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**Preliminary Steel Imports Increase 25% in March: Highest Monthly Total Since January 2009**  
Import Market Share 19% in March

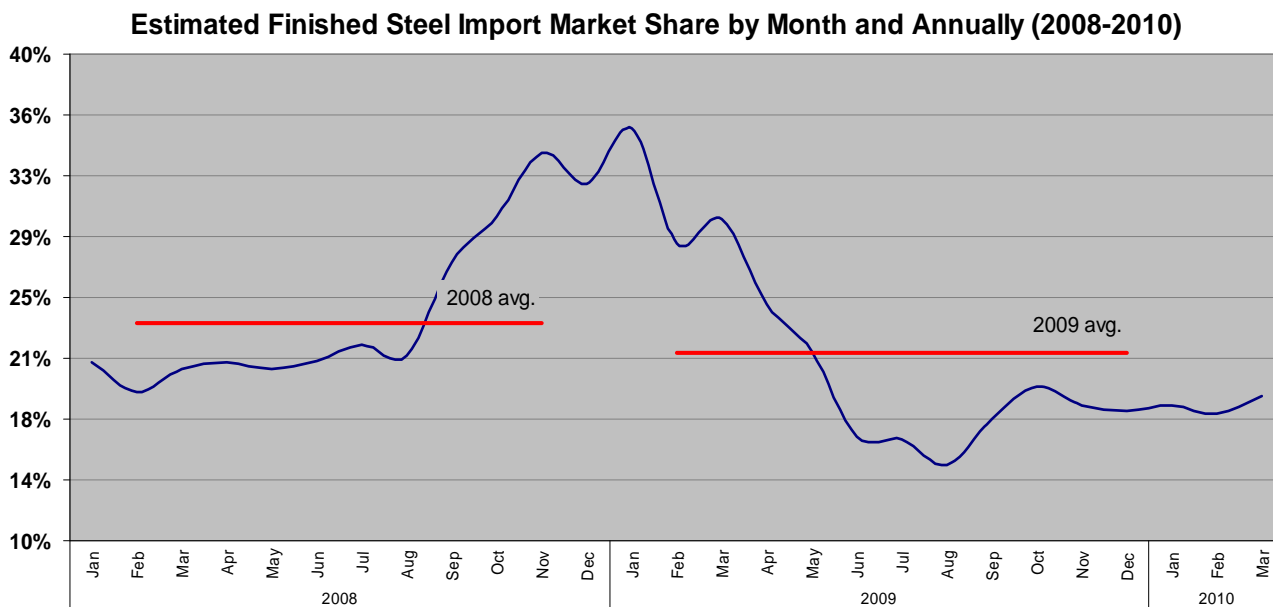
**Washington, D.C.** – Based on preliminary Census Bureau data, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported today that the U.S. imported a total of 1,971,000 net tons (NT) of steel in March, including 1,568,000 NT of finished steel (up 25% and 28%, respectively, vs. February final data). This was the highest monthly total since January 2009. Annualized total and finished steel imports in 2010 would be 20.9 and 16.3 million NT, respectively, up 29% and 15% vs. 2009. Finished steel import market share was an estimated 19% in March.

Key finished steel products with significant import increases in March 2010 compared to February include plate in coils (up 67%), oil country goods (up 61%), sheets and strip galvanized hot dipped (up 53%), cut-length plates (up 51%) and hot rolled bars (up 40%).

