**Ceramic**

**KSA**

Summary:

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. Canada: Duravit announced its new ceramic plant with 35,000-square-meter facility in Matane, Canada – the brand’s first production facility in North America – is underway and on track to be completed in 2025, following the project’s groundbreaking in July 2023.

**Top Domains:**

* pmmag.com

**Contracting Services NDD Monitoring:**

**KSA**

Summary:

1. POWERCHINA received a trophy for its work on Saudi Aramco's East West Residential Compounds Project, celebrated at an inauguration on April 8 in Dammam. The project includes 22 apartment buildings for 1,748 residents and supports Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 while promoting Chinese brands.
2. Orascom Construction and Técnicas Reunidas have secured a $2.6 billion EPC contract for the Qurayyah IPP Expansion Project in Saudi Arabia. This 3GW gas-fired power plant will enhance Orascom's presence in the power sector, building on their successful projects in the region.
3. Saudi Arabia’s PIF is seeking contractors for project management of the 19 sqkm “North Pole” district in Riyadh, featuring the 2km-tall Rise Tower. The project is estimated at $5bn, with bidders including Aecom, Bechtel, and Mace.

**Top Domains:**

* powerchina.cn
* mepmiddleeast.com
* wedoany.com

**Global**

Summary:

1. USA: Contractors are bracing for a new wave of tariffs set to take effect April 2, this time on certain material imported from Canada and Mexico — such as steel, aluminium and lumber.

**Top Domains:**

* 3news.com
* cremarketbeat.com
* dredgingtoday.com
* constructionwave.co.uk
* msn.com
* worldconstructionnetwork.com

**Aluminium:**

**KSA**

Summary**:**

1. The Saudi Arabia Aluminum Curtain Wall Market is projected to grow at an 8.5% CAGR, reaching USD 790.48 million by 2030. This growth is driven by urbanization, infrastructure projects, and a focus on energy-efficient building solutions under Vision 2030, particularly in cities like Jeddah.
2. Import restrictions on steel and Aluminum are raising costs for construction in the Middle East, especially in Saudi Arabia and the UAE. This is pushing stakeholders to find local production solutions and explore new trade partnerships, while also adopting innovative construction methods to reduce dependency on imports.

**Top Domains:**

* techsciresearch.com
* steelradar.com

**Global**

Summary:

1. USA: Emirates Global Aluminum is set to invest $1.4 trillion in a new smelter in the US, which could potentially double the country's primary aluminium production. With current US output at approximately 683,000 metric tons annually, the new facility is expected to be designed for around 750,000 tons per year, reflecting trends in Middle Eastern smelting operations.

**Top Domains:**

* evrimagaci.org

**Construction M&E:**

**KSA**

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

**NA**

**Steel Rebar:**

**KSA**

Summary:

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. Global: The Global Steel Rebar Market is anticipated to expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.15% from 2024 to 2031, as highlighted in a recent report by Verified Market Research. Valued at USD 216.71 billion in 2024, the market is projected to reach USD 323.86 billion by the end of the forecast period, fuelled by rising construction activities and infrastructure development. This growth underscores a strong global demand for steel rebar across various regions.

**Top Domains:**

* openpr.com

**Flat Rolled Steel:**

**KSA**

Summary:

