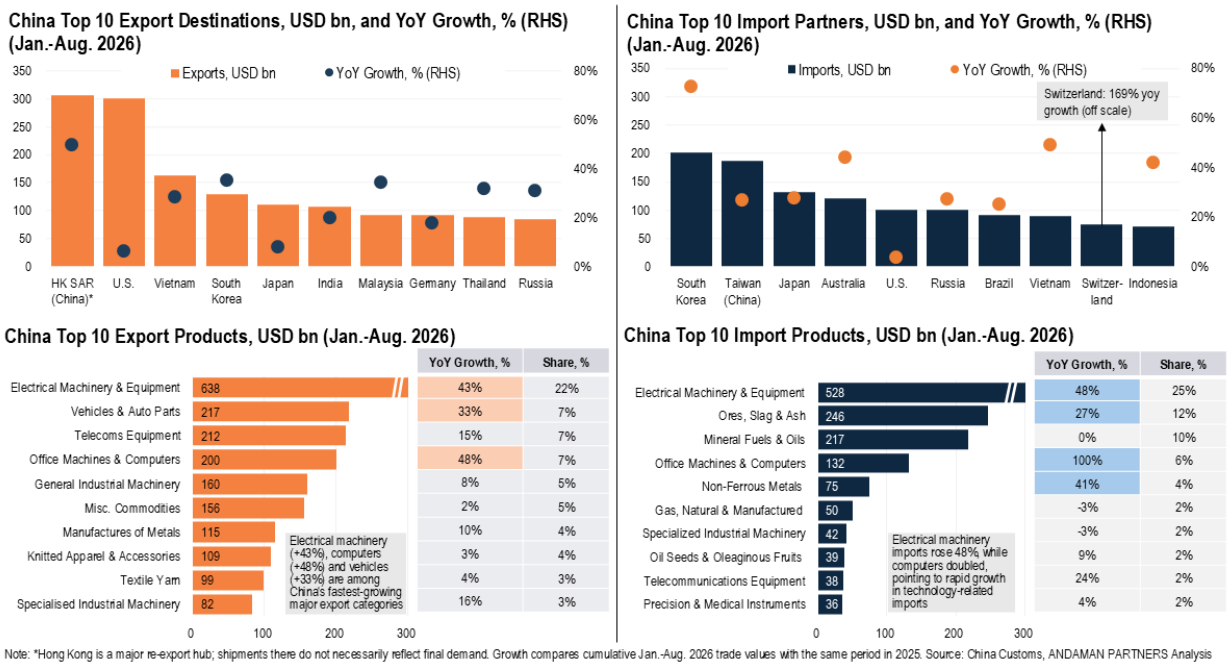
China's Trade Engine Is Finding Growth Well Beyond the U.S.

China's 2026 trade figures reveal strong growth across Asian export markets, surging machinery and electronics trade, and widening gaps among major trading partners



Note: *Hong Kong is a major re-export hub; shipments there do not necessarily reflect final demand. Growth compares cumulative Jan.-Aug. 2026 trade values with the same period in 2025. Source: China Customs, ANDAMAN PARTNERS Analysis

Strong gains across Asian markets are supporting China's 2026 trade growth, offsetting weaker trade with the U.S. In January-August, Hong Kong (a major re-export hub) surpassed the U.S. as China's largest export destination. At the same time, shipments to South Korea, Malaysia and several other Asian markets grew strongly.

Manufacturing continues to dominate exports. Electrical machinery reached USD 861 billion (+35% YoY), followed by nuclear reactors, boilers and machinery at USD 491 billion (+23%) and vehicles & auto parts at USD 211 billion (+36%). On the import side, South Korea and Taiwan remained China's largest suppliers, while electrical machinery imports reached USD 571 billion (+46%). Imports of precious stones, metals and jewellery surged 142% to USD 186 billion.

The figures reveal a trading economy increasingly supported by Asian markets, with machinery and industrial products central to both exports and imports. China's global trade relationships are being reshaped not only by where it sells, but also by what it buys.

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