American Iron and Steel Institute

News Release

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CONTACT: NANCY GRAVATT
202.452.7115/ ngravatt@steel.org

May Preliminary Finished Steel Imports 2nd Highest Monthly Amount in 2012

Import Market Share at 24%

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 2,945,000 net tons (NT) of steel in May, including 2,323,000 NT of finished steel (down 6% each, respectively, from April final data). The 2.3 million tons of finished steel imports in May was the 2nd highest monthly total in 2012, below only the April tonnage. Annualized total and finished steel imports in 2012 would be 35.3 and 27.1 million NT, respectively, each up 24% vs. 2011. Finished steel import market share in May and Year-To-Date were 24% each, respectively.

Key finished steel products with significant import increases in May 2012 compared to April are cold rolled sheets (up 38%), standard pipe (up 28%), oil country goods (up 25%), hot rolled bars (up 14%) and mechanical tubing (up 11%). Major products with significant YTD import increases vs. the same period last year include reinforcing bar (up 60%), plates – cut lengths (up 57%), sheets and strip all other metallic coatings (up 51%), line pipe (up 47%) and sheets and strip galvanized hot dipped (up 45%).

Steel Mill Product	May (prelim.)	Apr. final	% var May vs. Apr.	(5 mo) YTD 2012	(5 mo) YTD 2011	% var '12 vs. '11	2012 Annualized	2011 12 mo.	% var 2012 ann. vs 2011 12 mo.
Ingots and Billets and Slabs	616,873	657,678	-6.2%	3,366,003	2,965,956	13.5%	8,078,407	6,624,733	21.9%
Oil Country Goods	378,163	301,712	25.3%	1,621,119	1,127,165	43.8%	3,890,686	2,908,516	33.8%
Sheets Hot Rolled	233,862	305,535	-23.5%	1,182,856	1,121,755	5.4%	2,838,854	2,664,062	6.6%
Line Pipe	223,843	253,625	-11.7%	1,155,286	785,617	47.1%	2,772,686	1,974,262	40.4%
Sheets & Strip Galv Hot Dipped	192,792	205,814	-6.3%	826,981	570,955	44.8%	1,984,754	1,461,926	35.8%
Plates in Coils	113,747	225,002	-49.4%	690,750	502,193	37.5%	1,657,800	1,359,883	21.9%
Sheets Cold Rolled	142,402	103,047	38.2%	646,735	585,600	10.4%	1,552,164	1,392,689	11.5%
Bars - Hot Rolled	150,699	132,747	13.5%	645,138	545,423	18.3%	1,548,331	1,325,170	16.8%
Plates Cut Lenghs	128,585	117,384	9.5%	605,944	384,901	57.4%	1,454,266	1,168,748	24.4%
Bars - Reinforcing	75,966	106,409	-28.6%	552,270	345,655	59.8%	1,325,448	655,419	102.2%
Wire Rods	89,735	157,809	-43.1%	539,194	475,466	13.4%	1,294,066	1,015,111	27.5%
Standard Pipe	96,399	75,097	28.4%	415,619	365,253	13.8%	997,486	832,144	19.9%
Sheets & Strip All Other Met.	68,144	73,955	-7.9%	318,318	210,481	51.2%	763,963	532,532	43.5%
Mechanical Tubing	68,640	61,726	11.2%	298,648	253,260	17.9%	716,755	615,366	16.5%
Wire Drawn	64,132	59,022	8.7%	284,564	276,387	3.0%	682,954	635,787	7.4%
Structural Shapes Heavy	42,461	50,872	-16.5%	239,070	236,130	1.2%	573,768	512,416	12.0%
Bars - Cold Finished	35,016	43,964	-20.4%	189,982	152,222	24.8%	455,957	385,688	18.2%
All Other	223,103	213,552	4.5%	1,113,741	1,035,394	7.6%	2,672,890	2,450,824	9.1%
TOTAL	**2,944,562**	**3,144,950**	**-6.4%**	**14,692,218**	**11,939,813**	**23.1%**	**35,261,234**	**28,515,276**	**23.7%**
SUBTOTAL Finished Imports	**2,322,878**	**2,483,938**	**-6.5%**	**11,311,101**	**8,946,734**	**26.4%**	**27,146,643**	**21,834,625**	**24.3%**

