



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Preliminary Steel Imports Decline 14% in August
But Steel Import Market Share Remains at 24% through Eight Months

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 855,000 net tons (NT) of steel in August 2009, including 786,000 NT of finished steel (down 14% and 12%, respectively, vs. July final data). These were the lowest monthly import figures to-date in 2009. Total and finished steel imports on an annualized basis are down 51% and 44%, respectively, vs. 2008. Annualized total imports of steel in 2009 would be 15.7 million NT. At the same time, finished steel import market share, which was an estimated 15% in August, remains at an estimated 24% year-to-date through 8 months.

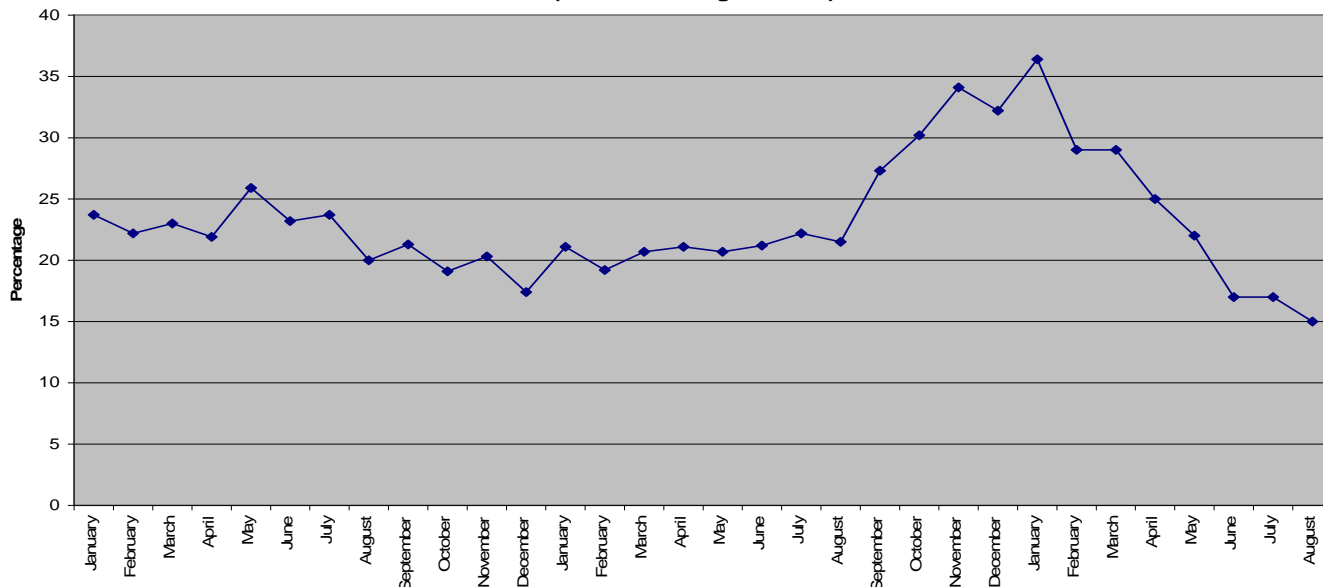
Key finished steel products with increases in August 2009 compared to July include wire rods (up 86%), hot rolled sheets (up 44%) and cold rolled sheets (up 32%).

