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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products June 2005

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary June steel imports were **\$2.0 billion (2.3 million metric tons)** compared to the preliminary May totals of \$2.0 billion (2.4 million metric tons).

The May to June change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage reflected decreases primarily in wire rods, plates cut lengths, and hot dipped galvanized sheets and strip. Monthly increases occurred primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs; plates in coils; and hot rolled sheets. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with Brazil and China. Increases occurred primarily with Russia and Korea.

The year to date statistics through May 2005 showed steel imports of 12.8 million metric tons, compared with 11.1 million metric tons through May 2004. The largest commodity increases were in hot dipped galvanized sheets and strip; blooms, billets, and slabs; and cold rolled sheets. Decreases occurred primarily in wire rods and reinforcing bars. The largest country increases were with China, Russia, Korea, and Taiwan. The largest country decrease was with Australia.

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 August 30, 2005