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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products May 2009

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary May steel imports were **\$1.1 billion (0.9 million metric tons)** compared to the preliminary April totals of \$1.3 billion (1.1 million metric tons).

The May change in steel imports based on metric tonnage reflected a decrease primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs. Monthly decreases occurred primarily with Japan and India. Increases occurred primarily with China and Korea.

The year to date final statistics through April 2009 showed steel imports of 6.1 million metric tons compared to 9.7 million metric tons through April 2008. The largest commodity decrease was in blooms, billets, and slabs. The largest commodity increase was in oil country goods. The largest country decrease 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/trade. On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is July 28, 2009.