

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Preliminary Steel Imports Increase 33% in March**  
*Import Market Share Rises to 21%*

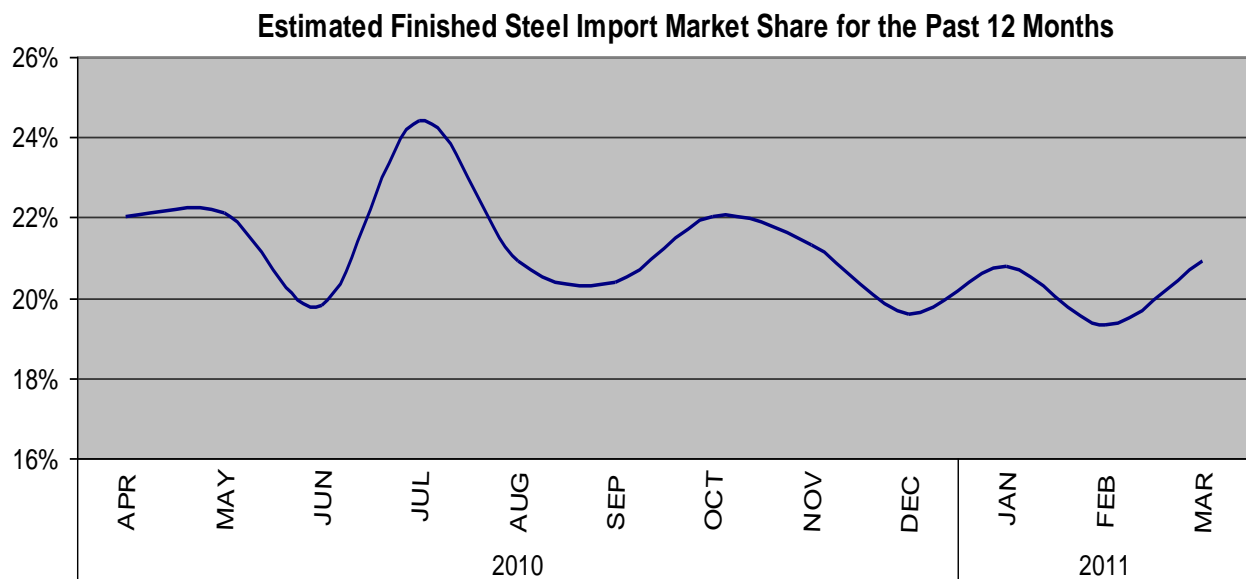
**Washington, D.C.** – Based on preliminary Census Bureau data, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported today that the U.S. imported a total of 2,446,000 net tons (NT) of steel in March, including 1,850,000 NT of finished steel (up 33% and 29%, respectively, from February final data). Annualized total and finished steel imports in 2011 would be 25.6 and 20.0 million NT, respectively, up 7% and 6% vs. 2010. Finished steel import market share in the first quarter was an estimated 20% and rose to 21% in March, the same level as it was for full year 2010.

Key finished steel products with significant import increases in March 2011 compared to February include heavy structural shapes (up 124%), cold rolled sheets (up 75%), hot dipped galvanized sheet and strip (up 44%), oil country goods (up 32%) and hot rolled sheets (up 29%). Major products with significant year-to-date import increases vs. the same period last year include oil country goods (up 85%) and reinforcing bar (up 74%).

