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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products January 2012

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary January steel imports were **\$2.7 billion (2.3 million metric tons)**. This was an increase of 0.5 million metric tons from the preliminary December totals of \$2.2 billion (1.8 million metric tons).

The January change in steel imports based on metric tonnage reflected an increase primarily in oil country goods. Increases occurred primarily with Russia and South Korea; a decrease occurred primarily with Brazil.

The annual final statistics for 2011 showed steel imports of 25.9 million metric tons compared with 21.7 million metric tons for 2010. The largest commodity increase occurred primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs. The largest country increase occurred primarily with Brazil.

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/trade. On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is March 27, 2012.