - Threaded Screws And Bolts Others, With or Without Their Nuts	751,292,591.47	37.84	344,058,133	43.74
731816 - Nuts, Threaded, of Iron or Steel	398,551,883.42	20.07	156,855,996	19.94
731819 - Threaded Articles of Iron or Steel Others	225,033,991.51	11.34	71,033,319	9.03
731812 - Wood Screws Other Than Coach Screws, Threaded, of Iron or Steel	130,718,040.93	6.59	56,472,688	7.18
731822 - Washers, Other Than Lock Washers, of Iron or Steel	123,440,766.59	6.22	50,229,190	6.39
731814 - Self-Tapping Screws, Threaded, of Iron or Steel	111,795,844.41	5.63	43,708,078	5.56
731829 - Nonthreaded Articles (Fasteners) Others, of Iron or Steel	100,803,371.75	5.08	18,296,103	2.33
731813 - Screw Hooks And Screw Rings, Threaded, of Iron or Steel	41,790,412.92	2.11	13,555,184	1.73
731811 - Coach Screws, Threaded, of Iron or Steel	33,008,035.12	1.67	18,257,774	2.33
731824 - Cotters And Cotter Pins, of Iron or Steel	29,665,416.98	1.50	4,886,059	0.63
Total	1,985,912,291.29	100	786,692,974	100

EU's Major Imported Fastener Categories from China in Q1 2022

Product HS (6)	2021 - Q1				2022 - Q1				Volume Change			
	CIF Value (USD)	%	Net Weight (Kg)	%	CIF Value (USD)	%	Net Weight (Kg)	%	CIF Value (USD)	%	Net Weight (Kg)	%
731815 - Threaded Screws and Bolts Others, With or Without Their Nuts	155,175,255.33	36.83	83,542,408	44.81	263,638,746.67	38.50	102,567,894	43.70	108,463,491.34	69.90	19,025,486	22.78
731816 - Nuts, Threaded, of Iron or Steel	75,537,381.26	17.93	32,177,048	17.26	131,701,265.60	19.23	46,366,029	19.76	56,163,884.35	74.36	14,188,981	44.10
731819 - Threaded Articles of Iron or Steel Others	52,526,134.23	12.47	16,239,955	8.72	69,258,201.50	10.12	19,959,849	8.51	16,732,067.27	31.86	3,719,894	22.91
731822 - Washers, Other Than Lock Washers, of Iron or Steel	28,647,825.68	6.80	12,577,630	6.75	44,697,094.08	6.53	15,655,488	6.67	16,049,268.40	56.03	3,077,858	24.48
731812 - Wood Screws Other Than Coach Screws, Threaded, of Iron or Steel	28,013,582.05	6.65	13,941,831	7.48	46,874,071.56	6.85	15,501,139	6.61	18,860,489.52	67.33	1,559,308	11.19
731814 - Self-Tapping Screws, Threaded, of Iron or Steel	25,939,921.41	6.16	11,945,260	6.41	44,087,032.71	6.44	14,286,689	6.09	18,147,111.31	69.96	2,341,429	19.61
731829 - Nonthreaded Articles (Fasteners) Others, of Iron or Steel	23,110,698.33	5.49	4,446,747	2.39	34,460,723.20	5.04	5,861,934	2.50	11,350,024.87	49.12	1,415,187	31.83
731813 - Screw Hooks And Screw Rings, Threaded, of Iron or Steel	9,506,447.09	2.26	3,395,748	1.83	14,875,807.39	2.18	4,297,680	1.84	5,369,360.30	56.49	901,932	26.57
731811 - Coach Screws, Threaded, of Iron or Steel	6,898,658.48	1.64	4,425,661	2.38	11,476,307.69	1.68	5,490,145	2.34	4,577,649.21	66.36	1,064,484	24.06
731824 - Cotters And Cotter Pins, of Iron or Steel	6,247,681.02	1.49	996,545	0.54	10,174,793.02	1.49	1,748,487	0.75	3,927,112	62.86	751,942	75.46
Total	421,436,581.03	100	186,439,605	100	684,886,295.07	100	234,760,348	100	263,449,714.05	62.52	48,320,743	25.92



EU fastener imports from China made up nearly 17% of the total market during the first quarter of 2022 compared to nearly 10% of the total market during the same period in 2021, resulting in a 62.5% increase. The volume of fastener imports from China increased by 26% during the first quarter of 2022 compared to the first quarter of 2021. China exported a total of 234,760,348 kilograms during the first quarter of 2022, compared to 186,439,605 kilograms during the first quarter of 2021. EU's top supplying partner of fasteners during the first quarter of 2022 was Germany with a total of 19% of the entire market; however, China remains the top supplier based on total volume.

