



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Preliminary Steel Imports Increase 16% in January**  
Highest Total Imports Since January 2009

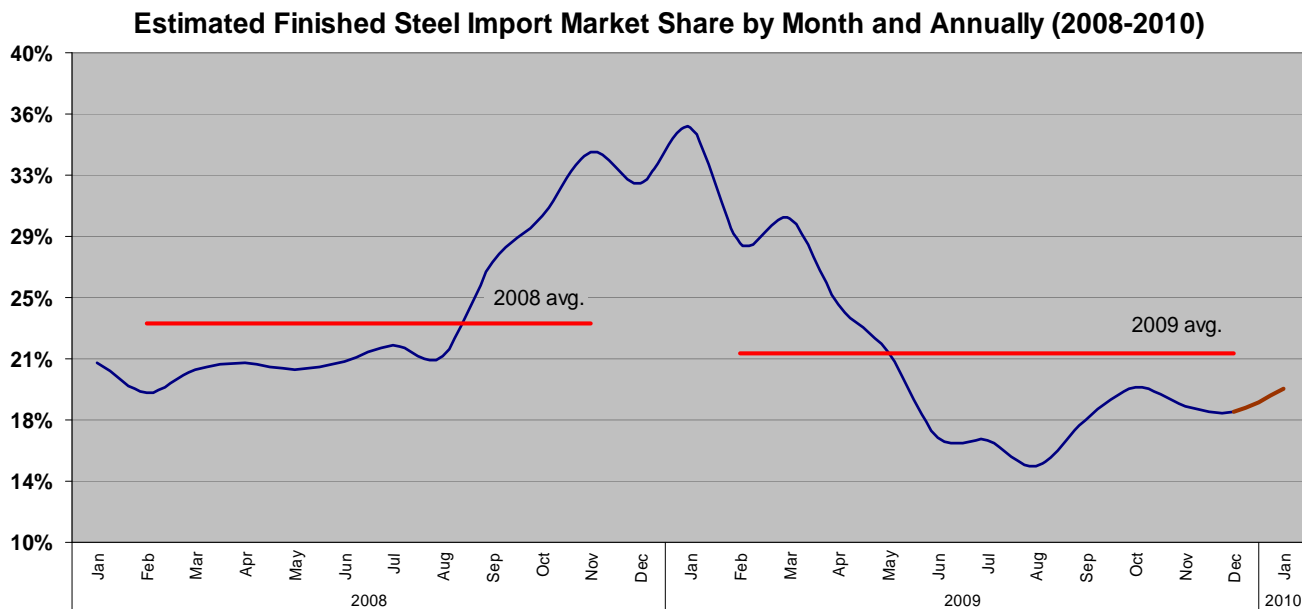
**Washington, D.C.** – Based on preliminary Census Bureau data, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported today that the U.S. imported a total of 1,634,000 net tons (NT) of steel in January, including 1,257,000 NT of finished steel (up 16% and 11%, respectively, vs. December final data). Annualized total and finished steel imports in 2010 would be 19.6 and 15.1 million NT, respectively, up 21% and 6% vs. 2009. Total imports were highest monthly amount since January 2009. Finished imports recorded their highest amount since March of 2009. Finished steel import market share was an estimated 18% in January, which is around 3 percentage points higher than in August 2009.

Key finished steel products with increases in January 2010 compared to December include oil country goods (103%), heavy structural shapes (40%), plates in coils (30%) and sheets & strip hot dipped galvanized (26%).