Steel Mill Product	August (prelim.)	July final	% var Aug. vs. July	(8 mo.) YTD 2009	(8 mo.) YTD 2008	% var 09 vs. '08	2009 Annualized	2008 12 mo.	% var 2009 ann. vs 2008 12 mo.
Oil Country Goods	17,083	40,430	-57.7%	1,420,975	1,924,620	-26.2%	2,131,463	3,973,853	-46.4%
Line Pipe	45,456	116,206	-60.9%	1,154,117	2,177,294	-47.0%	1,731,175	3,223,302	-46.3%
Sheets Hot Rolled	132,776	92,094	44.2%	1,032,289	1,955,044	-47.2%	1,548,433	2,769,854	-44.1%
Sheets Cold Rolled	79,135	60,153	31.6%	737,757	1,009,712	-26.9%	1,106,635	1,439,007	-23.1%
Ingots and Billets and Slabs	67,271	99,800	-32.6%	723,876	4,429,242	-83.7%	1,085,814	5,943,024	-81.7%
Sheets & Strip Galv Hot Dipped	54,932	67,729	-18.9%	699,338	1,206,340	-42.0%	1,049,007	1,821,926	-42.4%
Plates in Coils	62,583	55,362	13.0%	482,093	699,878	-31.1%	723,140	1,213,063	-40.4%
Standard Pipe	36,278	46,303	-21.7%	429,303	753,264	-43.0%	643,955	1,180,409	-45.4%
Bars - Hot Rolled	32,904	39,769	-17.3%	402,013	994,106	-59.6%	603,019	1,486,987	-59.4%
Wire Rods	70,803	38,055	86.1%	387,619	798,808	-51.5%	581,428	1,229,419	-52.7%
Plates Cut Lengths	26,424	25,370	4.2%	366,285	801,248	-54.3%	549,428	1,237,098	-55.6%
Bars - Reinforcing	23,366	32,563	-28.2%	340,235	835,846	-59.3%	510,352	970,762	-47.4%
Wire Drawn	38,601	39,862	-3.2%	296,958	521,172	-43.0%	445,437	709,194	-37.2%
Structural Shapes Heavy	16,269	20,826	-21.9%	265,174	576,925	-54.0%	397,761	721,884	-44.9%
Mechanical Tubing	18,166	26,610	-31.7%	249,642	391,912	-36.3%	374,463	606,933	-38.3%
Tin Plate	22,424	32,105	-30.2%	201,655	191,456	5.3%	302,482	321,077	-5.8%
Sheets & Strip All Other Met.	19,128	22,183	-13.8%	197,542	307,863	-35.8%	296,313	502,210	-41.0%
All Other	90,951	135,996	-33.1%	1,082,996	1,811,860	-40.2%	1,624,495	2,576,848	-37.0%
TOTAL	854,550	991,416	-13.8%	10,469,867	21,386,590	-51.0%	15,704,800	31,926,850	-50.8%
SUBTOTAL Finished Imports	786,128	890,548	-11.7%	9,733,942	16,939,231	-42.5%	14,600,914	25,955,963	-43.7%

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In August, the largest volumes of finished steel imports from offshore were from South Korea (84,000 NT, up 12%), Brazil (37,000 NT, up 358%) and China (30,000 NT, up 3%). Based on the first eight months of 2009, finished imports from China would annualize at 1.9 million NT, which would be 61% less than in 2008 but above any other offshore supplier. Below are charts on estimated steel import market share by month and finished steel imports by country.

**Estimated Steel Import Market Share By Month
(Jan 2007 - August 2009)**



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

COUNTRY	Aug. 2009	July 2009	Aug. 2008	% incr. Aug. vs July	(8 mo) YTD 2009	(8 mo) YTD 2008	% incr. '09 YTD vs. '08	2009 full year (est.)	2008 Annual	% incr. 2009 an. vs. '08
Korea	84	75	168	12.2%	934	1,546	-39.6%	1,402	2,305	-39.2%
Brazil	37	8	13	357.6%	253	302	-16.3%	380	436	-12.8%
China	30	30	493	2.7%	1,257	2,437	-48.4%	1,886	4,821	-60.9%
Japan	28	87	173	-68.4%	674	1,092	-38.3%	1,010	1,614	-37.4%
Germany	21	25	73	-17.5%	342	786	-56.5%	513	1,122	-54.3%
Taiwan	15	25	57	-39.2%	269	451	-40.4%	403	662	-39.0%
Turkey	14	32	13	-55.5%	370	420	-11.9%	555	827	-32.9%
India	8	43	54	-80.8%	430	691	-37.7%	645	1,102	-41.5%
All Other	548	565	1,009	-3.0%	5,204	9,213	-43.5%	7,806	13,067	-40.3%
Total	786	890	2,052	-11.8%	9,734	16,939	-42.5%	14,601	25,956	-43.7%

