



## AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STEEL, INC.

*Economic Growth through Competition in Steel Trade*

### News from AIIS

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### **Steel Imports Plummet in December**

#### **But Up for the Year**

Falls Church, VA, January 28, 2013 – Steel imports declined 13.9 percent in December compared to November according to preliminary government data. “Imports plummeted in December compared to November as many buyers backed out of the market when these products were ordered and instead minimized inventory as the end of the year approached. Steel buyers, like many in manufacturing in other sectors, also reacted cautiously as the so-called fiscal cliff approached at the end of the year. It is likely that import arrivals will remain at lower levels for some months due to the uncertainty caused by the fiscal cliff,” said David Phelps, president, AIIS.

Steel imports increased by 16.9 percent in 2012 compared to 2011 based on the preliminary December import data. “Steel imports in 2012 continued their advance from the depths of the Great Recession as domestic steel markets improved. Conditions in the auto, oil and gas as well as durable goods markets continued to improve in 2012 and the improvement is reflected in the healthier import numbers for the year. The 14.5 percent increase in semifinished steel imports used by the domestic steel industry underscores the improvement in market conditions in 2012. The still-struggling non-residential construction market remains weak and as a result both domestic industry shipments and imports remain below robust levels,” concluded Phelps.

Total Steel imports in December 2012 were 2.338 million tons compared to 2.716 million tons in November 2012, a 13.9 percent decrease, and a 13.3 percent increase compared to December 2011. For the full year, total imports increased from 28.515 million tons in 2011 to 33.347 million tons in 2012, a 16.9 percent increase. The data show that imported semifinished products increased by 40.6 percent in December 2012 compared to December 2011, from 487 thousand tons in 2011 to 685 thousand tons in 2012 and for the full year from 6.681 million tons in 2011 to 7.648 million tons in 2012.

*The American Institute for International Steel is the only steel related association which supports free trade. The Institute accomplishes our mission through Advocacy, Networking, Communications and Education.*

### **Steel Export Analysis**

(net tons)

Steel Import Analysis, Preliminary					
(000s of net tons)					
<u>U.S. Steel Imports</u>					
	<u>December 2012</u>	<u>November 2012</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>December 2011</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Total	2,338	2,716	-13.9%	2,064	13.3%
Japan	118	184	-35.9%	167	-29.4%
EU	369	456	-19.0%	338	9.2%
Canada	374	427	-12.5%	402	-7.1%
Brazil	298	322	-7.6%	312	-4.6%
Korea	134	299	-55.0%	203	-33.8%
Mexico	249	232	7.4%	190	31.1%
Russia	320	251	27.3%	59	441.7%
China	164	159	3.3%	88	86.6%
Australia	72	10	616.3%	11	551.2%
South Africa	2	2	10.2%	4	-44.9%
Indonesia	-	3	-100.0%	1	-200.0%
Turkey	48	112	-56.7%	83	-41.6%
Ukraine	13	1	1222.4%	26	-49.1%
India	44	70	-37.0%	54	-18.4%
Others	133	188	-29.1%	126	5.8%
<u>Cumulative Imports</u>					
	<u>YTD 2012</u>	<u>YTD 2011</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>		
Total	33,347	28,515	16.9%		
Japan	2,599	2,011	29.2%		
EU	5,576	4,329	28.8%		
Canada	5,745	6,032	-4.8%		
Brazil	3,959	3,109	27.3%		
Korea	3,653	2,838	28.7%		
Mexico	2,702	2,890	-6.5%		
Russia	2,405	1,382	74.0%		
China	1,654	1,239	33.5%		
Australia	290	814	-64.4%		
South Africa	95	136	-30.0%		
Indonesia	39	51	-23.5%		
Turkey	1,346	733	83.7%		
Ukraine	260	359	-27.5%		

India	800	799	0.1%		
Others	2,224	1,793	24.1%		
<u>Semifinished Imports</u>					
	<u>December 2012</u>	<u>December 2011</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>		
	685	487	40.6%		
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	<u>YTD 2012</u>	<u>YTD 2011</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>		
	7,648	6,681	14.5%		