

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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## **Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products February 2009**

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary February steel imports were **\$1.8 billion (1.4 million metric tons)**. This was a decrease of \$1.1 billion (0.7 million metric tons) from the preliminary January totals of \$2.9 billion (2.1 million metric tons).

The February change in steel imports based on metric tonnage reflected decreases primarily in oil country goods. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with China, Russia, and Korea.

The year to date final statistics through January 2009 showed steel imports of 2.1 million metric tons compared to 2.4 million metric tons through January 2008. The largest commodity decreases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; and hot rolled sheets. The largest commodity increase was in oil country goods. The largest country decrease was with Canada. The largest country increases were with Russia 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/trade](http://www.census.gov/trade). On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.*

*The next release is April 28, 2009.*