



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Preliminary Finished Steel Imports Up 11% in December
Finished Steel Imports Decline 45% in 2009 vs. 2008, But Import Market Share at 22% for Year

Washington, D.C. – Based on preliminary Census Bureau data, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported today that the U.S. imported a total of 1,396,000 net tons (NT) of steel in December 2009, including 1,119,000 NT of finished steel (up 1% and 11%, respectively, vs. November final data). Total and finished steel imports for full year 2009 were 16.2 and 14.2 million NT, respectively, down 49 and 45% vs. 2008. In a domestic steel market that remains severely depressed, finished steel import market share was an estimated 17% in December and an estimated 22% for the year as a whole -- down only slightly from 2008 (24%) and the same as in 2007.

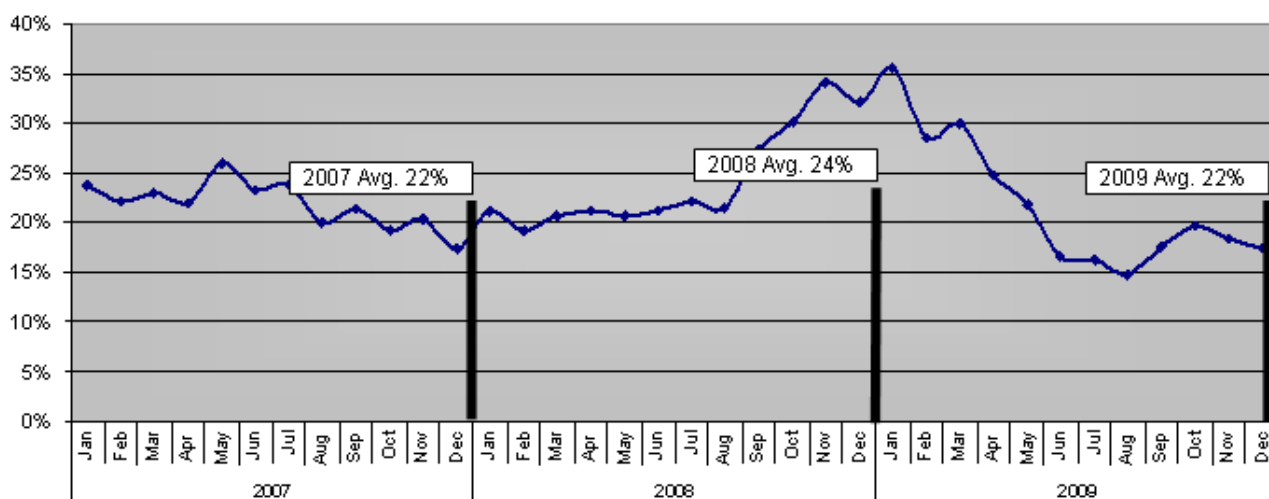
Key finished steel products with increases in December 2009 compared to November include wire rods (52%), hot rolled bars (39%), cut length plates (32%), oil country goods (24%) and standard pipe (21%).

Steel Mill Product	Dec. (prelim.)	Nov. final	% var Dec. vs. Nov.	(12 mo) YTD 2009	(12 mo) YTD 2008	% var 2009 12 mo. vs 2008 12 mo.
Ingot and Billets and Slabs	275,888	361,538	-23.7%	2,013,936	5,943,024	-66.1%
Sheets Hot Rolled	157,462	199,391	-21.0%	1,739,209	2,769,854	-37.2%
Oil Country Goods	57,505	46,433	23.8%	1,601,684	3,973,853	-59.7%
Line Pipe	100,746	111,518	-9.7%	1,591,866	3,223,302	-50.6%
Sheets Cold Rolled	107,946	96,805	11.5%	1,137,454	1,439,007	-21.0%
Sheets & Strip Galv Hot Dipped	80,300	74,030	8.5%	1,033,045	1,821,926	-43.3%
Wire Rods	100,258	66,041	51.8%	762,745	1,229,419	-38.0%
Plates in Coils	40,160	41,305	-2.8%	710,850	1,213,063	-41.4%
Bars - Hot Rolled	85,357	61,413	39.0%	674,366	1,486,987	-54.6%
Standard Pipe	47,513	39,130	21.4%	593,386	1,180,409	-49.7%
Plates Cut Lengths	42,234	32,108	31.5%	530,221	1,237,098	-57.1%
Wire Drawn	45,286	46,803	-3.2%	486,220	709,194	-31.4%
Bars - Reinforcing	21,622	8,077	167.7%	419,400	970,762	-56.8%
Structural Shapes Heavy	22,508	16,808	33.9%	371,227	721,884	-48.6%
Mechanical Tubing	20,031	18,431	8.7%	332,637	606,933	-45.2%
Tin Plate	31,230	33,672	-7.3%	322,955	321,077	0.6%
Sheets & Strip All Other	27,002	23,115	16.8%	298,070	502,210	-40.6%
All Other	132,910	100,366	32.4%	1,581,503	2,576,848	-38.6%
TOTAL	1,395,958	1,376,984	1.4%	16,200,774	31,926,850	-49.3%
SUBTOTAL Finished Imports	1,118,581	1,009,573	10.8%	14,165,021	25,955,963	-45.4%

