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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products January 2008

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary January steel imports were **\$2.4 billion (2.4 million metric tons)** compared to the preliminary December totals of \$1.8 billion (1.8 million metric tons).

The December to January change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected an increase primarily in oil country goods. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected increases primarily with Korea and Canada.

The year to date final statistics through December 2007 showed steel imports of 30.2 million metric tons compared to 41.1 million metric tons through December 2006. The largest commodity decreases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; hot rolled sheets; and cold rolled sheets. The largest country decreases were with Russia and Turkey.

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 March 25, 2008.