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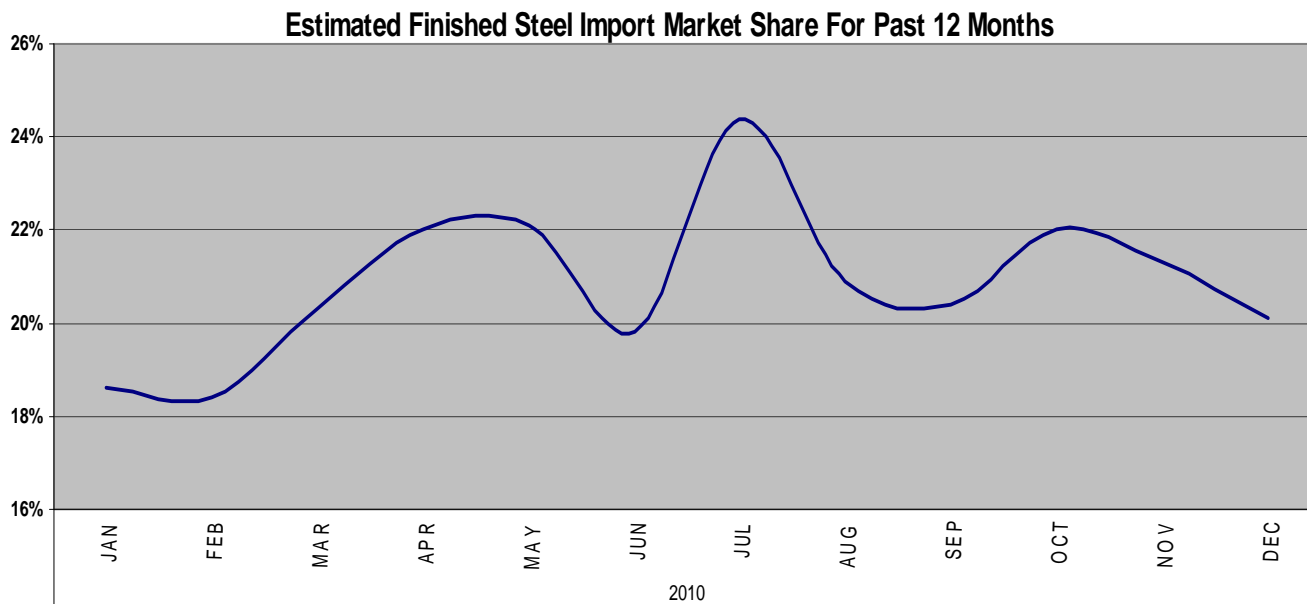
Preliminary Finished Steel Imports in 2010 Increase 33% vs. 2009
Import Market Share at 21%

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 1,811,000 net tons (NT) of steel in December, including 1,445,000 NT of finished steel (up 1% and down 3%, respectively, from November final data). Full-year total and finished steel imports in 2010 are 23.8 and 18.8 million NT, respectively, up 47% and 33% vs. 2009. In the first half 2010, finished steel import share hit a high of 24% in July, and remained above 20% for the rest of the year. For full-year 2010, finished steel import market share was an estimated 21%.

Key finished steel products with significant import increases in December 2010 compared to November include cut length plates (up 37%), hot rolled bars (up 25%) and line pipe (up 17%). Many key finished steel products also registered large import increases for full-year 2010 vs. the year before, including wire rods (up 73%) , hot rolled bars (up 56%), oil country goods (up 48%), plates in coils (up 40%), hot rolled sheets (up 38%) and hot dipped galvanized sheet and strip (up 37%).

