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**Imports of Brass Mill Products Fall in December 2011; Exports Rise**

U.S. imports of brass mill products fell in December 2011 compared with the corresponding 2010 period, while exports rose.

Imports of brass mill products in December 2011 totaled 36,272,315 pounds compared to 39,968,404 in December 2010, a decrease of 9.2 percent. Exports totaled 16,793,419 pounds in December 2011, up from 16,299,715 in December 2010, a 3.0 percent increase.

For YTD 2011 through December, imports of brass mill products totaled 479,795,096 pounds compared to 498,576,342 pounds through December 2010 YTD, a decrease of 3.8 percent. Exports YTD 2011 totaled 238,108,352 compared to 228,990,761 in the same 2010 period, an increase of 4.0 percent.

Canada was the leading destination for U.S. exports of brass mill products in December at 5,065,994 pounds followed by Mexico at 4,850,019 pounds, China at 1,111,972 pounds, Taiwan at 593,630 pounds and Hong Kong at 404,928 pounds.

Imports from Germany in December 2011 totaled 7,045,580 pounds, followed by Mexico at 4,138,391 pounds, South Korea at 3,541,454 pounds, Canada at 3,244,682 pounds and China at 2,636,455 pounds.

Imports of all sheet, strip, plate and foil products totaled 11,178,656 pounds while exports of those products totaled 5,916,262 pounds.

Imports of all pipe and tube products totaled 10,346,745 pounds while pipe and tube exports totaled 3,891,542 pounds.

Imports of all profiles, rods and bars totaled 11,766,354 pounds while exports totaled 4,355,132 pounds.

Imports of copper alloy wire totaled 2,980,560 pounds while exports totaled 2,630,482 pounds.

Brass mill products are widely used in building construction, automotive products and in electronic and electrical applications.

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