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

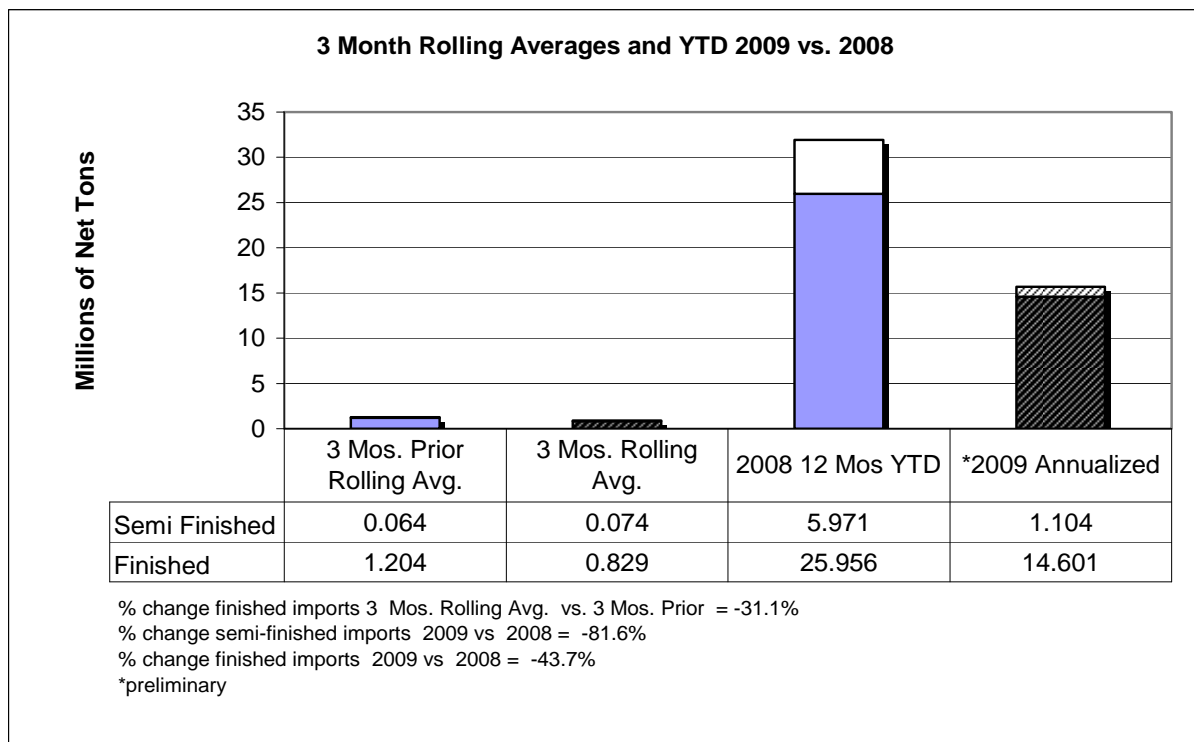
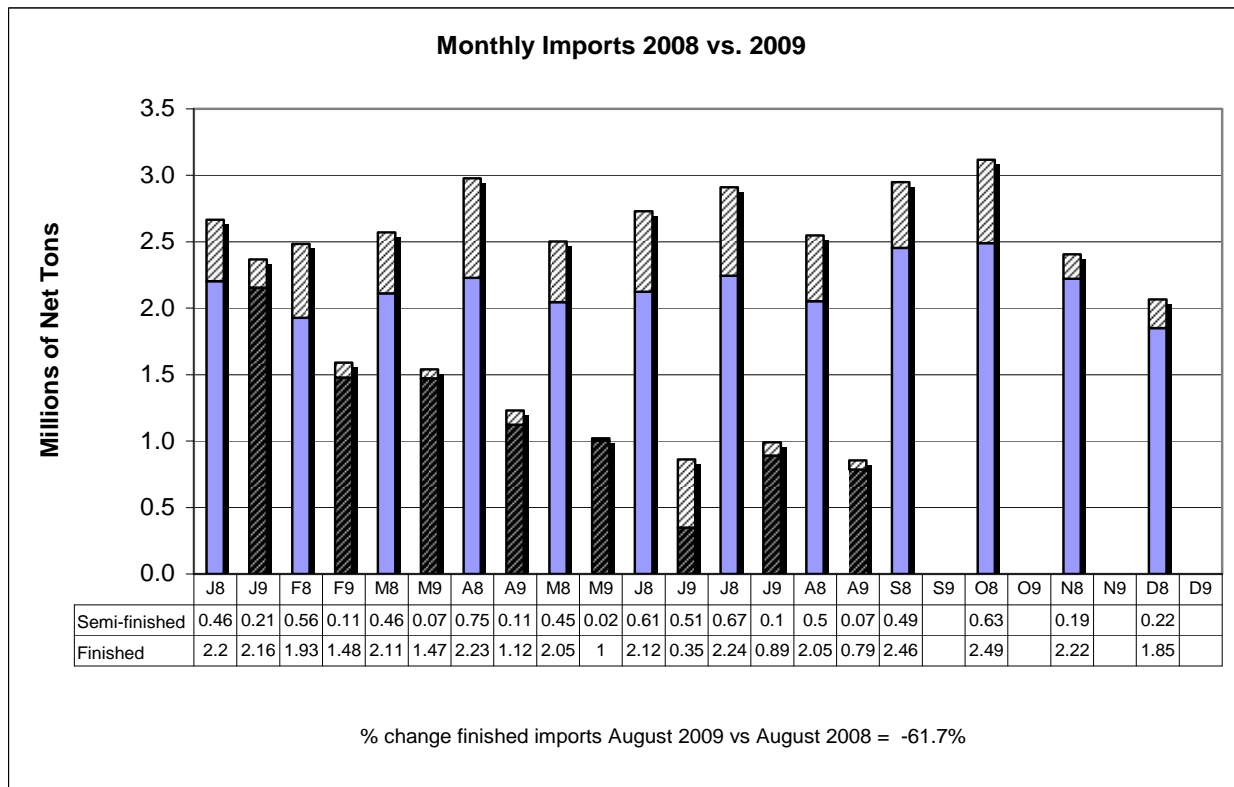
Product	Preliminary 3 Mos. Rolling Avg. Aug. 09 - Jun. 09	Actual 3 Mos. Prior May. 09- Mar. 09	Current 3 Months vs 3 Months Prior % Change
Hot Rolled Sheets	103	134	-23.1%
Line Pipe	91	150	-39.3%
Cold Rolled Sheets	68	98	-30.5%
Sheets & Strip Galv HD	59	108	-45.0%
Wire Rods	52	33	56.1%
Plates in Coils	50	59	-15.3%
Standard Pipe	40	49	-17.8%
Wire Drawn	39	36	6.3%
Bars - Hot Rolled	35	41	-15.8%
Oil Country Goods	32	176	-81.7%
All Other	259	319	-18.7%
Total	829	1,204	-31.1%

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

Country	Preliminary 3 Mos. Rolling Avg. Aug. 09 - Jun. 09	Actual 3 Mos. Prior May. 09- Mar. 09	Current 3 Months vs 3 Months Prior % Change
South Korea	67	108	-38.2%
Japan	58	84	-31.2%
China	35	148	-76.6%
India	28	63	-55.6%
Germany	26	42	-37.5%
Netherlands	23	22	1.2%
Brazil	19	31	-38.7%
Italy	19	14	38.9%
Taiwan	17	35	-51.0%
Turkey	16	47	-65.6%
All Other	521	608	-14.3%
Total	829	1,204	-31.1%

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.