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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products January 2010

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary January steel imports were **\$1.4 billion (1.5 million metric tons)** compared to the preliminary December totals of \$1.3 billion (1.3 million metric tons).

The January change in steel imports based on metric tonnage reflected increases primarily in blooms, bullets, and slabs; and oil country goods. Monthly increases occurred primarily with Canada and Russia. A decrease occurred primarily with Brazil.

The annual final statistics through December 2009 showed steel imports of 14.7 million metric tons compared to 29.0 million metric tons through December 2008. The largest commodity decreases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; and oil country goods. The largest country decreases were with China and 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 March 23, 2010.