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ECONOMICS
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Bureau of the Census

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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products February 2002

The Bureau of the Census, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary February steel imports were **\$1.0 billion (2.8 million metric tons)**. This was virtually the same value and an increase of 0.4 million metric tons from the preliminary January totals of \$1.0 billion (2.3 million metric tons).

The January to February change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected increases primarily in blooms, billets and slabs; reinforcing bars; and hot rolled sheets. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected increases primarily with Russia, Ukraine, and Australia.

The year to date final statistics through January of 2002 showed steel imports of 2.4 million metric tons, an increase of 0.3 million metric tons through January 2001. The largest commodity increase was in blooms, billets and slabs. The largest country increases were with Brazil and Japan.

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 30, 2002