

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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## **Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products September 2006**

The U.S. Census Bureau, announced today that preliminary September steel imports were **\$2.6 billion (3.4 million metric tons)** compared to the preliminary August totals of \$2.8 billion (3.6 million metric tons).

The August to September change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected decreases primarily in hot rolled sheets, plates in coils, and cold rolled sheets. An increase occurred primarily in reinforcing bars. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with Russia, Ukraine, and Egypt.

The year to date final statistics through August 2006 showed steel imports of 28.2 million metric tons, an increase of 8.5 million metric tons from the 19.7 million metric tons through August 2005. The largest commodity increases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; hot rolled sheets; and cold rolled sheets. The largest country increases were with Russia and China. The largest country decrease was with Mexico.

**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/](http://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 28, 2006.*