American Iron and Steel Institute

News Release

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Finished Steel Imports Rise by 31% in January

Import Market Share Increases to 23%

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 2,546,000 net tons (NT) of steel in January, including 2,060,000 NT of finished steel (up 23% and 31%, respectively, from December final data). Annualized total and finished steel imports in 2012 would be 30.6 and 24.7 million NT, up 7% and 13%, respectively, vs. 2011. Finished steel import market share in January was an estimated 23%, up 1 percentage point from full-year 2011 and up 4 percentage points from December.

Key finished steel products with significant import increases in January 2012 compared to December are line pipe (up 60%), cold rolled sheets (up 59%), reinforcing bars (up 58%), oil country goods (up 46%), cut length plates (up 42%) and standard pipe (up 42%).

Steel Mill Product	Jan. (prelim.)	Dec. final	% var Jan. vs. Dec.	(1 mo) YTD 2012	(1 mo) YTD 2011	% var '12 vs. '11	2012 Annualized	2011 12 mo.	% var 2012 ann. vs 2011 12 mo.
Ingots and Billets and Slabs	484,036	484,573	-0.1%	484,036	413,404	17.1%	5,808,428	6,624,734	-12.3%
Oil Country Goods	299,199	205,491	45.6%	299,199	237,301	26.1%	3,590,386	2,908,517	23.4%
Line Pipe	222,997	139,233	60.2%	222,997	131,473	69.6%	2,675,967	1,974,263	35.5%
Sheets Hot Rolled	204,528	192,285	6.4%	204,528	220,075	-7.1%	2,454,333	2,664,061	-7.9%
Sheets Cold Rolled	148,727	93,578	58.9%	148,727	97,644	52.3%	1,784,729	1,392,692	28.1%
Plates Cut Lengths	117,972	82,969	42.2%	117,972	68,559	72.1%	1,415,667	1,168,749	21.1%
Sheets & Strip Galv Hot Dipped	116,583	111,690	4.4%	116,583	99,028	17.7%	1,398,993	1,461,926	-4.3%
Bars - Reinforcing	113,358	71,702	58.1%	113,358	51,054	122.0%	1,360,295	655,419	107.5%
Bars - Hot Rolled	104,709	103,602	1.1%	104,709	107,972	-3.0%	1,256,503	1,325,170	-5.2%
Plates in Coils	96,717	86,412	11.9%	96,717	82,777	16.8%	1,160,602	1,359,883	-14.7%
Standard Pipe	74,031	52,194	41.8%	74,031	77,783	-4.8%	888,374	832,142	6.8%
Sheets & Strip All Other Metallic	69,754	41,722	67.2%	69,754	34,511	102.1%	837,052	532,531	57.2%
Structural Shapes Heavy	62,884	21,659	190.3%	62,884	37,193	69.1%	754,605	512,416	47.3%
Wire Rods	60,891	69,652	-12.6%	60,891	108,616	-43.9%	730,694	1,015,109	-28.0%
Mechanical Tubing	52,442	54,397	-3.6%	52,442	51,009	2.8%	629,298	615,363	2.3%
Wire Drawn	52,031	44,700	16.4%	52,031	52,537	-1.0%	624,378	635,807	-1.8%
Tin Plate	42,812	28,338	51.1%	42,812	35,666	20.0%	513,740	403,008	27.5%
All Other	222,612	179,949	23.7%	222,612	210,199	5.9%	2,671,350	2,433,486	9.8%
TOTAL	**2,546,283**	**2,064,146**	**23.4%**	**2,546,283**	**2,116,801**	**20.3%**	**30,555,394**	**28,515,276**	**7.2%**
SUBTOTAL Finished Imports	**2,060,080**	**1,577,107**	**30.6%**	**2,060,080**	**1,700,103**	**21.2%**	**24,720,958**	**21,834,625**	**13.2%**