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. Global: The hot-dip galvanized steel wire market is growing, valued at USD 1.9 billion in 2023 and expected to reach USD 2.8 billion by 2033. Key drivers include corrosion resistance, economic growth, technological advancements, sustainability, and diverse applications across various industries.
2. India: The "India Hot Rolled & Cold Rolled Steel Market" report forecasts growth from USD 171.11 Billion in 2024 to USD 270.49 Billion by 2030, driven by the automotive sector and government initiatives. Challenges include raw material price volatility and supply chain disruptions.
3. Ukraine: Ukraine's flat-rolled steel exports experienced a 13.2% decline, reflecting market challenges and potential shifts in future trade dynamics. The total exports amounted to $391 million, hindered by decreased demand, rising energy costs, and increased competition. Nevertheless, there is potential for recovery in the coming months if demand improves and logistics are optimized.
4. Egypt: Ezz Steel, an Egyptian company, plans to contest the European Union's anti-dumping duties on hot-rolled steel, a move that may impact pricing and market access. This action reflects a strong resistance to trade regulations that influence their business operations.
5. Vietnam: Vietnam is seeking public comments regarding exemptions from anti-dumping duties on hot-rolled steel imports from India and China, reflecting ongoing trade negotiations.
6. Taiwan: Taiwan's International Trade Administration has extended the preliminary investigation period for anti-dumping duties on certain flat hot-rolled steel products from China to May 12, due to the volume of data involved. Despite this extension potentially allowing for continued imports, high inventory levels, weak demand, and uncertain US tariff policies have led most downstream buyers to temporarily halt imports, further compounded by rising Chinese prices.
7. USA: Nucor has announced its ninth price increase of the year, raising the spot price for hot rolled coil (HRC) to $935 per short tonne, with California Steel Industries (CSI) at $995 per tonne, reflecting a total increase of $175 since January. The US steel market is also experiencing rising prices for heavy plates and structural steel, with Cleveland-Cliffs setting its April contract price for hot rolled steel at $900 per tonne, aligning with NLMK USA's pricing.

**Top Domains:**

* Openpr.com
* Yieh.com
* gmk.center
* dailyguardian.ca
* aslgate.com
* seaisi.org

**Cement:**

**KSA**

Summary:

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. Global: Rotary Kiln and VSK Cement Plants are revolutionizing cement production by enhancing efficiency and sustainability. Rotary kilns suit large-scale operations, while VSK is ideal for smaller setups. Choosing the right manufacturer ensures tailored solutions for your specific needs, promoting growth and environmental responsibility.
2. India: Cement prices and demand are expected to rise in the coming months, driven by improved government spending. While short-term challenges exist, the long-term outlook for the cement sector is positive, with anticipated volume growth of 7-8% in Q4 FY25.
3. India: Aditya Birla Group's chairman, Kumar Mangalam Birla, is acquiring Wonder Cement's white cement business for ₹235 crore. This acquisition will enhance UltraTech Cement's putty production capacity in Rajasthan, where Wonder Cement has a strategically located manufacturing plant. The deal is expected to finalize in three months.
4. Sweden: Cemvision and S:t Eriks have partnered to develop sustainable concrete for water and sewage infrastructure. After successful pilot projects, S:t Eriks will use Cemvision’s cement in commercial applications, which is resistant to sulphate and acid, enhancing durability. Further testing will continue for broader use.
5. USA: California's Draft SB 596 Cement Strategy aims for net-zero cement emissions by 2045. It lacks mention of negative-carbon cement, which could meet carbon removal needs at no cost. Regulatory options include a Zero-Emissions Cement Standard and market incentives to support sustainable cement investment. Public comments are open until April 23.
6. USA: FLSmidth has opened a new 11,000m2 facility in Allentown, Pennsylvania, to consolidate US operations and serve as a distribution warehouse for parts and production of pneumatic transfer lines. KS-Engineering mourns the loss of Klaus Schneider, a key figure in pneumatic conveyor technology, who passed away on 14 September 2023.
7. USA: Huaxin Cement's acquisition of EMBU SA for $176.9 million enhances its presence in South America and aligns with its global expansion strategy. With this deal, Huaxin now operates in 13 countries, diversifying its portfolio to include cement, concrete, aggregates, and recycling.
8. Africa: The LC3 plant in Tema, Ghana, addresses cement shortages caused by clinker scarcity. Supacem's $100 million investment uses local materials to reduce reliance on imports, creating jobs and promoting sustainability. Supported by new national standards, this initiative strengthens Ghana's economy and ensures a more reliable cement supply.
9. Spain: Cement consumption in Spain rose 8.6% YoY in February to 1,269,243t, while exports fell 15.3%. Total demand for January-February increased 9.4% YoY. February marked the highest consumption since 2011, indicating a positive trend in the construction sector, supported by rising public tenders and housing permits
10. Nigeria: Nigerian senators are currently debating the controversial sale of the country's third-largest cement manufacturer to a Chinese firm, raising concerns about national interests and foreign ownership.
11. Pakistan: Rising cement prices in Pakistan, particularly in northern regions where they reached Rs1,425 per bag, are significantly impacting construction costs for builders, developers, and homeowners. As contractors and real estate developers express concerns over escalating budgets, the construction sector is preparing for further challenges ahead of the budget, hoping that these price fluctuations won't hinder growth in this vital economic area.
12. Pakistan: The government's reduction of electricity rates by PKR7.40-7.59/kWh, supported by the IMF, is expected to stimulate demand in the Pakistan cement industry by revitalizing industrial activity and improving the recovery of electricity bills. Additionally, as electricity accounts for 4-5% of the Consumer Price Index, this move is likely to have a positive impact on the inflation outlook.
13. Vietnam: In March 2025, cement dispatches in Vietnam surged by 22% year-on-year to 7.828 million tons, driven by a 31% increase from VICEM and a 22% rise among other VNCA members. While overall export volumes rose 7%, with clinker exports up 12% and cement exports increasing 5%, VICEM faced significant declines in its own export figures, contrasting with strong growth in clinker exports from non-member companies.