Steel Mill Product	Mar. (prelim.)	Feb. final	% var Mar. vs. Feb.	(3 mo) YTD 2010	(3 mo) YTD 2009	% var '10 vs. '09	2010 Annualized	2009 12 mo.	% var 2010 ann. vs 2009 12 mo.
Ingots and Billets and Slabs	400,471	358,567	11.7%	1,134,269	384,750	194.8%	4,537,076	2,014,510	125.2%
Sheets Hot Rolled	215,639	185,285	16.4%	569,984	478,611	19.1%	2,279,936	1,739,209	31.1%
Sheets & Strip Galv Hot Dipped	152,237	99,858	52.5%	353,180	317,943	11.1%	1,412,720	1,033,046	36.8%
Oil Country Goods	145,626	90,289	61.3%	357,578	1,057,072	-66.2%	1,430,312	1,602,112	-10.7%
Wire Rods	135,075	126,833	6.5%	349,392	169,034	106.7%	1,397,568	761,207	83.6%
Line Pipe	128,800	108,234	19.0%	372,156	608,421	-38.8%	1,488,624	1,603,357	-7.2%
Sheets Cold Rolled	92,748	91,245	1.6%	278,175	346,419	-19.7%	1,112,700	1,137,582	-2.2%
Bars - Hot Rolled	91,348	65,440	39.6%	241,193	222,550	8.4%	964,772	676,572	42.6%
Plates in Coils	87,733	52,520	67.0%	198,712	225,168	-11.7%	794,848	710,897	11.8%
Wire Drawn	55,301	44,624	23.9%	146,659	110,297	33.0%	586,636	486,302	20.6%
Standard Pipe	55,094	47,686	15.5%	162,875	222,883	-26.9%	651,500	593,410	9.8%
Plates Cut Lengths	53,774	35,599	51.1%	128,660	230,183	-44.1%	514,640	530,221	-2.9%
Rails Standard	41,789	19,640	112.8%	79,750	76,052	4.9%	319,000	249,022	28.1%
Bars - Reinforcing	37,782	50,851	-25.7%	112,992	187,114	-39.6%	451,968	419,427	7.8%
Tin Plate	36,970	30,544	21.0%	100,604	62,682	60.5%	402,416	322,954	24.6%
Structural Shapes Heavy	34,264	16,858	103.3%	82,986	166,908	-50.3%	331,944	371,420	-10.6%
Mechanical Tubing	29,297	23,986	22.1%	77,276	121,218	-36.3%	309,104	332,661	-7.1%
All Other	176,768	134,264	31.7%	468,698	509,614	-8.0%	1,874,792	1,630,994	14.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,970,716</b>	<b>1,582,323</b>	<b>24.5%</b>	<b>5,215,139</b>	<b>5,496,919</b>	<b>-5.1%</b>	<b>20,860,556</b>	<b>16,214,903</b>	<b>28.7%</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL Finished Imports</b>	<b>1,567,773</b>	<b>1,222,436</b>	<b>28.2%</b>	<b>4,075,352</b>	<b>5,106,717</b>	<b>-20.2%</b>	<b>16,301,407</b>	<b>14,178,577</b>	<b>15.0%</b>

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In March, the largest volumes of finished steel imports from offshore were from Japan (137,000 NT, up 19%), South Korea (109,000 NT, up 11%), Germany (83,000 NT, up 207%), China (58,000 NT, up 27%) and Australia (57,000 NT, up 18%). Below are charts on estimated steel import market share by month and finished steel imports by country.



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

COUNTRY	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2009	% incr. Mar. vs Jan.	(3 mo) YTD 2010	(3 mo) YTD 2009	% incr. '10 YTD vs. '09	2010 full year (est.)	2009 Annual	% incr. 2010 vs. '09
Japan	137	115	<b>19.3%</b>	333	354	<b>-6.0%</b>	1,333	981	<b>35.9%</b>
South Korea	109	98	<b>11.1%</b>	357	546	<b>-34.6%</b>	1,430	1,323	<b>8.1%</b>
Germany	83	27	<b>206.8%</b>	147	191	<b>-22.9%</b>	590	495	<b>19.3%</b>
China	58	46	<b>27.0%</b>	170	904	<b>-81.1%</b>	682	1,463	<b>-53.4%</b>
Australia	57	48	<b>18.0%</b>	132	74	<b>79.5%</b>	530	285	<b>86.1%</b>
Turkey	49	46	<b>5.9%</b>	115	269	<b>-57.3%</b>	460	492	<b>-6.4%</b>
India	39	35	<b>10.8%</b>	109	239	<b>-54.3%</b>	436	581	<b>-24.9%</b>
Italy	31	48	<b>-33.9%</b>	129	57	<b>127.4%</b>	515	323	<b>59.4%</b>
All Other	1,004	759	<b>32.4%</b>	2,581	2,473	<b>4.4%</b>	10,326	8,237	<b>25.3%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,568</b>	<b>1,222</b>	<b>28.3%</b>	<b>4,075</b>	<b>5,107</b>	<b>-20.2%</b>	<b>16,301</b>	<b>14,179</b>	<b>15.0%</b>