Amongst the fastener subsets that were imported from China in the largest volumes during the first quarter of 2022 were 73181588 (11%), 73181900 (8.5%), and 73181692 (7.7%). In terms of value, subsets 73182200, 73181595 and 73181699 were a few of the highest, but resulted in a smaller total volume. 73181290, 73181548 and 73181499 had the smallest total volume and value during this specific quarter of 2022. Subsets such as 731815 and 731816 increased by 70 – 75% during the first quarter of 2022 when compared to the first quarter of 2021. For the most part, these were the same subsets of fasteners that dominated in terms of volume throughout 2021 as well.

Amongst the countries within the EU that imported the highest volume of fasteners during the first quarter of 2022 from China were Germany, Italy, and Poland. Germany imported a total of 25.7% and Italy imported a total of 15.7% likely due to their auto manufacturing industry and the overwhelming demand for fasteners within that industry. On the other hand, Poland's demand for fasteners is likely due to their manufacturing and energy industries. Of these 3 countries, Italy experienced the most staggering increase in both volume and value. During this first quarter of 2022, Italy imported 36,971,882 kilograms compared to 24,115,077 kilograms during the first quarter of 2021 which represents a 53% increase. The total value of fastener imports in Italy increased by 102% during the first quarter of 2022, and Germany's increased by nearly 83%. Germany also increased the total volumes of fasteners imported from China by 40% during the first quarter of 2022, and Belgium increased their total volumes by nearly 70%. Much like Poland, Belgium's demand for fasteners can be a result of their engineering and metal producing industries.

EU's Global Suppliers of Fasteners

EU's Fastener Import Origins in 2018-2021

Country of Origin	2018				2019			
	CIF Value (USD)	%	Net Weight (Kg)	%	CIF Value (USD)	%	Net Weight (Kg)	%
GERMANY	4,127,986,275.69	23.38	786,394,669	18.28	3,913,097,857.60	23.43	821,747,238	18.57
TAIWAN	1,675,066,668.84	9.49	546,749,388	12.71	1,504,839,484.54	9.01	488,241,672	11.03
ITALY	1,560,052,163.10	8.84	370,934,212	8.63	1,488,148,886.61	8.91	374,809,354	8.47
CHINA	1,413,436,837.67	8.01	653,850,495	15.20	1,466,093,001.94	8.78	700,000,007	15.82
FRANCE	894,722,838.42	5.07	185,701,953	4.32	812,724,556.10	4.87	419,416,223	9.48
USA	855,302,186.80	4.85	32,668,350	0.76	874,363,589.81	5.24	28,248,442	0.64
NETHERLANDS	667,826,265.63	3.79	203,663,988	4.74	651,724,096.91	3.91	190,490,832	4.31
SWITZERLAND	547,706,022.61	3.11	32,720,506	0.77	471,132,118.28	2.83	31,190,816	0.71
U. K.	506,843,425.35	2.88	55,629,463	1.30	457,356,518.61	2.74	61,124,284	1.39
CZECH REP.	505,872,810.69	2.87	116,992,126	2.72	497,275,548.73	2.98	118,022,361	2.67
Total	17,657,202,376.89	100	4,303,108,068	100	16,705,200,580.35	100	4,427,472,257	100

Country of Origin	2020				2021			
	CIF Value (USD)	%	Net Weight (Kg)	%	CIF Value (USD)	%	Net Weight (Kg)	%
GERMANY	3,492,887,522.44	24.88	691,147,990	17.22	4,267,681,336.22	24.20	783,624,812	18.39
TAIWAN	1,170,828,687.20	8.34	378,320,818	9.43	1,539,807,009.24	8.73	432,541,396	10.15
ITALY	1,223,248,058.74	8.72	305,071,835	7.60	1,577,128,294.26	8.94	373,496,770	8.77
CHINA	1,303,309,330.52	9.29	651,376,519	16.23	1,985,912,291.29	11.26	786,692,974	18.46
FRANCE	651,979,630.24	4.65	694,750,315	17.31	683,118,960.37	3.88	357,960,793	8.40
USA	552,766,404.77	3.94	15,132,114	0.38	572,770,694.10	3.25	17,357,579	0.41
NETHERLANDS	518,910,709.99	3.70	153,517,748	3.83	670,560,224.55	3.81	217,251,496	5.10
SWITZERLAND	415,072,561.41	2.96	25,403,874	0.64	490,883,679.46	2.79	29,822,196	0.70
U. K.	393,352,528.13	2.81	53,809,709	1.35	357,736,128.92	2.03	36,003,672	0.85
CZECH REP.	428,127,061.68	3.05	102,116,622	2.55	521,801,051.11	2.96	109,451,987	2.57
Total	14,042,779,376.63	100	4,014,991,939	100	17,642,137,273.36	100	4,262,321,752	100



