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Bureau of the Census

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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products May 2001

The Bureau of the Census, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary May steel imports were **\$0.9 billion (2.0 million metric tons)**. This was a decrease of \$0.1 billion (0.3 million metric tons) from the preliminary April totals of \$1.0 billion (2.3 million metric tons).

The April to May change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected decreases primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with Russia and Brazil.

The year to date final statistics through April of 2001 showed steel imports of 8.6 million metric tons, a decrease of 3.7 million metric tons from the 12.3 million metric tons through April of 2000. The largest commodity decreases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; hot rolled sheets; and plates in coils. The largest country decreases were with Brazil, Taiwan, and Ukraine.

Notes:

The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.

Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at: www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/. On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is July 31, 2001

