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United States Department of  
**COMMERCE**  
**NEWS** Washington, D.C. 20230

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ECONOMICS  
AND  
STATISTICS  
ADMINISTRATION  
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Bureau of the Census

This release contains sensitive economic data not to be released before 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 29, 2002

**CB-02-14 Press Copy**  
FT-900A (01-12)



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## **Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products December 2001**

The Bureau of the Census, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary December steel imports were **\$0.8 billion (1.9 million metric tons)**. This was a decrease of \$0.1 billion (0.5 million metric tons) from the preliminary November totals of \$0.9 billion (2.4 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 Brazil and Canada.

The year to date final statistics through November of 2001 showed steel imports of 25.3 million metric tons, a decrease of 7.0 million metric tons through November 2000. The largest commodity decreases were in hot rolled sheets; blooms, billets and slabs; heavy structural shapes; and plates in coils. The largest country decreases were with Ukraine, India, China, and Taiwan.

### **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 26, 2002*