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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products November 2008

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary November steel imports were **\$3.1 billion (2.0 million metric tons)** compared to the preliminary October totals of \$3.9 billion (2.7 million metric tons).

The November change in steel imports based on metric tonnage reflected decreases primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs; hot rolled bars; and galvanized hot dipped sheets and strip. An increase occurred primarily with oil country goods. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with Mexico, Canada, and Ukraine.

The year to date final statistics through October 2008 showed steel imports of 24.9 million metric tons compared to 26.2 million metric tons through October 2007. The largest commodity decreases were in reinforcing bars; wire rods; blooms, billets, and slabs; cold rolled sheets; standard pipe; and galvanized hot dipped sheets and strip. The largest commodity increases were in oil country goods and hot rolled sheets. The largest country decreases were with Brazil, Taiwan, and China. The largest country increases were with Canada and India.

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 January 27, 2009.