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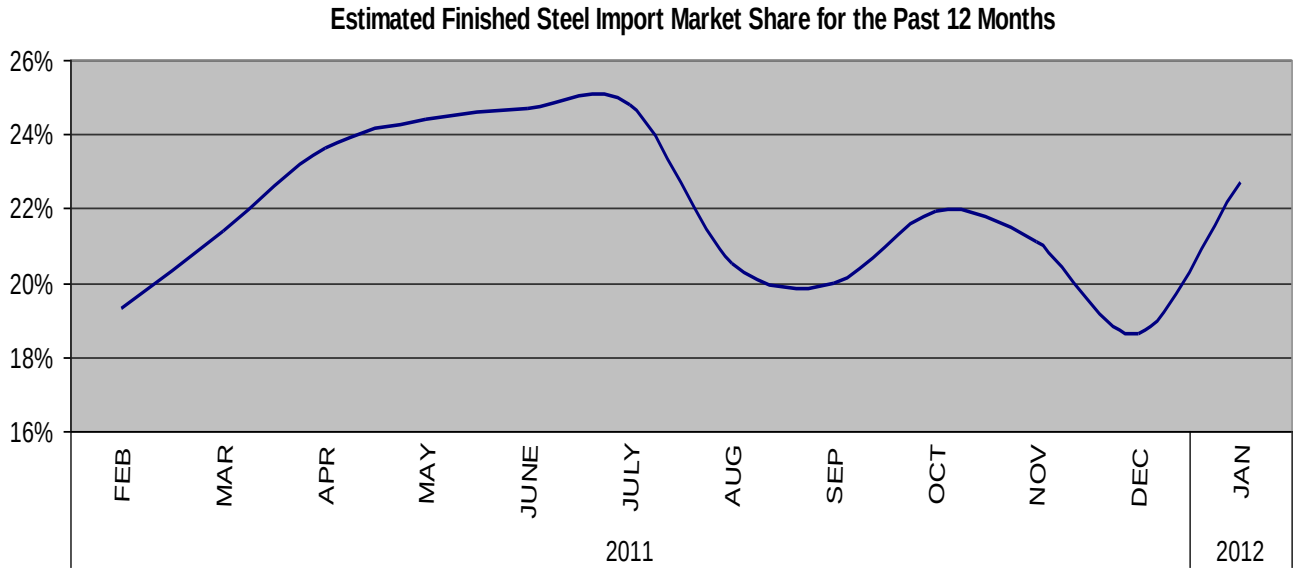
In January vs. the month before, the largest volumes of finished steel imports from offshore were from South Korea (314,000, up 55%), Turkey (142,000 NT, up 71%), Japan (128,000 up 0.2%), Germany (107,000 NT, up 25%) and China (100,000, up 15%). Below are charts on estimated steel import market share 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	Jan. 2012	Dec. 2011	% incr. Jan. vs Dec.	(1 mo.) YTD 2012	(1 mo.) YTD 2011	% incr. '12 YTD vs. '11	2012 full year (est.)	2011 Annual	% incr. 2012 an. vs. '11
South Korea	314	203	**55.0%**	314	214	**47.1%**	3,770	2,837	**32.9%**
Turkey	142	83	**70.8%**	142	36	**297.7%**	1,698	733	**131.6%**
Japan	128	128	**0.2%**	128	129	**-0.6%**	1,541	1,477	**4.3%**
Germany	107	85	**25.3%**	107	98	**9.4%**	1,281	954	**34.4%**
China	100	87	**14.6%**	100	59	**70.3%**	1,197	1,231	**-2.8%**
Taiwan	76	40	**88.2%**	76	39	**92.9%**	908	647	**40.3%**
Netherlands	62	49	**26.2%**	62	32	**94.1%**	745	570	**30.6%**
All Other	1,132	902	**25.5%**	1,132	1,094	**3.4%**	13,581	13,384	**1.5%**
Total	2,060	1,577	**30.6%**	2,060	1,700	**21.2%**	24,721	21,835	**13.2%**

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

Product	Preliminary 3 Mos. Rolling Avg. Jan. 12 - Nov. 11	Actual 3 Mos. Prior Oct. 11 - Aug. 11	Current 3 Months vs 3 Months Prior % Change
Oil Country Goods	249	266	-6.4%
Sheets Hot Rolled	197	200	-1.5%
Line Pipe	171	180	-5.0%
Sheets Cold Rolled	116	110	5.5%
Sheets & Strip Galv Hot	114	120	-5.0%
Plates in Coils	104	115	-9.6%
Plates Cut Lengths	102	125	-18.4%
Bars - Hot Rolled	102	107	-4.7%
Bars - Reinforcing	74	40	85.0%
Standard Pipe	62	64	-3.1%
All Other	472	480	-1.7%
Total	1,763	1,807	-2.4%

