

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

ECONOMICS
AND
STATISTICS
ADMINISTRATION

U.S. Census Bureau

This release contains sensitive economic data not to be released before 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 26, 2004

CB-04-184 Press Copy
FT-900A (04-09)

For information contact:
Nick Orsini (301) 763-2311

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

The U.S. Census Bureau, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary September steel imports were **\$2.2 billion (3.1 million metric tons)**. This was virtually the same value and metric tonnage as the preliminary August totals of \$2.2 billion (3.1 million metric tons).

The August to September change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected increases primarily in blooms, billets and slabs; and wire rods. Decreases occurred primarily in reinforcing bars and standard pipe. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected increases primarily with Brazil and Australia. Decreases occurred primarily with Taiwan, Korea, and Canada.

The year to date final statistics through August 2004 showed steel imports of 20.2 million metric tons, compared with 14.3 million metric tons through August 2003. The largest commodity increases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; wire rods; hot rolled sheets; and reinforcing bars. The largest country increases were with Russia, Mexico, Turkey, and Brazil.

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 November 30, 2004