

U.S. Census Bureau News

U.S. Department of Commerce • Washington, DC 20230

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10:00 A.M. EDT TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2008

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CB08-94, FT-900A (05-08)

Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products May 2008

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary May steel imports were **\$2.7 billion (2.2 million metric tons)** compared to the preliminary April totals of \$2.8 billion (2.7 million metric tons).

The April to May change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected decreases primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with Turkey, Canada, Japan, and Ukraine.

The year to date final statistics through April 2008 showed steel imports of 9.7 million metric tons compared to 10.4 million metric tons through April 2007. The largest commodity decreases were in galvanized hot dipped sheets and strip, cold rolled sheets, reinforcing bars, and wire rods. The largest commodity increases were in line pipe greater than 16 inches in diameter and oil country goods. The largest country decreases were with China and Brazil. The largest country increase was with Canada.

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 29, 2008.