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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products February 2007

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary February steel imports were **\$2.2 billion (2.4 million metric tons)** compared to the preliminary January totals of \$2.1 billion (2.4 million metric tons).

The January to February change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected decreases primarily in wire rods, hot rolled sheets, and structural shapes heavy. Increases occurred primarily in line pipe greater than 16 inches diameter and plates cut lengths. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with China and Mexico. An increase occurred primarily with Russia.

The year to date final statistics through January 2007 showed steel imports of 2.7 million metric tons compared to 3.2 million metric tons through January 2006. The largest commodity decreases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; wire rods, and hot rolled sheets. The largest country decreases were with Russia, Korea, and Australia. The largest country increases were with China 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 April 24, 2007.