Steel Mill Product	Dec. (prelim.)	Nov. final	% var Dec. vs. Nov.	(12 mo) YTD 2010	(12 mo) YTD 2009	% var '10 vs. '09	2010 Annualized	2009 12 mo.	% var 2010 ann. vs 2009 12 mo.
Ingot and Billets and Slabs	360,867	285,812	26.3%	5,004,070	2,014,511	148.4%	5,004,070	2,014,511	148.4%
Sheets Hot Rolled	216,939	210,655	3.0%	2,397,440	1,739,209	37.8%	2,397,440	1,739,209	37.8%
Oil Country Goods	162,448	218,354	-25.6%	2,375,908	1,602,111	48.3%	2,375,908	1,602,111	48.3%
Line Pipe	90,475	77,662	16.5%	1,490,368	1,603,357	-7.0%	1,490,368	1,603,357	-7.0%
Sheets & Strip Galv Hot	78,013	95,051	-17.9%	1,415,630	1,033,045	37.0%	1,415,630	1,033,045	37.0%
Wire Rods	80,433	93,344	-13.8%	1,317,772	763,391	72.6%	1,317,772	763,391	72.6%
Sheets Cold Rolled	114,980	114,102	0.8%	1,220,997	1,137,583	7.3%	1,220,997	1,137,583	7.3%
Bars - Hot Rolled	97,446	78,014	24.9%	1,049,000	674,388	55.5%	1,049,000	674,388	55.5%
Plates in Coils	67,111	72,347	-7.2%	997,670	710,897	40.3%	997,670	710,897	40.3%
Standard Pipe	51,990	69,704	-25.4%	774,090	593,409	30.4%	774,090	593,409	30.4%
Plates Cut Lengths	73,174	53,571	36.6%	748,391	530,221	41.1%	748,391	530,221	41.1%
Wire Drawn	46,351	48,568	-4.6%	630,674	486,302	29.7%	630,674	486,302	29.7%
Structural Shapes Heavy	37,618	43,943	-14.4%	517,660	371,418	39.4%	517,660	371,418	39.4%
Bars - Reinforcing	35,252	32,748	7.6%	516,370	419,426	23.1%	516,370	419,426	23.1%
Tin Plate	61,039	40,405	51.1%	506,437	322,955	56.8%	506,437	322,955	56.8%
Mechanical Tubing	41,103	42,853	-4.1%	425,529	332,661	27.9%	425,529	332,661	27.9%
Sheets & Strip All Other	22,420	31,599	-29.0%	413,521	298,070	38.7%	413,521	298,070	38.7%
All Other	172,977	177,734	-2.7%	2,066,743	1,581,949	30.6%	2,066,743	1,581,949	30.6%
TOTAL	1,810,636	1,786,466	1.4%	23,868,270	16,214,903	47.2%	23,868,270	16,214,903	47.2%
SUBTOTAL Finished Imports	1,445,063	1,497,243	-3.5%	18,797,140	14,178,577	32.6%	18,797,140	14,178,577	32.6%

In December, the largest volumes of finished steel imports from offshore were from South Korea (165,000, up 8%), Japan (101,000 NT, down 2%), Germany (65,000 down 6%), The Netherlands (65,000 NT, up 2%) and China (55,000, down 21%). For full-year 2010, the largest volumes of finished steel imports from offshore were from South Korea (2 million NT, up 52%), Japan (1,324,000 NT, up 35%), Germany (879,000 NT, up 78%), China (849,000 NT, down 42%) and India (713,000 NT, up 23%). Below are charts on estimated steel import market share in recent months and on finished steel imports from offshore by country.



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

COUNTRY	Dec. 2010	Nov. 2010	% incr. Dec. vs Nov.	(12 mo.) YTD 2010	(12 mo.) YTD 2009	% incr. '10 YTD vs. '09	2010 full year (est.)	2009 Annual	% incr. 2010 an. vs. '09
South Korea	165	153	7.8%	2,011	1,323	52.0%	2,011	1,323	52.0%
Japan	101	103	-2.1%	1,324	981	35.0%	1,324	981	35.0%
Germany	65	69	-6.0%	879	495	77.7%	879	495	77.7%
China	55	70	-21.3%	849	1,463	-42.0%	849	1,463	-42.0%
India	26	46	-42.2%	713	581	22.6%	713	581	22.6%
Turkey	20	37	-46.4%	582	492	18.3%	582	492	18.3%
Netherlands	65	64	1.9%	554	375	47.8%	554	375	47.8%
All Other	948	955	-0.8%	11,886	8,470	40.3%	11,886	8,470	40.3%
Total	1,445	1,497	-3.5%	18,797	14,179	32.6%	18,797	14,179	32.6%

