

The Fastener Market of Uruguay in 2019-2023



2019-2023 乌拉圭扣件市场剖析

An Overview of Uruguay

Uruguay, a small yet dynamic nation in South America, has a population of approximately 3.5 million people. The country's economy has shown resilience in recent years, with a GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) of US\$98.7 billion and a notable 4.9% growth rate in 2022. The five-year average growth rate stands at 1.0%, with a GDP per capita of US\$27,770.

However, the country faces challenges, including an unemployment rate of 10.4% and inflation at 9.1%. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows were US\$3.8 billion, and public debt was 59.3% of GDP, reflecting both opportunities and pressures on the economy. These economic factors influence various sectors, including the fastener industry, which plays a crucial role in supporting Uruguay's construction, automotive, agriculture, and manufacturing industries.

Industry Overview

The fastener industry in Uruguay is relatively small but vital for several key sectors, including construction, automotive, agriculture, and manufacturing. Uruguay relies heavily on imports to meet its fastener needs, particularly from neighbouring countries like Brazil and Argentina, as well as global suppliers from China and the United States. Local production exists but is limited, focusing on specialized or custom-made fasteners.

Import Analysis: 2019-2023

The table below provides an overview of fastener exports to Uruguay from various countries between 2019 and 2023, measured in thousand USD. The share of each country's exports relative to the total Uruguay imports is also presented.

Exporters	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Share of Export to Uruguay
World	10,043	11,285	18,182	21,812	19,310	
China	2,617	2,522	3,926	5,941	6,842	35.4%
Brazil	2,765	2,877	4,106	4,748	4,280	22.2%
USA	1,135	1,003	1,288	1,979	1,841	9.5%
Argentina	678	764	1,135	1,158	971	5.0%
Spain	410	418	658	760	946	4.9%
Others	2,438	3,701	7,069	7,226	4,430	22.9%

Note: Numbers are in 1,000 USD

Overall Import Trends

Uruguay's total imports of fasteners grew significantly from US\$10,043,000 in 2019 to a peak of US\$21,812,000 in 2022, before declining to US\$19,310,000 in 2023. This overall trend reflects robust demand growth, followed by a slight normalization in 2023.

- 2019: This year serves as the baseline for subsequent growth analysis.

- 2020: Imports increased by 12%. This growth indicates a steady demand for fasteners, due to ongoing or new construction projects, as well as other industrial activities, despite the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 2021: The most significant growth occurred in 2021, with imports surging by 61%. This sharp rise was attributed to the post-pandemic recovery, where delayed construction and industrial projects resumed, leading to a heightened demand for fasteners. It might also reflect stockpiling or a catch-up effect due to earlier supply chain disruptions.

- 2022: The upward trend continued, marking a 20% increase from the previous year. This continued growth suggests robust economic activities in key sectors such as construction and manufacturing, where fasteners are essential.

- 2023: However, 2023 saw a decline, with imports dropping by 11%. This decrease is due to several factors, including potential economic slowdowns, reduced demand in key sectors, or increased local production reducing the need for imports. It also indicates a stabilization after the rapid growth in the previous two years.

Key Import Origins

China

- ◆ Value: China's exports to Uruguay increased from US\$2,617,000 in 2019 to US\$6,842,000 in 2023.

- ◆ Growth and Share: China's share of Uruguay's fastener imports grew to 35.4% by 2023, making it the largest supplier.

Brazil

- ◆ Value: Brazilian exports grew from US\$2,765,000 in 2019 to US\$4,280,000 in 2023.



◆ Growth and Share: Brazil maintained a strong position as Uruguay's second-largest supplier with a 22.2% share in 2023.

USA

◆ Value: The U.S. exports fluctuated, starting at US\$1,135,000 in 2019 and reaching US\$1,841,000 in 2023.

◆ Growth and Share: The U.S. maintained a smaller but significant market share, standing at 9.5% in 2023.

