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ECONOMICS  
AND  
STATISTICS  
ADMINISTRATION

U.S. Census Bureau

This release contains sensitive economic  
data not to be released before 10:00 a.m. Tuesday,  
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**Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products**  
**October 2004**

The U.S. Census Bureau, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary October steel imports were **\$2.1 billion (2.9 million metric tons)**. This was a decrease of \$0.1 billion (0.2 million metric tons) from the preliminary September totals of \$2.2 billion (3.1 million metric tons).

The September to October change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected decreases primarily in blooms, billets and slabs; and wire rods. An increase occurred primarily in cold rolled sheets. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with Brazil, Mexico, and Russia.

The year to date final statistics through September 2004 showed steel imports of 23.5 million metric tons, compared with 16.0 million metric tons through September 2003. The largest commodity increases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; wire rods; and hot rolled sheets. The largest country increases were with Russia, Mexico, Brazil, and Turkey.

**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/](http://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 December 21, 2004*