**Top Domains:**

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* en.jcement.ru
* cemnet.com
* nigeria.shafaqna.com
* dailyausaf.com

**Glass:**

**KSA**

Summary:

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. USA: O-I Glass is enhancing its sustainability goals for 2030, aiming for a 47% reduction in GHG emissions, 80% renewable electricity use, and 60% recycled glass. These ambitious targets align with the Paris Agreement and support a circular economy, demonstrating our commitment to sustainable packaging.
2. USA: Glass Half Full has opened a new 10,000-square-foot recycling facility in Chalmette, Louisiana, increasing its capacity to 300,000 pounds per day. This expansion will enhance glass recycling services in the Gulf Coast and create jobs while supporting coastal restoration projects.
3. Egypt: Xinyi Glass is investing $700 million in a solar panel glass production facility in Egypt's Suez Canal Economic Zone, aiming to produce 1.5 million metric tons of solar panel glass annually for regional and global markets. This project aligns with Egypt's strategy to localize solar power component manufacturing, with the government prioritizing solar cells among 12 strategic products for domestic production.
4. Australia: ClearVue has obtained a $1.09 million tax credit to advance its Generation 2 solar glass technology, which produces high-performance, transparent solar glass that generates electricity while preserving aesthetic appeal. This funding will bolster the company's innovative efforts in renewable energy solutions, promoting sustainable building designs and energy efficiency.
5. UK: Specialist Glass Products (SGP) has installed a new giant glass processing machine in Huddersfield, enabling them to handle larger orders and improve efficiency. This investment, supported by £840,000 funding, will boost production and quality, helping SGP achieve £15 million turnover in two years.

**Top Domains:**

* gurufocus.com
* egypt-business.com
* wastedive.com
* kimberleyecho.com.au
* glass-international.com

**Elevator:**

**KSA**

**NA**

**Global**

**NA**

**HVAC**

**KSA**

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. Global: The HVAC industry is evolving towards sustainable solutions and smart technologies, with a focus on enhancing energy efficiency and comfort in buildings. Innovations such as IoT integration, geothermal heat pumps, and AI-driven predictive maintenance are set to redefine HVAC operations, making them more environmentally friendly and cost-effective.
2. USA: AIIR Products has partnered with Sass, Moore & Associates to introduce advanced, space-saving HVAC systems in Philadelphia. These AI-powered solutions enhance energy efficiency by up to 30%, simplify installation, and allow for more flexible building designs.
3. USA: Munters Corporation is significantly expanding its HVAC manufacturing facility in Botetourt County, which will create 270 new jobs just two years after the company relocated to the area. This expansion not only underscores Munters' commitment to growth and innovation in the HVAC sector but also represents a substantial boost to the local economy, enhancing employment opportunities and supporting community development.