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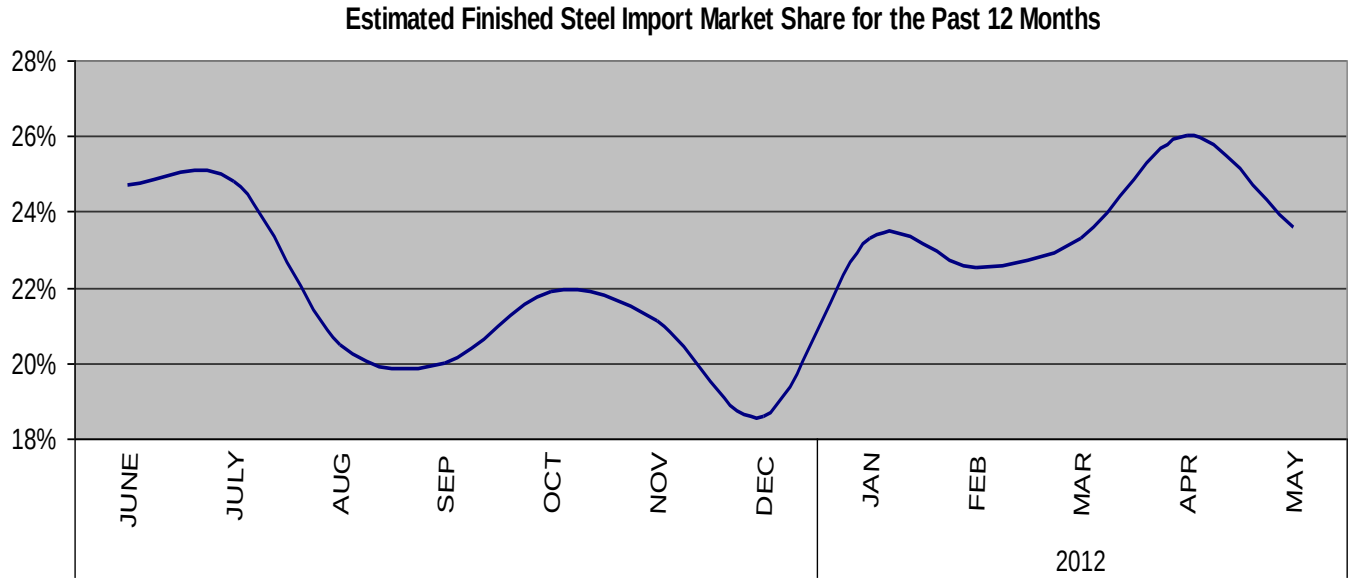
In May, the largest volumes of finished steel imports from offshore were from South Korea (321,000 NT, up 4%), Japan (186,000 NT, up 5%), Turkey (128,000 NT, down 25%), China (155,000 NT, up 9%) and Germany (104,000 NT, up 8%). For the first 5 months of 2012, the largest offshore suppliers were South Korea (1,554,000 NT, up 31%), Japan (850,000 NT, up 34%) and Turkey (812,000 NT, up 124%). 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	May 2012	Apr. 2012	% incr. May vs Apr.	(5 mo.) YTD 2012	(5 mo.) YTD 2011	% incr. '12 YTD vs. '11	2012 full year (est.)	2011 Annual	% incr. 2012 an. vs. '11
South Korea	321	308	**4.0%**	1,554	1,187	**31.0%**	3,730	2,837	**31.5%**
Japan	186	178	**4.9%**	850	633	**34.1%**	2,039	1,477	**38.0%**
Turkey	128	171	**-24.8%**	812	362	**124.1%**	1,949	733	**165.8%**
China	155	143	**8.8%**	595	400	**48.6%**	1,427	1,231	**15.9%**
Germany	104	96	**7.7%**	497	423	**17.5%**	1,193	954	**25.0%**
Taiwan	80	99	**-19.7%**	399	273	**46.1%**	957	647	**47.9%**
Russia	67	180	**-62.6%**	385	126	**205.6%**	924	521	**77.4%**
All Other	1,282	1,309	**-2.1%**	6,220	5,542	**12.2%**	14,928	13,434	**11.1%**
Total	2,323	2,484	**-6.5%**	11,311	8,947	**26.4%**	27,147	21,835	**24.3%**

