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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products May 2016

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary May steel imports were \$1.7 billion (2.5 million metric tons) compared to the preliminary April totals of \$1.6 billion (2.2 million metric tons).

The May change in steel imports based on metric tonnage reflected increases primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs. Decreases occurred primarily in line pipe, hot rolled bars, and cold rolled sheets. Increases occurred primarily with Russia. Decreases occurred primarily with South Africa, Australia, and Italy.

The year to date final statistics through April 2016 showed steel imports of 6.8 million metric tons compared with 10.6 million metric tons through March 2015. The largest commodity decreases occurred primarily in oil country goods. Increases occurred primarily in drawn wire, standard rails, and tin free steel. The largest country decreases occurred primarily with Korea. Increases occurred primarily with South Africa, Australia, and Sweden.

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 our web site at www.census.gov/trade. On the website, you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is July 26, 2016.