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In December, the largest volumes of finished steel imports from offshore were from South Korea (104,000 NT, down 2%), Japan (103,000 NT, up 86%), Italy (49,000 NT, up 13%), China (47,000 NT, down 23%) and Germany (43,000 NT, up 35%). In 2009, finished steel imports from China were 1.5 million NT, 70% less than in 2008 but more than any other offshore supplier. Following China were offshore finished steel imports from other Asian suppliers South Korea (1.2 million), Japan (926,000) and India (551,000). Below are charts on estimated steel import market share by month and finished steel imports by country.

Estimated Finished Steel Import Market Share by Month and Annually (2007-2009)



**U.S. IMPORTS OF FINISHED STEEL MILL PRODUCTS
BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
(thousands of net tons)**

COUNTRY	2009 full year (est.)	2008 Annual	% incr. 2009 an. vs. '08	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2008	% incr. Dec. vs Nov.
China	1,402	4,821	-70.9%	47	61	486	-23.3%
South Korea	1,217	2,305	-47.2%	104	106	113	-1.5%
Japan	926	1,614	-42.7%	103	55	115	86.0%
India	551	1,102	-50.0%	29	19	123	50.7%
Turkey	491	827	-40.7%	40	1	72	4695.4%
Germany	463	1,122	-58.7%	43	32	83	35.0%
Taiwan	350	662	-47.1%	20	21	38	-5.3%
Brazil	338	436	-22.3%	24	50	27	-52.0%
All Other	8,428	13,067	-35.5%	711	666	794	6.8%
Total	14,165	25,956	-45.4%	1,119	1,010	1,851	10.8%

**U.S. IMPORTS OF FINISHED STEEL MILL PRODUCTS
3 MONTHS ROLLING AVERAGE
(thousands of net tons)**

Product	Preliminary 3 Mos. Rolling Avg. Dec. 09 - Oct. 09	Actual 3 Mos. Prior Sep. 09 - Jul. 09	Current 3 Months vs 3 Months Prior % Change
Hot Rolled Sheets	180	130	38.6%
Line Pipe	114	86	33.5%
Cold Rolled Sheets	100	79	26.3%
Wire Rods	97	64	50.3%
Sheets & Strip Galv Hot Dipped	82	70	16.5%
Hot Rolled Bars	73	42	73.2%
Plates in Coils	55	61	-9.9%
Wire Drawn	49	40	21.3%
Oil Country Goods	49	31	60.1%
Standard Pipe	41	41	0.2%
All Other	284	267	6.0%
Total	1,124	912	23.2%

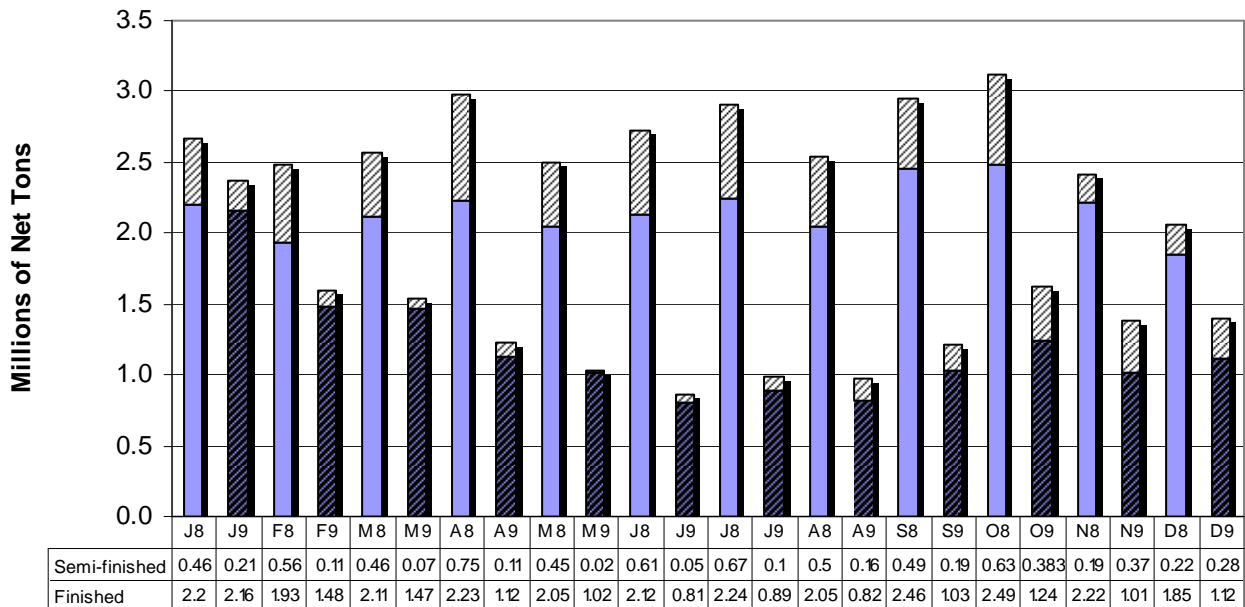
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3 MONTHS ROLLING AVERAGE
(thousands of net tons)**

