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U.S. Census Bureau

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For information contact:

Haydn Mearkle (301) 763-2246

Nick Orsini (301) 763-2311

Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products
August 2004

The U.S. Census Bureau, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary August steel imports were **\$2.2 billion (3.1 million metric tons)**. This was an increase of \$0.3 billion (0.4 million metric tons) from the preliminary July totals of \$1.9 billion (2.7 million metric tons).

The year to date final statistics through July 2004 showed steel imports of 17.0 million metric tons, compared with 12.7 million metric tons through July 2003. The largest commodity increases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; wire rods; reinforcing bars; and hot rolled sheets. The largest country increases were with Brazil, Turkey, Russia, and Mexico.

The July to August change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected increases primarily in blooms, billets and slabs; reinforcing bars; standard pipe; and hot rolled sheets. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected increases primarily with Russia, China, Taiwan, Canada, and Mexico.

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 26, 2004