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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products May 2007

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary May steel imports were **\$2.8 billion (2.9 million** metric tons) compared to the preliminary April totals of \$2.4 billion (2.5 million metric tons).

The April to May change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected increases primarily in wire rods and reinforcing bars. Decreases occurred primarily in blooms, billets and slabs. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected increases primarily with China and Australia. A decrease occurred primarily with Mexico.

The year to date final statistics through April 2007 showed steel imports of 10.4 million metric tons compared to 13.6 million metric tons through April 2006. The largest commodity decreases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; hot rolled sheets; and wire rods. The largest country decreases were with Turkey and Russia. The largest country increases were with Canada and 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/. On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is July 24, 2007.