

U.S. Census Bureau News

U.S. Department of Commerce • Washington, D.C. 20230

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10:00 A.M. EST WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2005

For information contact:

Nick Orsini (301) 763-6959
Vanessa Ware (301) 763-2311

CB-05-69, FT-900A (05-04)

Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products April 2005

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary April steel imports were **\$2.2 billion (2.7 million metric tons)** compared to the preliminary March totals of \$1.9 billion (2.3 million metric tons).

The March to April change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected increases primarily in wire rods; blooms, billets, and slabs; and oil country goods. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected increases primarily with Brazil, China, and Korea. Decreases primarily occurred with Russia and Thailand.

The year to date statistics through March 2005 showed steel imports of 7.6 million metric tons, compared with 6.1 million metric tons through March 2004. The largest commodity increases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; cold rolled sheets; hot dipped galvanized sheets and strip; and hot rolled sheets. A decrease occurred primarily in wire rods. The largest country increases were with China, Russia, Taiwan, and Korea. The largest country decrease was with 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/foreign-trade/www/. On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is June 28, 2005