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

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary July steel imports were **\$3.4 billion (2.6 million metric tons)** compared to the preliminary June totals of \$3.0 billion (2.4 million metric tons).

The June to July change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected increases primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs; and oil country goods. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected increases primarily with Korea, Russia, and Japan. A decrease occurred primarily with Brazil.

The year to date final statistics through June 2008 showed steel imports of 14.5 million metric tons compared to 16.2 million metric tons through June 2007. The largest commodity decreases were in reinforcing bars, wire rods, cold rolled sheets, and galvanized hot dipped sheets and strip. 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 September 23, 2008.