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

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary October steel imports were **\$3.9 billion (2.7 million metric tons)** compared to the preliminary September totals of \$3.7 billion (2.7 million metric tons).

The October change in steel imports based on metric tonnage reflected increases primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs, and hot rolled bars. A decrease occurred primarily with hot rolled sheets. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected increases primarily with China, Mexico, and Ukraine. A decrease occurred primarily with India.

The year to date final statistics through September 2008 showed steel imports of 22.1 million metric tons compared to 23.7 million metric tons through September 2008. The largest commodity decreases were in reinforcing bars, wire rods, cold rolled sheets, standard pipe, and galvanized hot dipped sheets and strip. The largest commodity increases were in oil country goods, line pipe greater than 16 inches in diameter, and hot rolled sheets. The largest country decreases were with China, Brazil, and Taiwan. The largest country increases were with Canada and India.

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/trade. On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is December 23, 2008.