**Top Domains:**

* constructionreviewonline.com
* cnhinews.com
* roanoke.com

**Wood:**

**KSA**

Summary:

NA

**Global**

Summary:

1. Global: The Dropcity Architecture and Design Centre will showcase SCM technologies for wood-furnishing machining from April 3 to 13 during Milan Design Week. This space promotes innovation and collaboration among designers, featuring advanced workshops and equipment to transform ideas into reality.
2. Global: Ken Hickson discusses the green building movement in Singapore and Australia, highlighting timber construction pioneers like Kevin Hill, the impact of the 2000 Sydney Olympics on sustainability, and initiatives like the Singapore Green Building Council. Companies like Double Helix and Roger & Sons are also making strides in sustainable practices.
3. Global: TOMRA Recycling will unveil its new X-TRACT™ unit at LIGNA 2025 in Hannover (May 26-30). This advanced sorting technology uses X-Ray to efficiently separate wood waste from impurities, achieving high purity and processing up to 30 tons per hour.
4. Global: In March 2025, the average price for wood chips imported to China decreased by 1.4% compared to the previous month. Despite this price drop, imports of wood chips to China saw a growth of 5%, indicating a potential increase in demand despite fluctuating prices.
5. Canada: British Columbia's Premier David Eby is optimistic about a change in U.S. President Trump's tone towards Canada but remains concerned about tariffs affecting the lumber industry. He emphasizes the need for federal attention on Western Canada and criticizes divisive comments from former Reform Party leader Preston Manning.
6. Canada: The Canadian Wood Council has released five new Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for wood products, including softwood lumber and plywood. These EPDs provide verified environmental data for their life cycles, supporting low-carbon construction and showcasing the benefits of wood.
7. Canada: Unifor urges a united Canadian effort to combat U.S. duties on softwood lumber, which may rise to 34.35%. They advocate for a national forestry strategy to support jobs and housing, emphasizing the need for immediate assistance for affected workers and businesses.
8. Finland: BioCircleToZero is ANDRITZ's initiative to enhance wood value without cutting new trees. It involves collaboration with over 100 partners in Finland, investing 100 million euros over five years. The project aims to improve sustainability in the forest industry and optimize resource use.
9. Finland: Fiberdom, a Finnish materials innovation company, has raised EUR3.5m to develop its 100% plastic-free material. The funding, led by Heino Group, will enhance R&D and commercialization. Their first product, eco-friendly cutlery, is already available in Finland as demand for sustainable alternatives grows.
10. Italy: Claudio Feltrin, President of FederlegnoArredo, emphasized the importance of internationalization tools to tap into emerging markets, particularly Saudi Arabia, alongside the UAE, India, and Brazil. Despite a 2.1% decline in wood-furniture exports in 2024, the furnishings sector demonstrated resilience with a more modest decrease of 1.8%.
11. EU: The wood-furniture supply chain recorded a turnover of 51.6 billion euros in 2024, reflecting a decline of 3.1% from the previous year's 53.2 billion euros. This downturn indicates ongoing challenges within the sector, despite efforts to stabilize and recover in the coming years.
12. USA: US tariffs on Vietnamese wood furniture exports, effective April 5, impose a 46% tax, potentially reducing demand and production. This may lead to less wood byproducts for pellet production. The impact on other biomass markets remains uncertain, with traders monitoring foreign exchange fluctuations.
13. USA: Starved Rock Wood Products LLC in Illinois is shutting down, leading to layoffs of 58 workers on June 8, 2025. Reports suggest the actual number may be 77, including remote employees. The company has been in business for 30 years
14. USA: Senator Steve Daines supports the "Timber Innovation Act" to boost research on tall wood buildings, potentially allowing structures up to 85 feet. This could create a new market for wood. However, some oppose it, citing concerns about economic planning.

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