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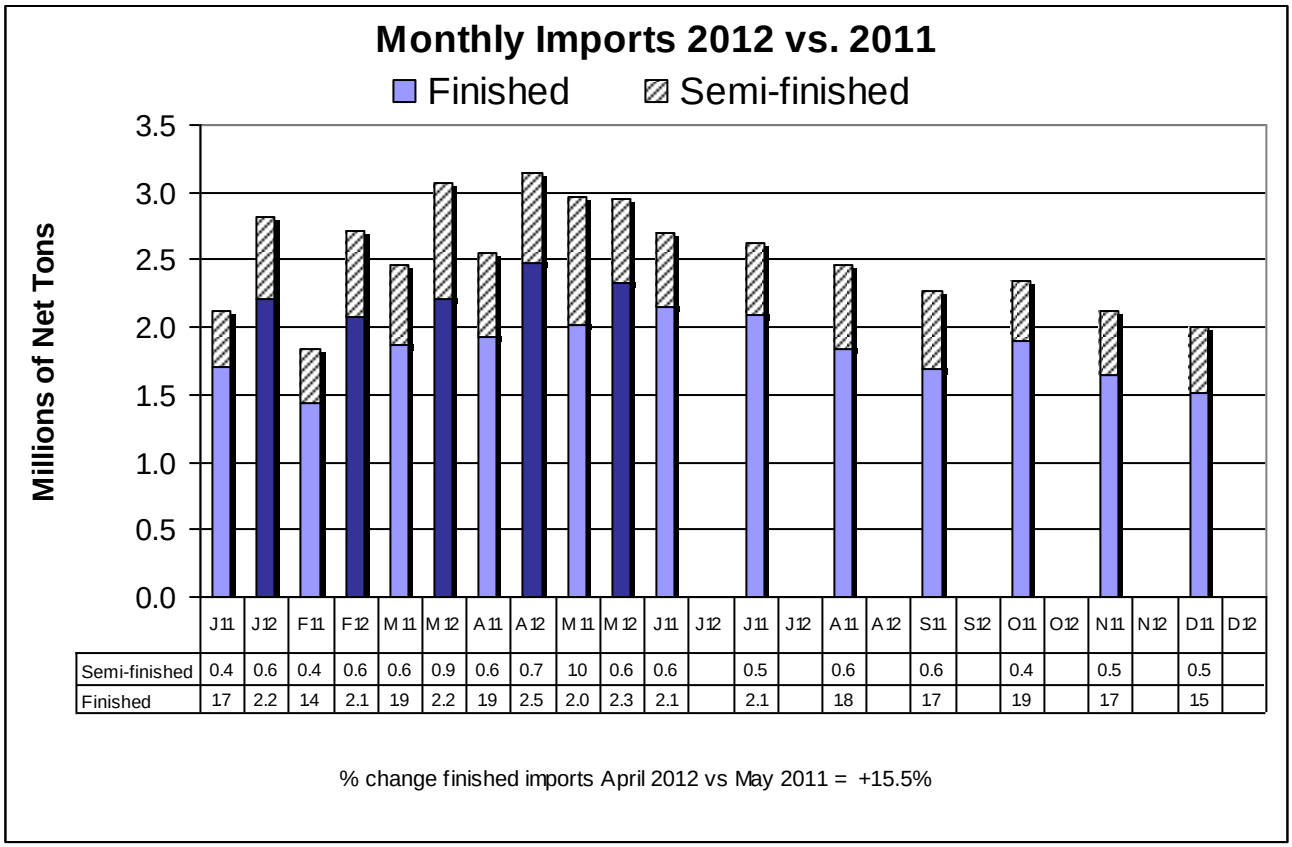
U.S. IMPORTS OF FINISHED STEEL MILL PRODUCTS 3 MONTHS ROLLING AVERAGE (thousands of net tons)			
Product	**Preliminary 3 Mos. Rolling Avg. May. 12 - Mar. 12**	**Actual 3 Mos. Prior Feb. 12 - Dec. 11**	**Current 3 Months vs 3 Months Prior % Change**
Oil Country Goods	342	267	28.1%
Line Pipe	252	179	40.8%
Hot Rolled Sheets	244	215	13.5%
Sheets & Strip Galv Hot	179	134	33.6%
Plates in Coils	143	116	23.3%
Bars - Hot Rolled	139	111	25.2%
Plates Cut Lengths	129	101	27.7%
Sheets Cold Rolled	127	120	5.8%
Wire Rods	116	87	33.3%
Bars - Reinforcing	97	111	-12.6%
All Other	573	514	11.5%
Total	2,341	1,955	19.8%

