

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary December steel imports were **\$2.4 billion (2.7 million metric tons)**. This was a decrease of \$0.3 billion (0.4 million metric tons) from the preliminary November totals of \$2.7 billion (3.1 million metric tons).

The November to December change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected decreases primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs and reinforcing bars. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with Mexico and Turkey. An increase occurred primarily with Taiwan and Ukraine.

The year to date final statistics through November 2006 showed steel imports of 38.3 million metric tons compared to 26.5 million metric tons through November 2005. The largest commodity increases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; hot rolled sheets; and cold rolled sheets. The largest country increases were with China, Russia, Taiwan, and Turkey. The largest country decreases were with Mexico and Venezuela.

### **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 February 27, 2007.*