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U.S. Census Bureau

This release contains sensitive economic data not to be released before 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 30, 2003

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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products August 2003

The U.S. Census Bureau, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary August steel imports were **\$0.7 billion (1.5 million metric tons)**. This was a decrease of \$0.2 billion (0.4 million metric tons) from the preliminary July totals of \$0.9 billion (1.9 million metric tons).

The July to August change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected a decrease primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with Brazil, Mexico, Canada, and China.

The year to date final statistics through July 2003 showed steel imports of 12.7 million metric tons, a decrease of 3.6 million metric tons from the 16.3 million metric tons through July 2002. The largest commodity decreases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; and wire rods. The largest country decreases were with Brazil, Russia, 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 October 28, 2003

Notice

July 2003 revision

While processing the August 2003 preliminary *Imports for Consumption of Steel Products* report, the U.S. Census Bureau discovered an error in the assignment of Harmonized Tariff commodity classifications to the American Iron and Steel groupings. This error relates to selected data for the month of July 2003 only. The error affected the total, carbon (non-alloy), and section 201 Exhibits. The cold rolled sheets category was affected in the total and carbon (non-alloy) Exhibits and the flat rolled-cold rolled category was affected in the section 201 Exhibit. While the corrections were limited to one American Iron and Steel grouping, the corrections were distributed among several countries.

With this release, the Bureau has revised the July 2003 final and preliminary steel data to reflect the current Harmonized Tariff assignments. The July 2003 exhibits and data tables have been corrected and are available on the Foreign Trade Division's Web site at: www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/press-release/.