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Bureau of the Census

This release contains sensitive economic
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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products
May 2002

The Bureau of the Census, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary May steel imports were **\$0.7 billion (1.6 million metric tons)**. This was virtually the same value and a decrease of 0.1 million metric tons from the preliminary April totals of \$0.8 billion (1.7 million metric tons).

The April to May change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected a decrease primarily in wire rods. Increases occurred primarily in reinforcing bars and hot rolled sheets. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected a decrease primarily with Mexico. An increase occurred primarily with Russia.

The year to date final statistics through April of 2002 showed steel imports of 9.3 million metric tons, an increase of 0.6 million metric tons from the 8.6 million metric tons through April of 2001. The largest commodity increase was in blooms, billets and slabs. The largest country increases were with Brazil and Canada.

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 July 30, 2002