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

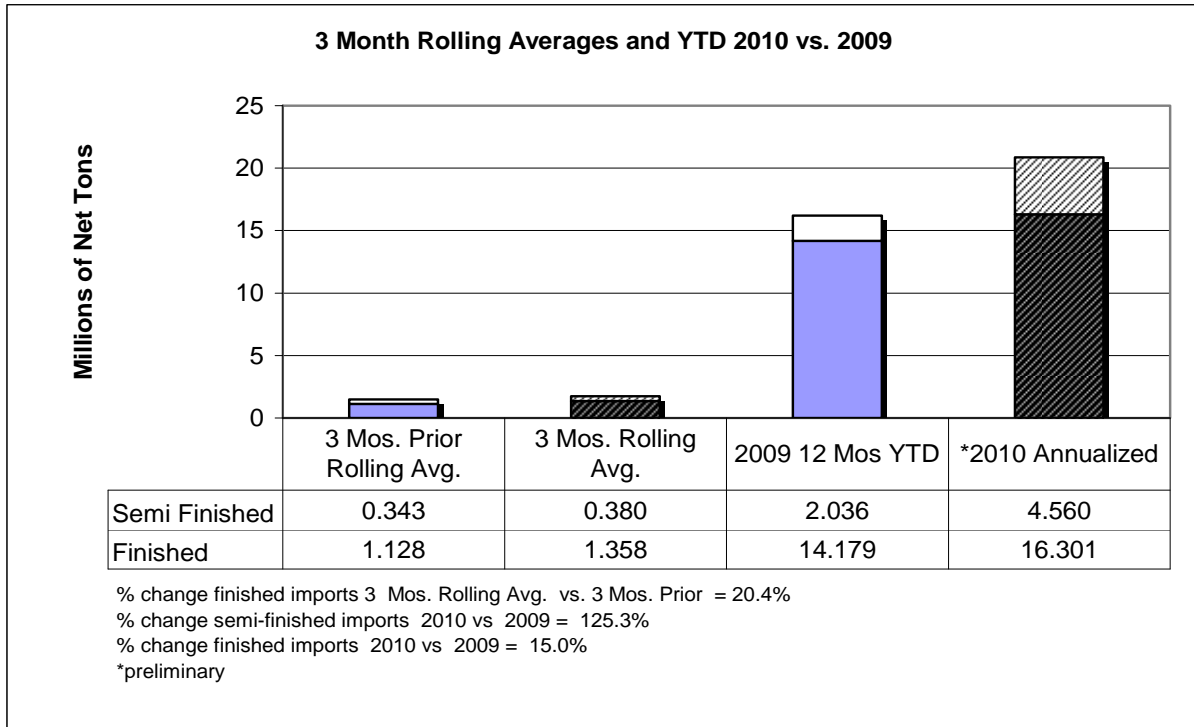
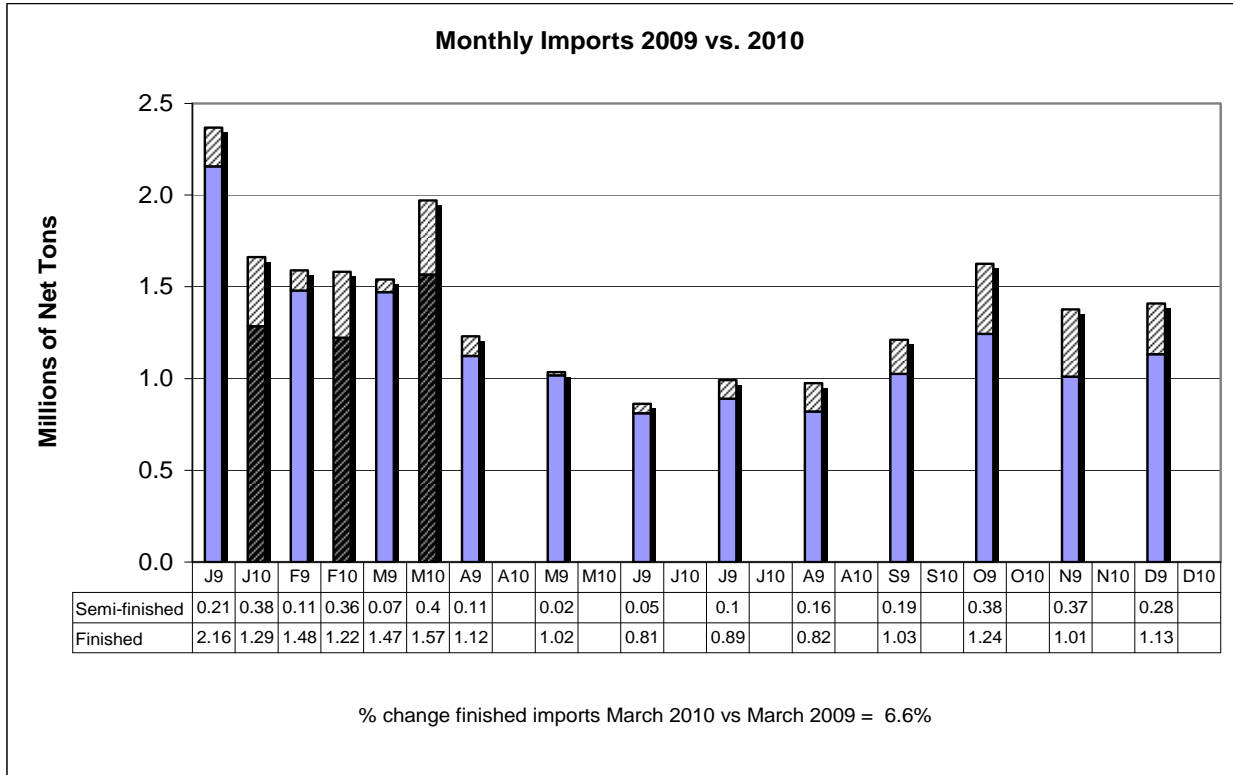
<b>Product</b>	<b>Preliminary 3 Mos. Rolling Avg. Mar. 10 - Jan. 10</b>	<b>Actual 3 Mos. Prior Dec. 09- Oct. 09</b>	<b>Current 3 Months vs 3 Months Prior % Change</b>
Hot Rolled Sheets	190	180	5.3%
Line Pipe	124	118	5.1%
Oil Country Goods	119	49	143.1%
Sheets & Strip Galv HD	118	82	43.8%
Wire Rods	116	97	20.0%
Cold Rolled Sheets	93	100	-7.6%
Hot Rolled Bars	80	73	10.2%
Plates in Coils	66	55	20.9%
Standard Pipe	54	41	31.9%
Wire Drawn	49	49	-0.1%
All Other	348	283	23.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,358</b>	<b>1,128</b>	<b>20.4%</b>

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

<b>Country</b>	<b>Preliminary 3 Mos. Rolling Avg. Mar. 10 - Jan. 10</b>	<b>Actual 3 Mos. Prior Dec. 09- Oct. 09</b>	<b>Current 3 Months vs 3 Months Prior % Change</b>
South Korea	119	107	11.2%
Japan	111	83	33.7%
China	57	54	5.6%
Germany	49	40	22.5%
Australia	44	35	25.7%
Italy	43	47	-8.5%
Turkey	38	37	2.7%
India	36	37	-2.7%
Brazil	29	31	-6.5%
Taiwan	27	20	35.0%
All Other	805	637	26.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,358</b>	<b>1,128</b>	<b>20.4%</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

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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](http://www.steel.org).

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