Steel Mill Product	Jan. (prelim.)	Dec. final	% var Jan. vs. Dec.	(1 mo) YTD 2010	(1 mo) YTD 2009	% var '10 vs. '09	2010 Annualized	2009 12 mo.	% var 2010 ann. vs 2009 12 mo.
Ingots and Billets and Slabs	375,225	276,462	35.7%	375,225	209,917	78.7%	4,502,706	2,014,511	123.5%
Sheets Hot Rolled	167,597	157,462	6.4%	167,597	153,678	9.1%	2,011,166	1,739,209	15.6%
Line Pipe	124,522	112,237	10.9%	124,522	285,640	-56.4%	1,494,267	1,603,357	-6.8%
Oil Country Goods	117,823	57,932	103.4%	117,823	519,315	-77.3%	1,413,871	1,602,111	-11.7%
Sheets & Strip Galv Hot Dipped	100,918	80,300	25.7%	100,918	101,574	-0.6%	1,211,015	1,033,045	17.2%
Sheets Cold Rolled	93,792	108,075	-13.2%	93,792	117,292	-20.0%	1,125,502	1,137,583	-1.1%
Wire Rods	87,135	100,904	-13.6%	87,135	85,314	2.1%	1,045,614	763,391	37.0%
Bars - Hot Rolled	83,991	85,379	-1.6%	83,991	108,047	-22.3%	1,007,888	674,388	49.5%
Standard Pipe	60,074	47,537	26.4%	60,074	113,125	-46.9%	720,886	593,409	21.5%
Plates in Coils	52,282	40,207	30.0%	52,282	61,424	-14.9%	627,387	710,897	-11.7%
Wire Drawn	46,519	45,368	2.5%	46,519	39,280	18.4%	558,234	486,302	14.8%
Plates Cut Lengths	39,212	42,234	-7.2%	39,212	117,532	-66.6%	470,545	530,221	-11.3%
Sheets & Strip All Other Metal.	33,380	27,002	23.6%	33,380	42,969	-22.3%	400,556	298,070	34.4%
Tin Plate	32,892	31,230	5.3%	32,892	21,401	53.7%	394,703	322,955	22.2%
Structural Shapes Heavy	31,861	22,699	40.4%	31,861	108,059	-70.5%	382,327	371,418	2.9%
Bars - Reinforcing	24,342	21,648	12.4%	24,342	54,247	-55.1%	292,105	419,426	-30.4%
Mechanical Tubing	23,338	20,054	16.4%	23,338	49,888	-53.2%	280,060	332,661	-15.8%
All Other	139,087	133,357	4.3%	139,087	179,790	-22.6%	1,669,035	1,581,951	5.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,633,990</b>	<b>1,410,087</b>	<b>15.9%</b>	<b>1,633,990</b>	<b>2,368,492</b>	<b>-31.0%</b>	<b>19,607,867</b>	<b>16,214,905</b>	<b>20.9%</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL Finished Imports</b>	<b>1,257,050</b>	<b>1,132,137</b>	<b>11.0%</b>	<b>1,257,050</b>	<b>2,156,462</b>	<b>-41.7%</b>	<b>15,084,605</b>	<b>14,178,577</b>	<b>6.4%</b>

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In January, the largest volumes of finished steel imports from offshore were from South Korea (150,000 NT, up 45%), Japan (78,000 NT, down 24%), China (66,000 NT, up 40%), Italy (48,000 NT, down 2%) and Germany (37,000 NT, down 13%). 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	Jan 2010	Dec. 2009	% incr. Jan. vs Dec.	(1 mo) YTD 2010	(1 mo) YTD 2009	% incr. '10 YTD vs. '09	2010 full year (est.)	2009 Annual	% incr. 2010 an. vs. '09
South Korea	150	104	<b>44.6%</b>	150	260	<b>-42.1%</b>	1,805	1,323	<b>36.5%</b>
Japan	78	103	<b>-24.1%</b>	78	148	<b>-47.3%</b>	936	981	<b>-4.6%</b>
China	66	47	<b>40.2%</b>	66	436	<b>-84.9%</b>	791	1,463	<b>-46.0%</b>
Italy	48	49	<b>-2.0%</b>	48	30	<b>60.8%</b>	579	323	<b>79.4%</b>
Germany	37	43	<b>-13.0%</b>	37	102	<b>-63.5%</b>	448	495	<b>-9.3%</b>
United Kingdom	37	20	<b>82.6%</b>	37	19	<b>94.6%</b>	439	179	<b>145.9%</b>
Taiwan	28	20	<b>40.9%</b>	28	77	<b>-63.9%</b>	334	371	<b>-9.9%</b>
Australia	28	26	<b>4.6%</b>	28	27	<b>1.3%</b>	332	285	<b>16.6%</b>
All Other	785	720	<b>9.0%</b>	785	1,057	<b>-25.7%</b>	9,419	8,760	<b>7.5%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>1,132</b>	<b>11.0%</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>2,156</b>	<b>-41.7%</b>	<b>15,085</b>	<b>14,179</b>	<b>6.4%</b>

