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

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary December steel imports were **\$1.8 billion (1.8 million metric tons)** compared to the preliminary November totals of \$2.1 billion (2.1 million metric tons).

The November to December change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected a decrease primarily in oil country goods and hot rolled sheets. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with China and Korea.

The year to date final statistics through November 2007 showed steel imports of 28.3 million metric tons compared to 38.3 million metric tons through November 2006. The largest commodity decreases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; hot rolled sheets; and cold rolled sheets. The largest country decreases were with Russia 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/. On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is February 26, 2008.