Steel Mill Product	Mar. (prelim.)	Feb. final	% var Mar. vs. Feb.	(3 mo) YTD 2011	(3 mo) YTD 2010	% var '11 vs. 10	2011 Annualized	2010 12 mo.	% var 2011 ann. vs 2010 12 mo.
Ingots and Billets and Slabs	592,279	402,463	47.2%	1,408,146	1,134,344	24.1%	5,632,585	5,005,064	12.5%
Oil Country Goods	241,297	183,005	31.9%	661,603	357,618	85.0%	2,646,412	2,384,004	11.0%
Hot Rolled Sheets	219,285	169,878	29.1%	609,237	571,281	6.6%	2,436,947	2,397,458	1.6%
Line Pipe	134,811	128,619	4.8%	394,904	393,223	0.4%	1,579,615	1,490,643	6.0%
Cold Rolled Sheets	155,983	89,156	75.0%	342,784	279,444	22.7%	1,371,136	1,221,365	12.3%
Bars - Hot Rolled	113,237	89,571	26.4%	310,781	241,201	28.8%	1,243,122	1,049,046	18.5%
Sheets & Strip Galv HD	111,219	77,135	44.2%	287,382	353,180	-18.6%	1,149,529	1,420,686	-19.1%
Wire Rods	92,520	70,142	31.9%	271,278	349,392	-22.4%	1,085,112	1,317,772	-17.7%
Plates in Coils	75,724	58,723	29.0%	217,224	198,712	9.3%	868,895	1,022,372	-15.0%
Plates Cut Lengths	77,156	70,606	9.3%	216,321	186,130	16.2%	865,285	749,357	15.5%
Standard Pipe	77,172	57,838	33.4%	212,793	163,527	30.1%	851,171	777,599	9.5%
Bars - Reinforcing	62,270	83,240	-25.2%	196,564	113,013	73.9%	786,258	516,678	52.2%
Wire Drawn	58,235	48,976	18.9%	159,767	146,730	8.9%	639,068	631,547	1.2%
Mechanical Tubing	58,043	40,843	42.1%	149,896	77,642	93.1%	599,583	425,779	40.8%
Structural Shapes Heavy	61,906	27,588	124.4%	126,688	82,999	52.6%	506,750	522,001	-2.9%
Sheets & Strip All Other Ctd.	50,057	35,835	39.7%	120,402	80,902	48.8%	481,608	413,537	16.5%
Tin Plate	44,199	23,048	91.8%	102,913	100,623	2.3%	411,651	506,437	-18.7%
All Other	220,937	188,018	17.5%	619,152	468,885	32.0%	2,476,614	2,077,806	19.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,446,330</b>	<b>1,844,684</b>	<b>32.6%</b>	<b>6,407,835</b>	<b>5,298,846</b>	<b>20.9%</b>	<b>25,631,341</b>	<b>23,929,151</b>	<b>7.1%</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL Finished Imports</b>	<b>1,850,473</b>	<b>1,438,290</b>	<b>28.7%</b>	<b>4,988,885</b>	<b>4,158,987</b>	<b>20.0%</b>	<b>19,955,540</b>	<b>18,857,005</b>	<b>5.8%</b>

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In March, the largest volumes of finished steel imports from offshore were from South Korea (229,000, up 23%), Japan (113,000 NT, down 13%), Germany (96,000 up 35%), Brazil (73,000 NT, up 734%) and China (67,000, up 37%). For the first 3 months of 2011, the largest offshore suppliers were South Korea (630,000, up 76%), Japan (372,000 NT, up 11%) and Germany (264,000 NT, up 29%). 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	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2010	% incr. Mar. vs Feb.	(3 mo.) YTD 2011	(3 mo.) YTD 2010	% incr. '11 YTD vs. '10	2011 full year (est.)	2010 Annual	% incr. 2011 an. vs. '10
South Korea	229	187	<b>22.9%</b>	630	358	<b>75.8%</b>	2,519	2,041	<b>23.4%</b>
Japan	113	130	<b>-13.0%</b>	372	334	<b>11.1%</b>	1,486	1,325	<b>12.1%</b>
Germany	96	71	<b>35.1%</b>	264	205	<b>28.8%</b>	1,055	879	<b>20.0%</b>
China	67	49	<b>37.1%</b>	175	172	<b>1.8%</b>	699	858	<b>-18.6%</b>
Australia	34	53	<b>-36.5%</b>	161	132	<b>21.3%</b>	643	519	<b>23.8%</b>
Turkey	49	70	<b>-29.5%</b>	154	115	<b>34.4%</b>	618	582	<b>6.3%</b>
Brazil	73	9	<b>733.5%</b>	104	87	<b>20.1%</b>	417	332	<b>25.6%</b>
All Other	1,190	871	<b>36.6%</b>	3,130	2,756	<b>13.6%</b>	12,519	12,321	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,850</b>	<b>1,438</b>	<b>28.6%</b>	<b>4,989</b>	<b>4,159</b>	<b>20.0%</b>	<b>19,956</b>	<b>18,857</b>	<b>5.8%</b>