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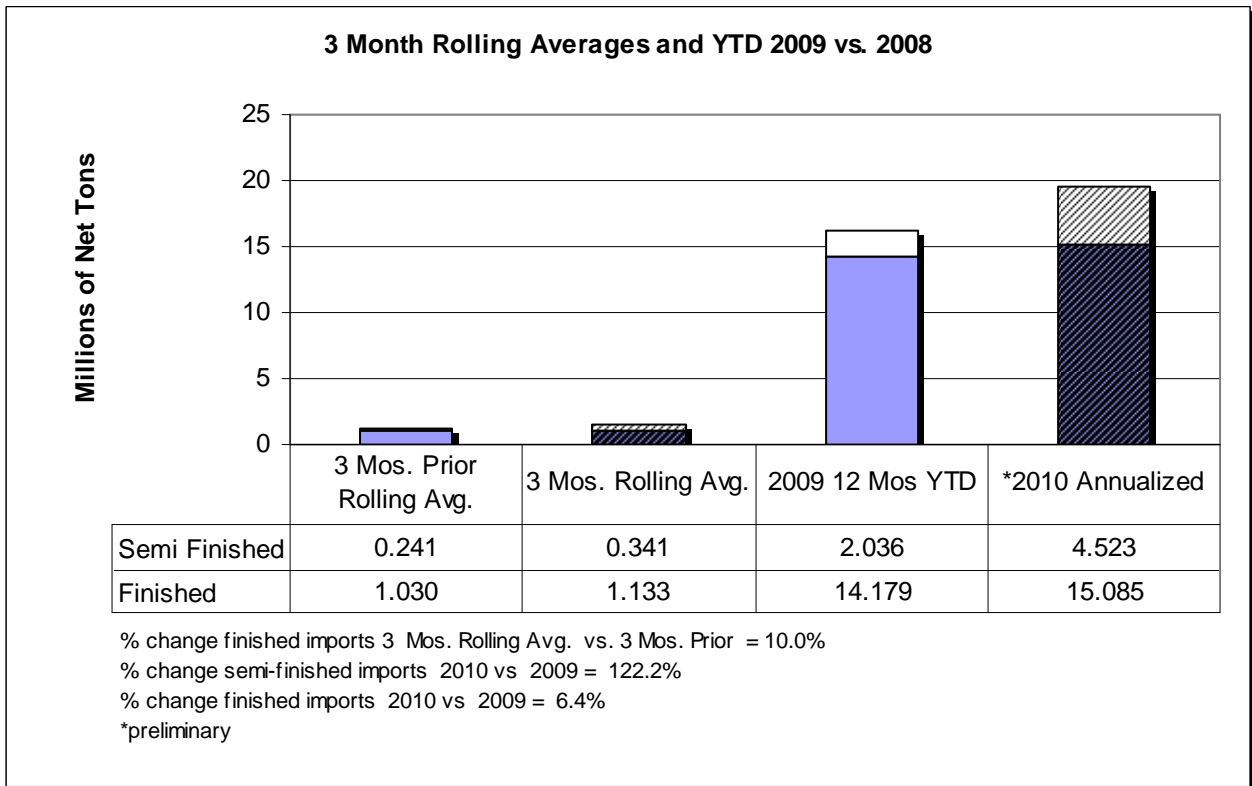
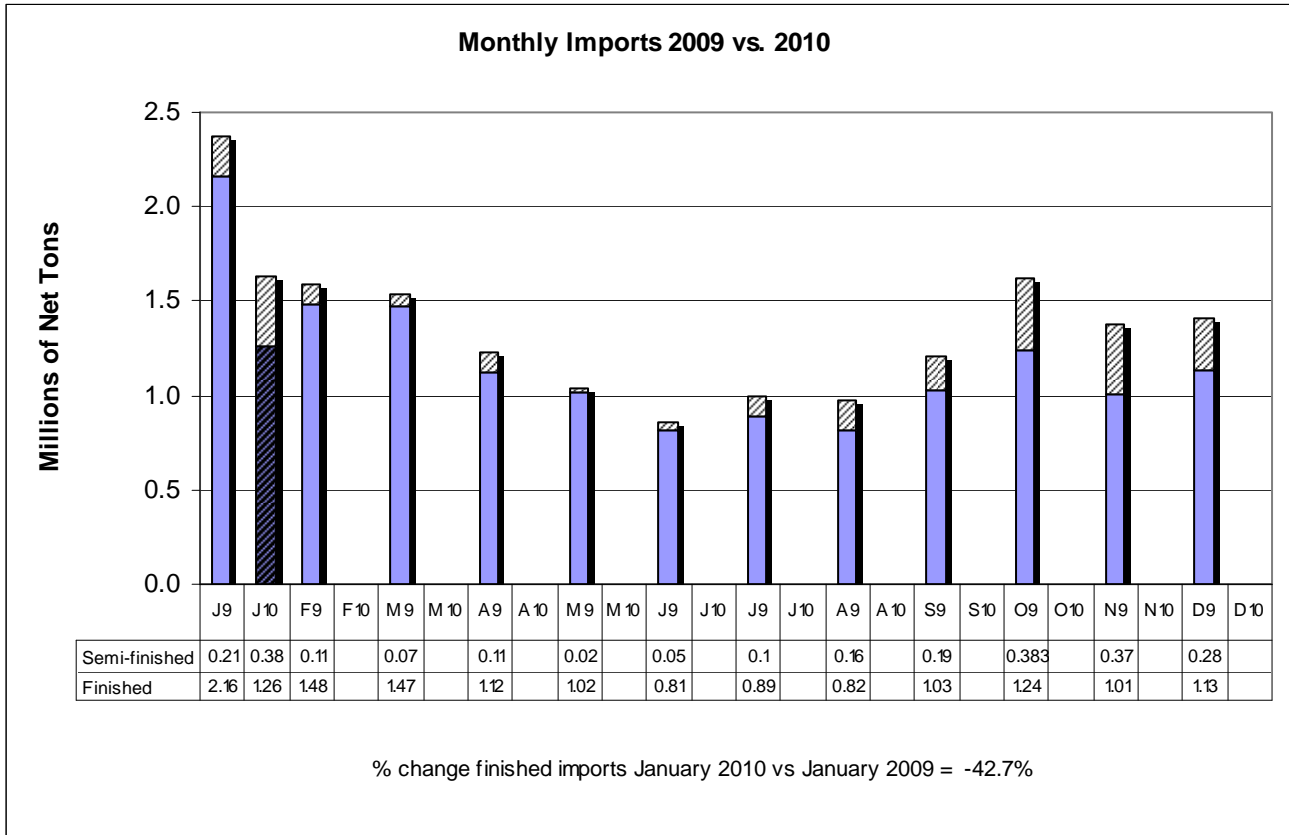
**U.S. IMPORTS OF FINISHED STEEL MILL PRODUCTS  
3 MONTHS ROLLING AVERAGE  
(thousands of net tons)**

