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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products April 2011

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary April steel imports were **\$2.6 billion (2.3 million metric tons)**. This was an increase of \$0.1 billion (0.1 million metric tons) from the preliminary March totals of \$2.5 billion (2.2 million metric tons).

The April change in steel imports based on metric tonnage reflected an increase primarily in line pipe greater than 16 inches in diameter and hot dipped galvanized sheets and strip. Decreases occurred primarily in oil country goods and cold rolled sheets. Increases occurred primarily with Australia and Korea. Decreases occurred primarily with Mexico.

The year to date final statistics through March 2011 showed steel imports of 5.8 million metric tons compared with 4.8 million metric tons through March 2010. The largest commodity increases occurred primarily in oil country goods and blooms, billets, and slabs. The largest commodity decrease occurred primarily in line pipe greater than 16 inches. The largest country increase occurred primarily with Brazil and the largest country decrease occurred primarily 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 June 21, 2011.