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

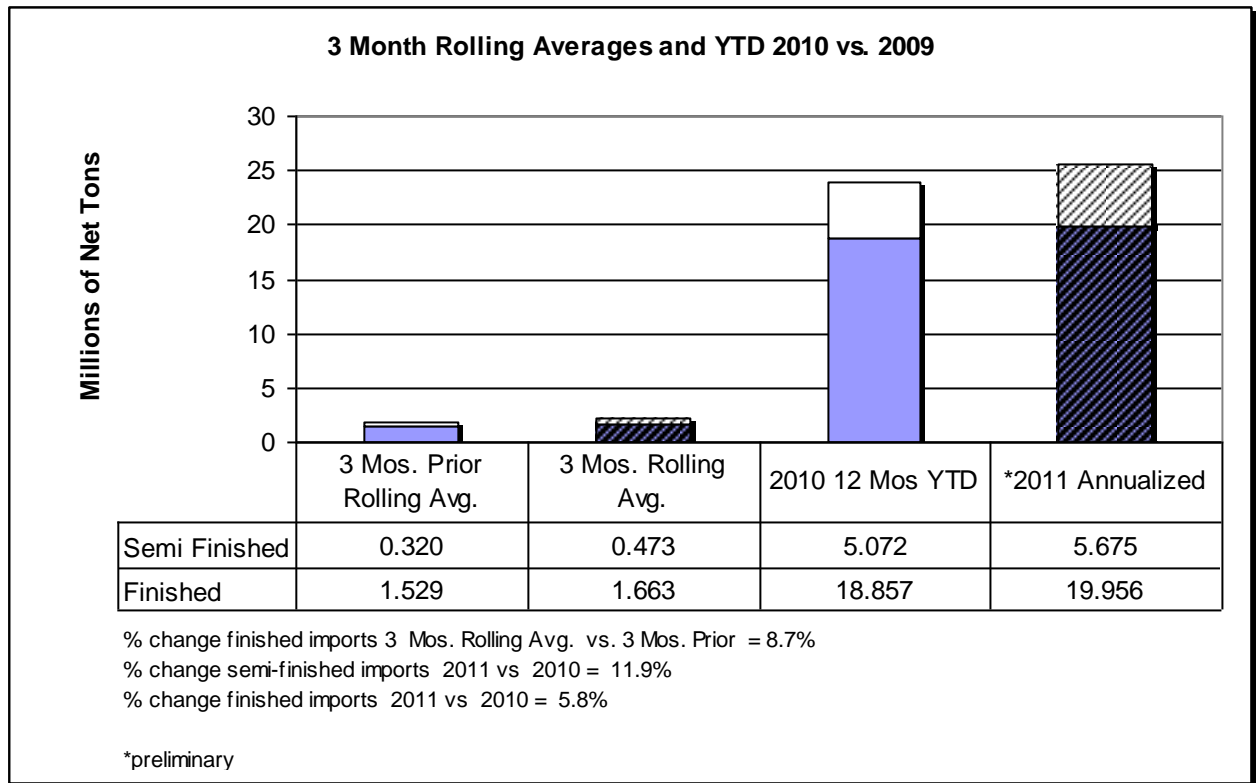
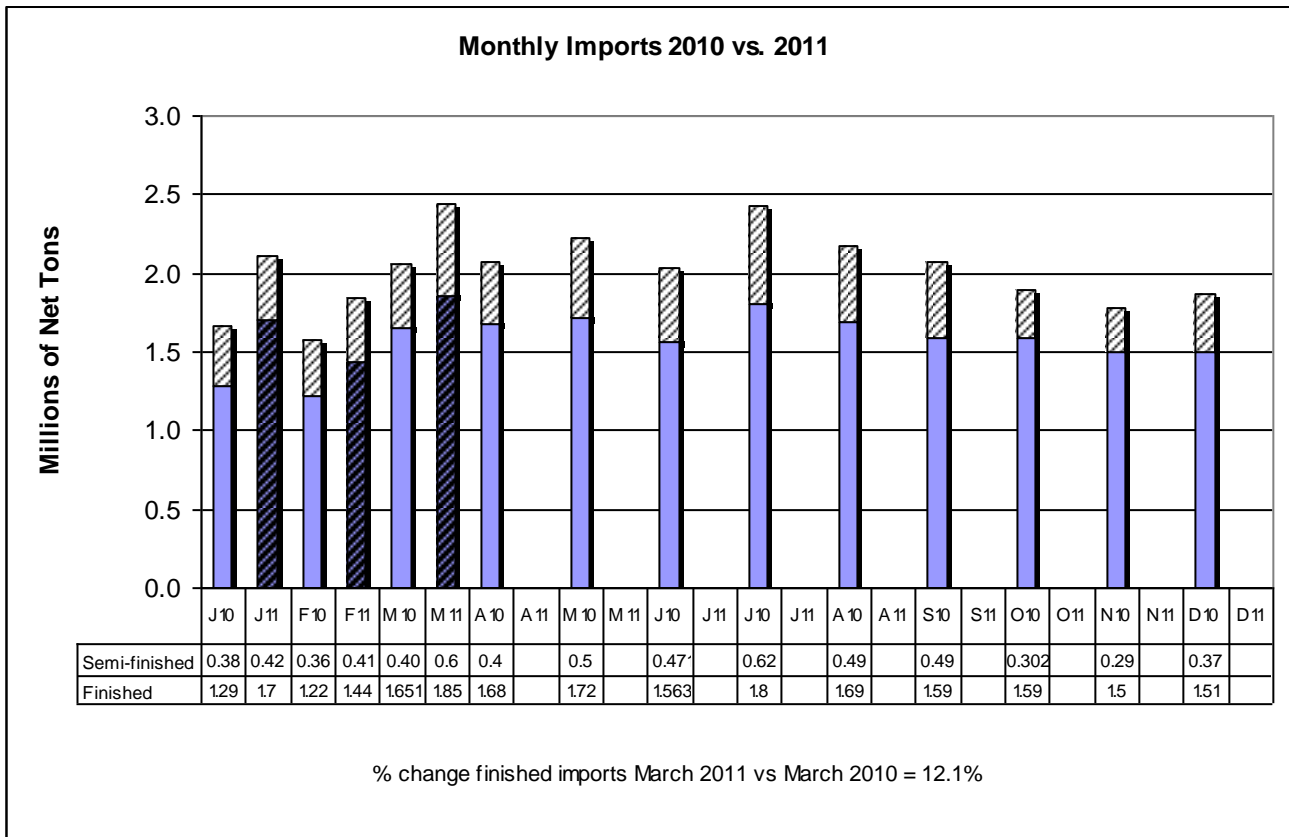
<b>Product</b>	<b>Preliminary 3 Mos. Rolling Avg. Mar. 11 - Jan. 11</b>	<b>Actual 3 Mos. Prior Dec. 10 - Oct. 10</b>	<b>Current 3 Months vs 3 Months Prior % Change</b>
Oil Country Goods	221	212	4.2%
Sheets Hot Rolled	203	199	2.0%
Line Pipe	132	89	48.3%
Sheets Cold Rolled	114	115	-0.9%
Bars - Hot Rolled	104	87	19.5%
Sheets & Strip Galv Hot	96	99	-3.0%
Wire Rods	90	85	5.9%
Plates in Coils	72	85	-15.3%
Plates Cut Lengths	72	62	16.1%
Bars - Reinforcing	66	34	94.1%
All Other	493	462	6.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,663</b>	<b>1,529</b>	<b>8.8%</b>

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

<b>Country</b>	<b>Preliminary 3 Mos. Rolling Avg. Mar. 11 - Jan. 11</b>	<b>Actual 3 Mos. Prior Dec. 10 - Oct. 10</b>	<b>Current 3 Months vs 3 Months Prior % Change</b>
South Korea	210	183	14.8%
Japan	124	109	13.8%
Germany	88	72	22.2%
China	58	64	-9.4%
Australia	54	41	31.7%
Turkey	52	29	79.3%
Taiwan	47	47	0.0%
India	41	48	-14.6%
Brazil	35	27	29.6%
United Kingdom	33	28	17.9%
All Other	921	881	4.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,663</b>	<b>1,529</b>	<b>8.8%</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 25 member companies, including integrated and electric furnace steelmakers, and 118 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](http://www.steel.org).

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