<b>Product</b>	<b>Preliminary 3 Mos. Rolling Avg. Jan. 10 - Nov. 09</b>	<b>Actual 3 Mos. Prior Oct. 09- Aug. 09</b>	<b>Current 3 Months vs 3 Months Prior % Change</b>
Sheets Hot Rolled	175	161	8.6%
Line Pipe	116	90	28.5%
Sheets Cold Rolled	100	91	9.0%
Sheets & Strip Galv Hot Dipped	85	78	8.9%
Wire Rods	85	93	-9.1%
Bars - Hot Rolled	77	53	45.6%
Oil Country Goods	74	31	136.7%
Standard Pipe	49	38	29.0%
Wire Drawn	46	45	2.1%
Plates in Coils	45	70	-36.3%
All Other	282	279	1.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>10.0%</b>

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(thousands of net tons)**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Preliminary 3 Mos. Rolling Avg. Jan. 10 - Nov. 09</b>	<b>Actual 3 Mos. Prior Oct. 09- Aug. 09</b>	<b>Current 3 Months vs 3 Months Prior % Change</b>
South Korea	120	88	37.0%
Japan	79	59	33.4%
China	58	43	35.6%
Italy	47	38	23.6%
Germany	37	33	13.3%
Netherlands	37	50	-25.8%
Brazil	32	33	-1.4%
Australia	27	33	-17.9%
India	26	33	-22.0%
United Kingdom	25	17	50.0%
All Other	644	604	6.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>10.0%</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce



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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