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U.S. Census Bureau

This release contains sensitive economic data not to be released before 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 25, 2003

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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products October 2003

The U.S. Census Bureau, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary October steel imports were **\$0.8 billion (1.5 million metric tons)**. This was virtually the same value and a decrease of 0.2 million metric tons from the preliminary September totals of \$0.8 billion (1.7 million metric tons).

The September to October change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected decreases primarily in wire rods; blooms, billets, and slabs; and hot rolled sheets. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with Turkey, Korea, and Russia.

The year to date final statistics through September 2003 showed steel imports of 16.0 million metric tons, a decrease of 5.8 million metric tons from the 21.8 million metric tons through September 2002. The largest commodity decreases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; wire rods; and hot rolled sheets. The largest country decreases were with Brazil, Russia, Japan, and Canada.

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 December 23, 2003