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

Country	Preliminary 3 Mos. Rolling Avg. Jan. 12 - Nov. 11	Actual 3 Mos. Prior Oct. 11 - Aug. 11	Current 3 Months vs 3 Months Prior % Change
South Korea	237	209	13.4%
Japan	124	113	9.7%
China	90	115	-21.7%
Germany	86	77	11.7%
Turkey	83	47	76.6%
Netherlands	73	48	52.1%
Taiwan	52	50	4.0%
India	52	59	-11.9%
Russia	31	54	-42.6%
Italy	29	17	70.6%
All Other	906	1,018	-11.0%
Total	1,763	1,807	-2.4%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

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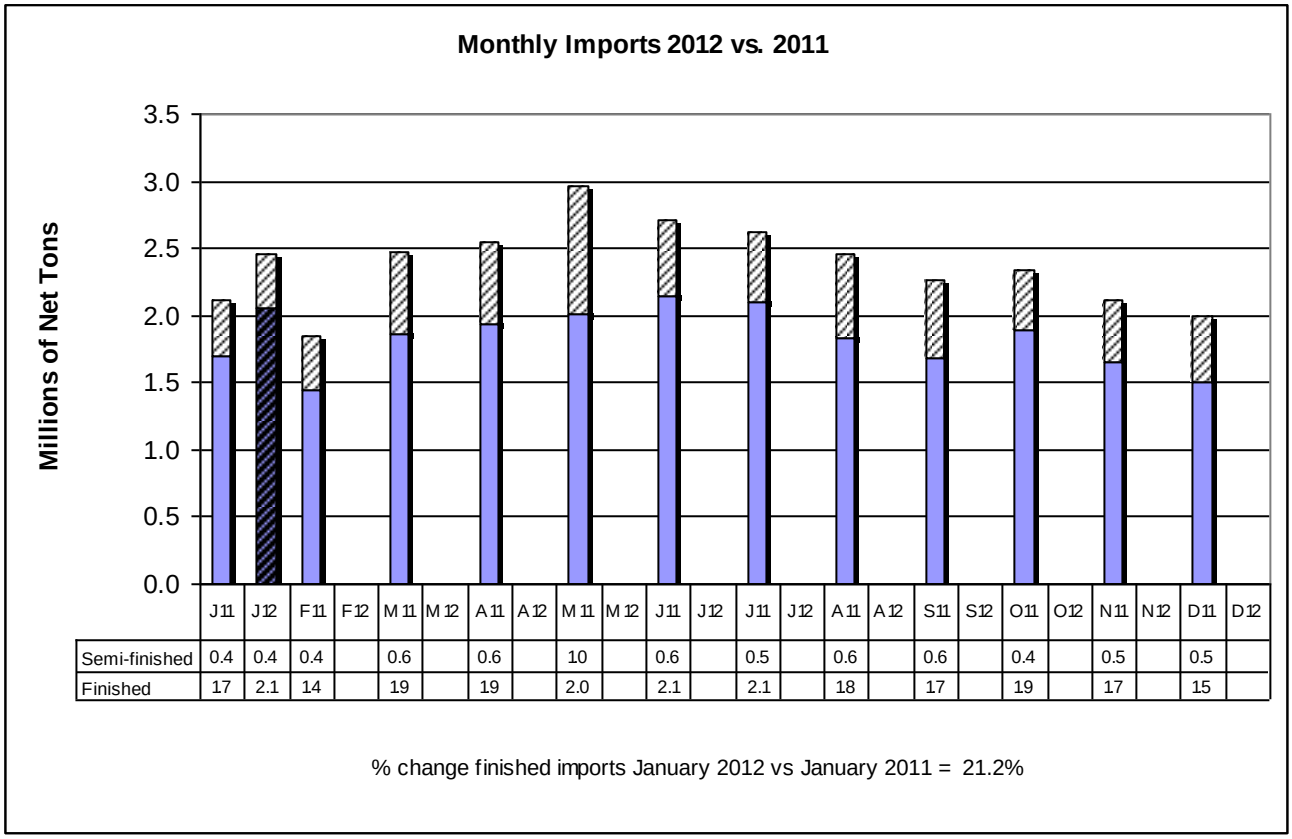
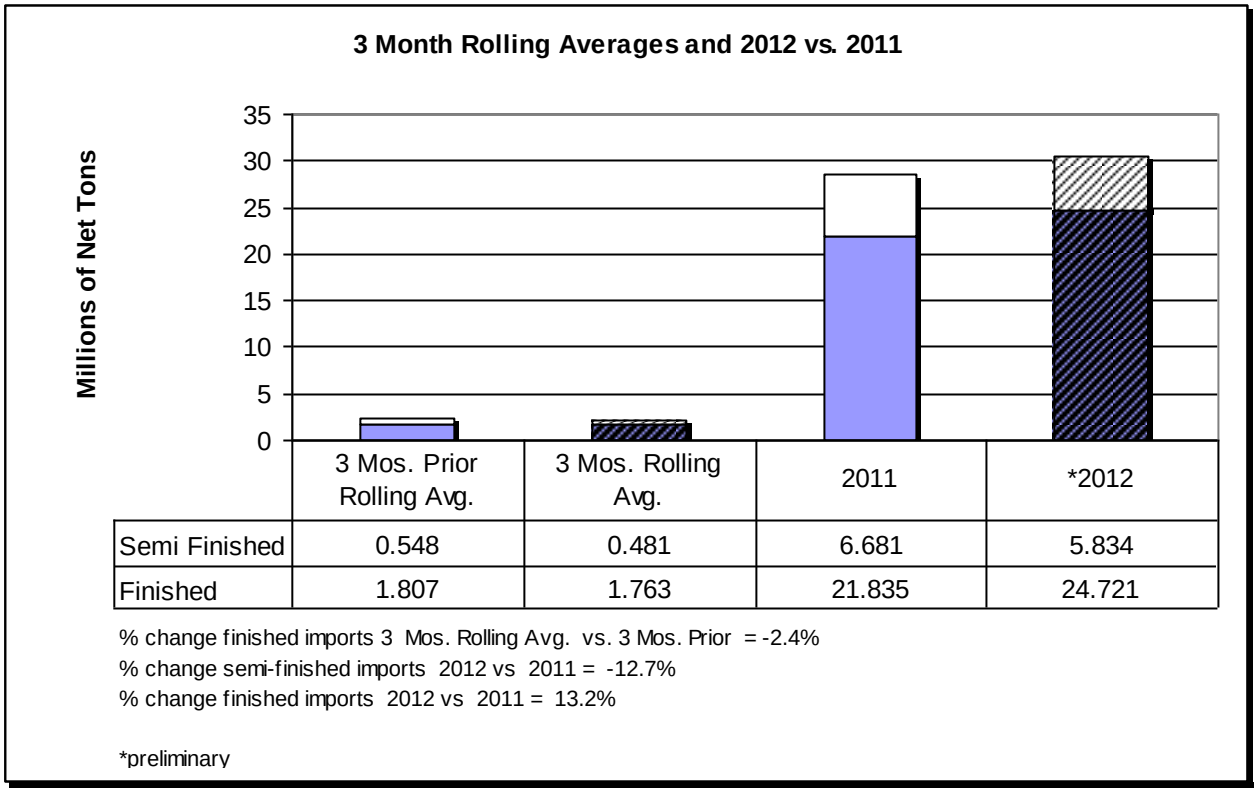

Monthly Imports 2012 vs. 2011
Millions of Net Tons
3.5
3.0
2.5
2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
0.0
J11 J12 F11 F12 M11 M12 A11 A12 M11 M12 J11 J12 J11 J12 A11 A12 S11 S12 O11 O12 N11 N12 D11 D12
Semi-finished 0.4 0.4 0.4 0.6 0.6 10 0.6 0.5 0.6 0.6 0.4 0.5 0.5
Finished 17 2.1 14 19 19 2.0 2.1 2.1 18 17 19 17 15
% change finished imports January 2012 vs January 2011 = 21.2%


3 Month Rolling Averages and 2012 vs. 2011
Millions of Net Tons
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
3 Mos. Prior Rolling Avg.
3 Mos. Rolling Avg.
2011
*2012
Semi Finished 0.548 0.481 6.681 5.834
Finished 1.807 1.763 21.835 24.721
% change finished imports 3 Mos. Rolling Avg. vs. 3 Mos. Prior = -2.4%
% change semi-finished imports 2012 vs 2011 = -12.7%
% change finished imports 2012 vs 2011 = 13.2%
*preliminary

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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 120 associate 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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