

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary December steel imports were **\$1.3 billion (1.3 million metric tons)** compared to the preliminary November totals of \$1.2 billion (1.1 million metric tons).

The December change in steel imports based on metric tonnage reflected increases primarily in wire rods and hot rolled bars. Decreases occurred primarily with blooms, billets, and slabs; and hot rolled sheets. Monthly increases occurred primarily with Mexico and Canada. Decreases occurred primarily with Russia and Netherlands.

The year to date final statistics through November 2009 showed steel imports of 13.4 million metric tons compared to 27.1 million metric tons through November 2008. The largest commodity decreases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; and oil country goods. The largest country decreases were with Canada 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 February 23, 2010.*