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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products September 2005

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary September steel imports were **\$1.5 billion (2.0 million** metric tons) compared to the preliminary August totals of \$1.8 billion (2.0 million metric tons).

The August to September change in steel imports based on metric tonnage reflected decreases in oil country goods and reinforcing bars. Monthly increases occurred primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs; and hot rolled sheets. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with Mexico and Germany. Increases occurred primarily with Australia, Ukraine, and the Netherlands.

The year to date statistics through August 2005 showed steel imports of 19.7 million metric tons, compared with 20.2 million metric tons through August 2004. The largest commodity decreases were in wire rods, hot rolled sheets, and reinforcing bars. An increase occurred primarily in oil country goods. The largest country decreases were with Turkey, Brazil, Australia, India and Russia. The largest country increase was with China.

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 November 29, 2005