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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products May 2012

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary May steel imports were **\$3.2 billion (2.7 million)** metric tons compared to the preliminary April totals of \$3.0 billion (2.7 million metric tons).

The May change in steel imports based on metric tonnage reflected decreases primarily in coil plates, hot rolled sheets, and wire rods; an increase primarily in oil country goods. A decrease occurred primarily with Brazil; increases occurred primarily with Japan and Australia.

The year to date final statistics through April 2012 showed steel imports of 10.7 million metric tons compared with 8.1 million metric tons through April 2011. The largest commodity increase occurred primarily in blooms, billets and slabs. The largest country increases occurred primarily with Brazil and Russia; decreases occurred primarily with Mexico and Australia.

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 website, you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is July 24, 2012.