EU's Fastener Import Origins in Q1 2021 and Q1 2022

Country of Origin	2021 - Q1				2022 - Q1			
	CIF Value (USD)	%	Net Weight (Kg)	%	CIF Value (USD)	%	Net Weight (Kg)	%
GERMANY	1,122,786,737.36	25.95	208,005,722	20.27	773,672,091.84	18.95	201,390,594	17.86
CHINA	421,436,581.03	9.74	186,439,605	18.17	684,886,295.07	16.77	234,760,348	20.82
ITALY	407,427,396.19	9.42	104,793,880	10.21	269,055,545.22	6.59	65,205,654	5.79
TAIWAN	332,692,104.81	7.69	99,217,266	9.67	471,127,816.86	11.54	118,218,642	10.49
FRANCE	182,872,615.78	4.23	52,721,873	5.14	134,443,541.51	3.30	121,257,411	10.76
NETHERLANDS	178,306,178.26	4.12	51,780,279	5.05	127,403,337.28	3.12	83,386,277	7.40
USA	136,204,456.36	3.15	4,723,470	0.47	156,893,950.05	3.85	3,780,298	0.34
CZECH REP.	134,665,486.12	3.12	30,278,779	2.95	95,357,946.86	2.34	18,089,001	1.61
SWITZERLAND	127,558,458.43	2.95	7,767,090	0.76	127,168,151.73	3.12	8,257,706	0.74
POLAND	121,599,161.28	2.81	25,866,834	2.52	97,253,379.36	2.39	19,403,750	1.73
Total	4,327,979,275.82	100	1,026,550,366	100	4,084,300,077.37	100	1,127,942,316	100

During the first three months of 2022, EU fastener imports from around the globe were valued over 4 billion USD resulting in a total volume of over 1.1 billion kilograms. In terms of volume during the first quarter of 2022, there was an increase of nearly 10% and a decrease in value of 5.6% when compared to the first quarter of 2021. Throughout the entirety of 2021, the EU import market of fasteners had a total value of 17.6 billion USD, compared to 14 billion USD in 2020. While the total value of fastener imports increased by 25.6% in 2021, the total volume increased by a mere 6%. Overall trends throughout the recent years have shown a steady growth of fastener imports, specifically between 2018 and 2019. In 2020 there was a slight decrease which is likely a result of the global supply chain disruptions due to the pandemic. Historical trends prove Germany has always been the EU's primary fastener supplier with a yearly share between 18 – 19% of the total market. In terms of volume, Taiwan, Italy, and France are also considered a few of the EU's largest trading partners each accounting for upwards of 8-12% of the yearly market of imported fasteners.

Because the EU has such a wide range of global trading partners from which they can source fasteners, companies in the EU can find alternative sourcing partners that are practicing and following ethical trade laws. Countries within the EU such as Germany, France and Italy are all potential sourcing partners and are within the Union, potentially saving extensive freight and shipping costs. Outside the EU and China, major suppliers of fasteners like Taiwan, USA and Switzerland can be seen as other viable partners to fill fastener demands. ■

Country of Origin	Volume Change			
	CIF Value (USD)	%	Net Weight (Kg)	%
GERMANY	-349,114,645.52	-31.10	-6,615,128	-3.19
CHINA	263,449,714.05	62.52	48,320,743	25.92
ITALY	-138,371,850.98	-33.97	-39,588,226	-37.78
TAIWAN	138,435,712.06	41.62	19,001,376	19.16
FRANCE	-48,429,074.28	-26.49	68,535,538	130
NETHERLANDS	-50,902,840.98	-28.55	31,605,998	61.04
USA	20,689,493.69	15.20	-943,172	-19.97
CZECH REP.	-39,307,539.27	-29.19	-12,189,778	-40.26
SWITZERLAND	-390,306.71	-0.31	490,616	6.32
POLAND	-24,345,781.92	-20.03	-6,463,084	-24.99
Total	-243,679,198.46	-5.64	101,391,950	9.88



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