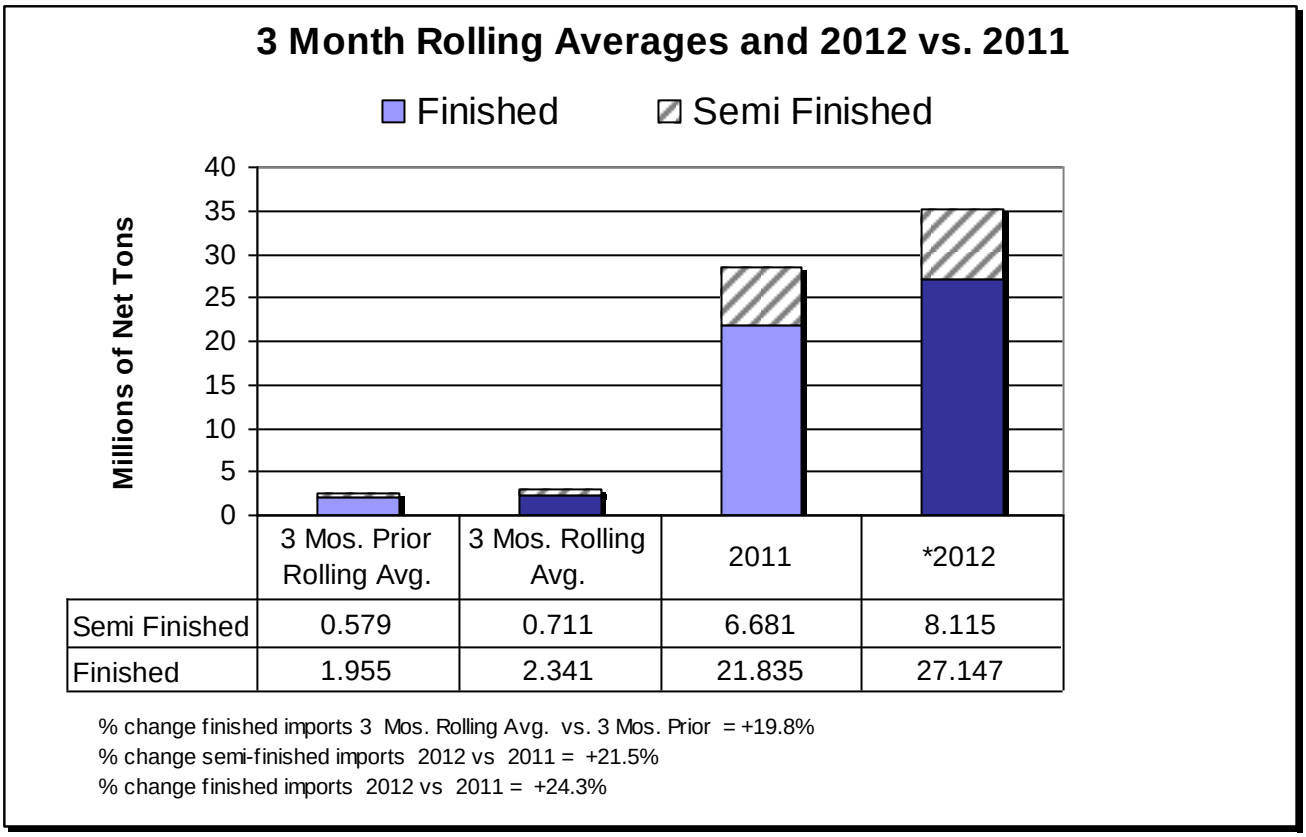
U.S. IMPORTS OF FINISHED STEEL MILL PRODUCTS 3 MONTHS ROLLING AVERAGE (thousands of net tons)			
Country	**Preliminary 3 Mos. Rolling Avg. May. 12 - Mar 12**	**Actual 3 Mos. Prior Feb. 12 - Dec. 11**	**Current 3 Months vs 3 Months Prior % Change**
South Korea	300	285	5.3%
Japan	181	145	24.8%
China	135	92	46.7%
Turkey	154	144	6.9%
Germany	106	88	20.5%
Taiwan	87	59	47.5%
Russia	93	39	138.5%
India	64	67	-4.5%
Brazil	44	34	29.4%
Italy	61	37	64.9%
All Other	1,116	965	15.6%
Total	2,341	1,955	19.8%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce



	J11	J12	F11	F12	M 11	M 12	A 11	A 12	M 11	M 12	J11	J12	J11	J12	A 11	A 12	S11	S12	O11	O12	N11	N12	D11	D12
Semi-finished	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.7	10	0.6	0.6		0.5		0.6		0.6		0.4		0.5		0.5	
Finished	17	2.2	14	2.1	19	2.2	19	2.5	2.0	2.3	2.1		2.1		18		17		19		17		15	

% change finished imports April 2012 vs May 2011 = +15.5%



	3 Mos. Prior Rolling Avg.	3 Mos. Rolling Avg.	2011	*2012
Semi Finished	0.579	0.711	6.681	8.115
Finished	1.955	2.341	21.835	27.147

% change finished imports 3 Mos. Rolling Avg. vs. 3 Mos. Prior = +19.8%
% change semi-finished imports 2012 vs 2011 = +21.5%
% change finished imports 2012 vs 2011 = +24.3%

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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 124 associate members who are suppliers to or customers of the steel industry. AISI's member companies represent over three quarters 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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