Argentina

◆ Value: Argentina's exports increased from US\$678,000 in 2019 to a peak of US\$1,158,000 in 2022, then decreased to US\$971,000 in 2023.

◆ Growth and Share: Argentina's share in the market was 5.0% in 2023.

Spain

◆ Value: Spain's exports grew steadily from US\$410,000 in 2019 to US\$946,000 in 2023.

◆ Growth and Share: Despite being a smaller player, Spain increased its market share to 4.9% by 2023.

Other Countries

◆ Value: Fastener imports from other countries grew sharply from US\$2,438,000 in 2019 to US\$7,226,000 in 2022, then declined to US\$4,430,000 in 2023.

◆ Growth and Share: These countries collectively held a 22.9% share in 2023.

Note

◆ Dominance of China: China's rapid growth in fastener exports to Uruguay, capturing over a third of the market by 2023, emphasizes its leading role in the global fasteners market.

◆ Regional Significance: Brazil and Argentina remain crucial suppliers due to geographical proximity and established trade relationships, with Brazil maintaining a strong second position.

◆ Diversification: While major exporters like China and Brazil dominate, there is a significant and growing contribution from other countries, indicating that Uruguay is sourcing fasteners from a diverse range of suppliers to meet its growing demand.

Export Analysis: 2019-2023

The table below provides data on Uruguay's fastener exports to the global market from 2019 to 2023. It is obvious that their export to the world is almost nothing.

Importers	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
World	110,000	51,000	71,000	209,000	124,000

Note: Numbers are in USD

◆ 2019: This value serves as a benchmark for observing trends over the subsequent years.

◆ 2020: The export value significantly dropped, more than 53% compared to the previous year.

◆ 2021: There was a modest recovery, with exports increasing 39% from 2020.

◆ 2022: A remarkable surge occurred in 2022, with fastener exports jumping 194% from 2021.

◆ 2023: Exports decreased 41% from the peak in 2022.

Final Words

Based on main industries related to the fastener industry, the future of fastener industry is forecastable.

◆ **The Construction Industry:** The construction sector is the primary driver of fastener demand in Uruguay. From residential buildings to large-scale infrastructure projects, the need for reliable and durable fasteners is critical. The Uruguay construction market size was US\$7.7 billion in 2023. The market will achieve an average annual growth rate of 3% during 2024-2028.

◆ **The Automotive Industry:** Uruguay's automotive industry, though not as large as in neighbouring countries, plays a significant role in the demand for fasteners. In 2021 the market bounced back right away, reporting at 42.6% variation that took sales up to 49,267 units. In 2022 sales maintained the momentum, growing 7.2% to 52,829 units. The Uruguayan vehicles market in 2023 registered 58,314 units of sales and were up 10.3% from the previous year. The revenue in the passenger cars market in Uruguay was forecast to continuously increase between 2024 and 2028 by 368.4 million U.S. dollars in total (+57.26 percent). After the sixth consecutive increasing year, the indicator is estimated to reach 1 billion U.S. dollars and therefore a new peak in 2028.

◆ **The Manufacturing Industry:** The manufacturing sector in Uruguay, while diversified, includes several industries that rely on fasteners, such as machinery production, metalworking, and electronics. Manufacturing production in Uruguay fell by 1.8% in June 2024 from a year earlier, following a 1.7% growth in the prior month. Main contributors to the decline were: Petroleum Refinery (-31.0%) followed by Paper and Paper Products (-10.5%). On the other hand, the greatest positive impact was recorded for Food Products (7.1%) and Milling Products, Starches and Products Derived from Starch (40%). Industrial production in Uruguay decreased 1.80 percent in June of 2024 over the same month in the previous year. Industrial production in Uruguay is expected to be 1.70 percent by the end of this quarter. In the long-term, the Uruguay Manufacturing Production is projected to trend around 1.60 percent in 2025. ■

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