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A Brief History of Fasteners

The earliest known use of screws was during the first century B.C. These early wooden screws were used in wine presses and olive oil presses. Metal screws used to affix two objects together were found by at least the 15th century in Europe.

Since their humble beginnings, fasteners have evolved into precision articles for use in highly critical and specific applications.



What's Happening in the Fastener Industry

-By Ted Skrzat

Key Fastener Import Trends (Late 2025 – Mid-2026)

- 1. Import volumes remain relatively resilient**
 - Despite tariffs and trade-policy uncertainty, U.S. manufacturers continue to rely heavily on imported fasteners because domestic capacity cannot fully meet demand in many categories. (Trading Economics)
- 2. Shift away from China continues**
 - Importers are increasingly sourcing from countries such as India, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Mexico to reduce tariff exposure and diversify supply chains. Industry discussions indicate India has been gaining share in industrial fasteners and related hardware sourcing. (Reddit)
- 3. Steel tariffs are affecting sourcing decisions**
 - U.S. steel imports are down roughly 30% year-over-year in 2026, increasing pressure on domestic steel prices and influencing fastener manufacturers' raw-material costs.
- 4. Cost pressures remain elevated**
 - Fastener pricing is being influenced by:
 - Steel costs
 - Ocean freight fluctuations

About our company

USA Fasteners, LLC is a distributor of fasteners and industrial supplies. Our customers are manufacturers, fabricators, and retail dealers.

USA Fasteners is a one-stop source for all industrial fasteners. Some of the specifications we meet are listed below.

- SAE and Metric fasteners
- Galvanizing, plating or other finishes
- Domestic fasteners
- Domestic raw material fasteners
- Stainless, Carbon, and other materials

We also carry the Proferred brand of industrial supplies including cutting tools, abrasives, hand tools, and safety products.

- Tariffs and customs compliance costs
- Inventory repositioning by distributors (Construction Drive)

5. Inventory behavior has normalized

- The heavy pre-tariff inventory builds seen in 2025 have largely worked through the system. Importers are buying more cautiously and managing inventories more tightly. (Tradelnt)

What This Means for Fastener Buyers

Area	Current Trend
Standard carbon steel fasteners	Stable demand, ongoing import dependence
Stainless fasteners	Strong import reliance, especially from Asia
Specialty/alloy fasteners	Longer lead times and higher price sensitivity
China sourcing	Declining share due to tariffs
India/Mexico sourcing	Growing share
Pricing outlook	Generally firm, with tariff-driven volatility

Outlook for the Rest of 2026

The market is likely to remain characterized by:

- Continued supplier diversification
- Increased sourcing from India, Vietnam, Taiwan, and Mexico
- Higher compliance and tariff-management costs
- Moderate demand from construction and industrial sectors
- Persistent pressure on specialty fastener pricing if steel and alloy costs remain elevated. (Construction Drive)