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

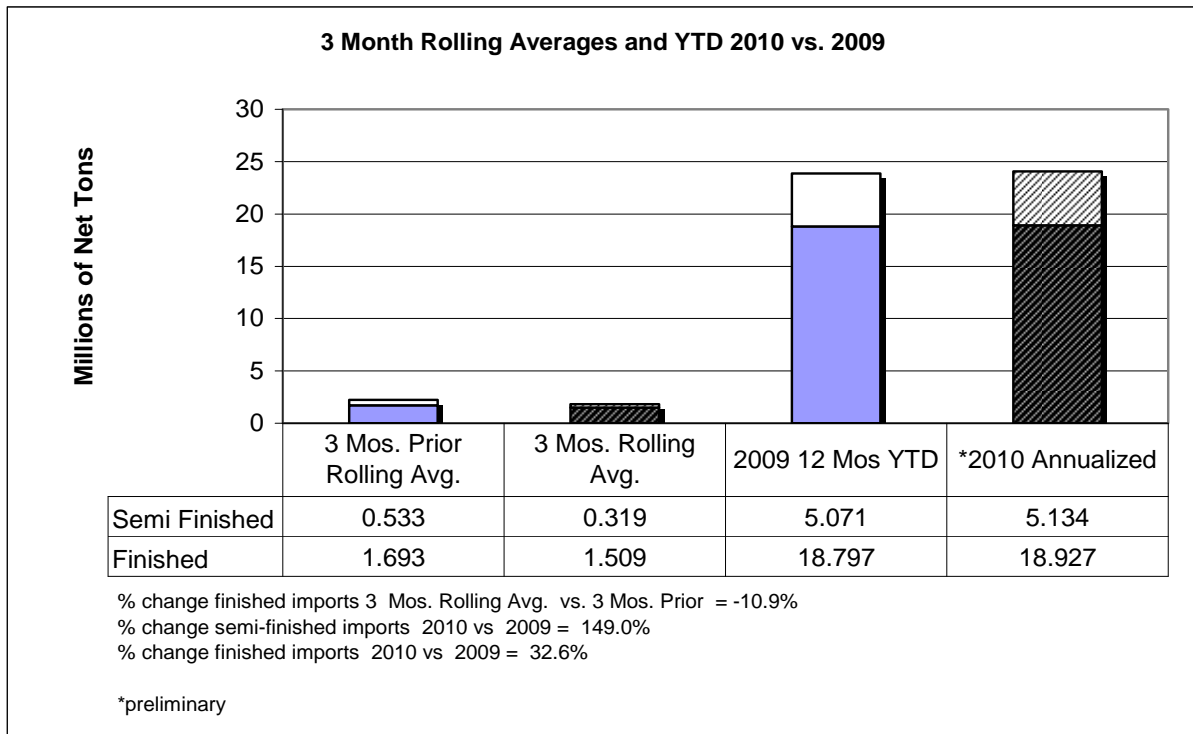
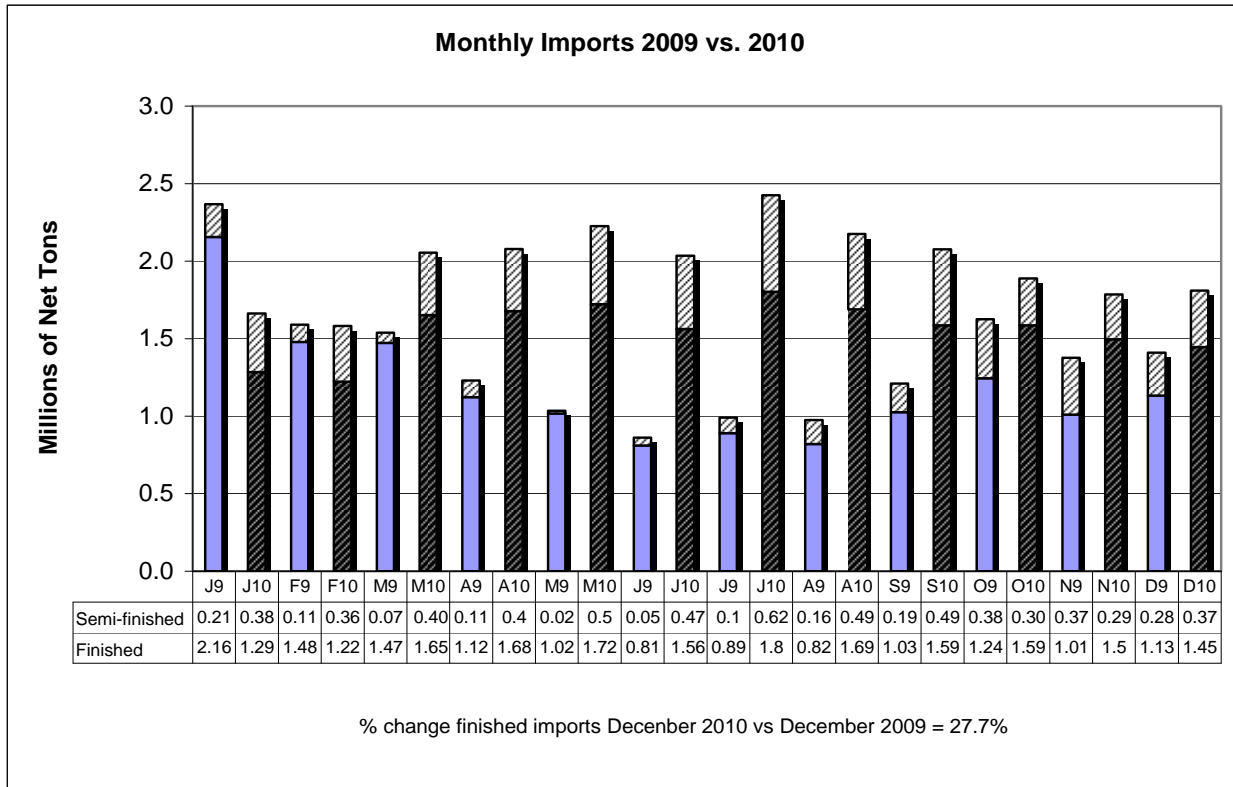
Product	Preliminary 3 Mos. Rolling Avg. Dec. 10 - Oct. 10	Actual 3 Mos. Prior Oct. 10 - Jul. 10	Current 3 Months vs 3 Months Prior % Change
Oil Country Goods	209	252	-17.0%
Sheets Hot Rolled	199	210	-5.2%
Sheets Cold Rolled	115	101	13.3%
Sheets & Strip Galv HD	97	122	-20.3%
Line Pipe	89	136	-34.5%
Bars - Hot Rolled	87	94	-7.3%
Wire Rods	85	115	-25.7%
Plates in Coils	77	81	-5.8%
Standard Pipe	71	68	4.9%
Plates Cut Lengths	62	63	-2.1%
All Other	417	450	-7.3%
Total	1,509	1,693	-10.9%

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

Country	Preliminary 3 Mos. Rolling Avg. Dec. 10 - Oct. 10	Actual 3 Mos. Prior Oct. 10 - Jul. 10	Current 3 Months vs 3 Months Prior % Change
South Korea	173	201	-13.6%
Japan	108	126	-14.3%
Netherlands	61	53	13.8%
Germany	72	71	1.6%
China	60	98	-38.5%
Australia	41	43	-3.4%
Brazil	27	25	5.9%
Taiwan	47	49	-3.5%
United Kingdom	28	29	-5.2%
India	48	76	-36.6%
All Other	844	922	-8.5%
Total	1,509	1,693	-10.9%

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 140 associate and affiliate members who are suppliers to or customers of the steel industry. AISI's member companies represent approximately 80 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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