Country	Preliminary 3 Mos. Rolling Avg. Dec. 09 - Oct. 09	Actual 3 Mos. Prior Sep. 09 - Jul. 09	Current 3 Months vs 3 Months Prior % Change
South Korea	107	75	42.6%
Japan	83	58	44.3%
Netherlands	63	24	163.9%
China	54	34	58.9%
Italy	47	26	77.3%
Germany	40	26	52.1%
Turkey	37	19	88.5%
Australia	35	23	50.4%
India	33	30	10.0%
Brazil	31	29	4.8%
All Other	594	567	4.9%
Total	1,124	912	23.2%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

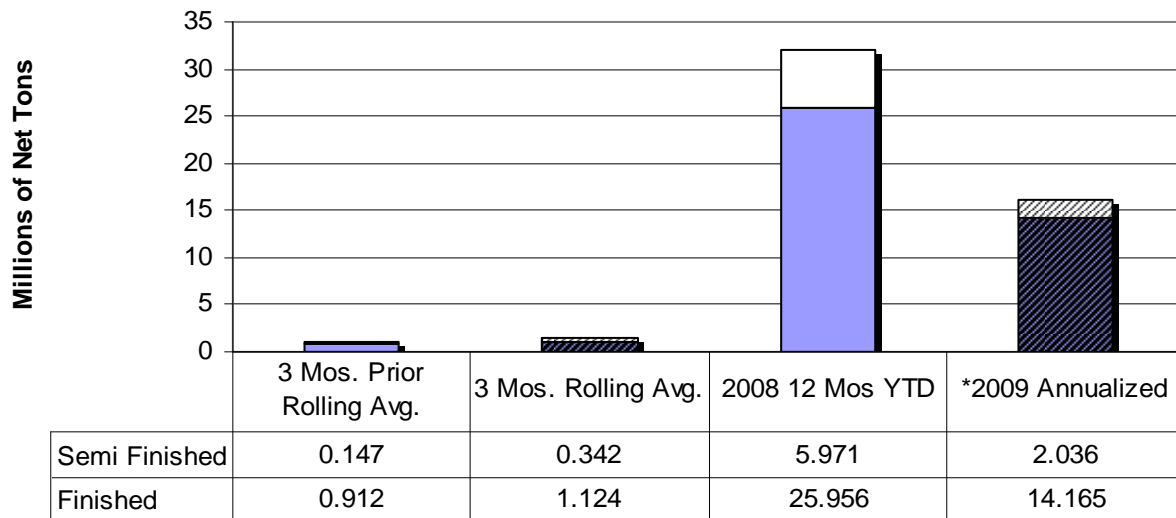
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Monthly Imports 2008 vs. 2009



% change finished imports December 2009 vs December 2008 = -39.6%

3 Month Rolling Averages and YTD 2009 vs. 2008



% change finished imports 3 Mos. Rolling Avg. vs. 3 Mos. Prior = 23.2%

% change semi-finished imports 2009 vs 2008 = -65.9%

% change finished imports 2009 vs 2008 = -45.4%

*preliminary

AISI serves as the voice of the North American steel industry in the public policy arena and advances the case for steel in the marketplace as the preferred material of choice. AISI also plays a lead role in the development and application of new steels and steelmaking technology. AISI is comprised of 24 member companies, including integrated and electric furnace steelmakers, and 138 associate and affiliate members who are suppliers to or customers of the steel industry. AISI's member companies represent approximately 75 percent of both U.S. and North American steel capacity. For more news about steel and its applications, view AISI's Web site at www.steel.org.

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