

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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**For information contact:**

Nick Orsini (301) 763-6959  
Vanessa Ware (301) 763-2311

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## **Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products December 2005**

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary December steel imports were **\$1.8 billion (2.5 million metric tons)** compared with \$1.7 billion (2.1 million metric tons) in the preliminary November report.

The November to December change in steel imports based on metric tonnage reflected increases primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs; hot rolled sheets; and wire rods. A decrease occurred primarily in reinforcing bars. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected increases primarily with Ukraine, Brazil, Korea, and China. Decreases occurred primarily with Turkey and Russia.

The year to date statistics through November 2005 showed steel imports of 26.5 million metric tons, compared with 29.8 million metric tons through November 2004. The largest commodity decreases occurred primarily in hot rolled sheets and wire rods.

An increase occurred primarily in oil country goods. The largest country decreases were with Turkey, Russia, and Brazil. The largest country increase was with China.

**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 February 28, 2006.*