**Ceramic**

**KSA**

Summary:

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. Global: Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming ceramic manufacturing by enhancing efficiency, productivity, and product quality. AI automates production lines, predicts maintenance needs, improves quality control, and optimizes processes, helping manufacturers meet rising demands while reducing costs and waste.
2. USA: Saint-Gobain Ceramics is investing over $40 million in a new state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Wheatfield, NY, which will create approximately 30 jobs and enhance production capabilities for catalyst carriers to meet increasing market demand, with completion expected by 2028.
3. USA: In 2024, U.S. ceramic tile imports fell to 179.3 million square meters, down 3.4% from 2023. Key declines were from Brazil, Turkey, and Mexico, while imports from Italy and Vietnam increased. Total dollar value was $1.953 million (down by 3%)
4. Canada: Duravit is building a cutting-edge ceramic plant in Matane, Canada, set to start operations in 2025. The facility will feature the world’s first electric roller kiln, powered mostly by renewable energy, reducing CO2 emissions significantly. Christian Gilles leads this sustainable project, enhancing production efficiency and quality.
5. Turkey: In 2024, the construction ceramics sector achieved the highest export contribution rate at 12.89 points, with a net contribution of $860 million. Despite global challenges, Turkey's total exports rose by 2.4%, while ceramic tile exports increased in quantity and value.
6. Bangladesh: The Bangladesh Ceramic Manufacturers & Exporters Association is urging the government to secure a stable gas supply and remove additional duties on ceramic products, as ongoing gas shortages and proposed price hikes are causing daily losses exceeding Tk 20 crore and threatening the competitiveness of an industry that includes over 80 factories and employs more than 500,000 people. They emphasize the need for supportive policies to mitigate economic pressures, address a 3% decline in imports, and sustain industry growth and jobs.

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* bathroom-review.co.uk
* floordaily.net
* businessnewsthisweek.com
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**Contracting Services NDD Monitoring:**

**KSA**

Summary:

1. BRKZ, a Riyadh-based B2B marketplace for construction materials, raised $17M in Series A funding, totalling $22.5M. Founded in 2023 by Ibrahim Manna, it connects contractors with suppliers and has expanded significantly, serving over 850 clients and processing $350M in RFQs across Saudi Arabia.
2. Red Sea Global has launched a Health and Safety Training Academy, offering free training to enhance construction skills and safety for its workforce and partners. The academy emphasizes practical training, aligning with international standards. RSG recently achieved IOSH accreditation, reinforcing its commitment to workplace safety in Saudi Arabia.
3. Brady Corporation has opened a new facility in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, to produce high-quality identification solutions for various industries. Contractors have also secured a $500 million in construction deals for Roshn Sedra, highlighting ongoing investments in the region.
4. As per Mohammed Alajlan, Chairman of the Saudi Contractors Authority, Saudi Arabia's construction sector will grow 5% annually until 2030, with 18,000 ongoing projects. In 2024 alone, the country awarded projects valued at $71.5 billion, underscoring its commitment to Vision 2030 and significant investment in various sectors.

**Top Domains:**

* onearabia.me
* steelradar.com
* mid-east.info
* zawya.com
* argaam.com

**Global**

Summary:

1. USA: Orion Group Holdings, Inc. has secured new Marine and Concrete contracts worth about $211.7 million, starting in 2025. Key projects include a $113.7 million bridge replacement in Texas and various improvements at the Port of Houston and Galveston, all expected to finish by 2026.
2. USA: Construction has begun on Rainbow Village, a $185 million mixed-use development in Miami by Housing Trust Group (HTG), which will feature 310 affordable housing units and is expected to be completed in Q1 2027, with leasing starting in late 2026. The project aims to enhance local infrastructure and provide new residential and commercial opportunities, with rents ranging from $793 to $2,634, along with retail space and parking facilities.
3. Africa: The Ghana Chamber of Construction Industry met with Minister Kwame Agbodza to discuss key issues in the construction sector, including government debts to contractors and road tolls. The Minister pledged to improve payment processes and collaboration for better infrastructure development in Ghana.
4. UK: Graham has secured a £42 million contract for a road scheme in Surrey, highlighting continued investment in regional infrastructure. The project, funded by a £41.8 million allocation from Surrey County Council, aims to upgrade the A320 to improve traffic flow and capacity, featuring enhanced access to the M25, new crossings for pedestrians and cyclists, and extended construction hours starting February 24.
5. UK: Civil engineering contractor, FM Conway has secured a £35 million, seven-year highways contract for highway drainage maintenance in West Sussex, underscoring the company's growth in the construction sector and its commitment to improving transportation infrastructure. In partnership with Transport for London, FM Conway is also conducting a six-week trial of zero-emission construction vehicles with mobile recharging, emphasizing the importance of innovation in achieving net zero goals and addressing challenges associated with electric machinery.

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* 3news.com
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* dredgingtoday.com
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* msn.com
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**Aluminium:**

**KSA**

Summary**:**

1. ROSHN Group, multi-asset class real estate developer is partnering with ALUPCO, top provider of innovative Aluminum solutions to build a new automated Aluminum manufacturing facility in Riyadh, investing over $266 million. This will create jobs, boost local production, and support the construction industry, aligning with Saudi Vision 2030 for economic growth.

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* mid-east.info

**Global**

Summary:

1. North America: President Trump has enacted a 25% tariff on all steel and Aluminum imports, impacting countries such as Canada and Mexico, which has prompted Canadian leaders to consider retaliatory tariffs and seek a coordinated response with European allies; a recent survey shows that 70% of Canadians support these retaliatory measures, reflecting widespread frustration and a desire to prioritize domestic products in response to U.S. trade policies.
2. Russia: The EU is poised to implement new sanctions against Russia, targeting 13 banks and banning imports of primary Aluminum, which may redirect Russian Aluminum exports to Asia, especially China, while potentially raising costs and decreasing production for Rusal, ultimately leading to higher prices for European industries due to diminished imports.

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* castanetkamloops.net
* thebusinesstimes.co.uk
* news-pravda.com

**Construction M&E:**

**KSA**

Summary:

1. The MENA region's construction industry is facing increased disputes due to mega projects, with issues like scope changes, cost overruns, and delays. Experts suggest improving arbitration processes and legal frameworks to enhance project progress and resolve conflicts effectively

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* steelradar.com

**Global**

Summary:

**NA**

**Steel Rebar:**

**KSA**

Summary:

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. Global: The global steel rebar market is projected to reach $353.53 billion by 2029, growing at a CAGR of 6.8%. This growth reflects ongoing demand in construction and infrastructure projects worldwide.
2. Global: In Q4 2024, steel rebar prices fell in U.S (825 USD/MT) China(437 USD/MT), and Germany( 828 USD/MT) due to weak construction demand and persistent oversupply. Market uncertainty and structural imbalances kept sentiment bearish, with industry players struggling to adapt to fluctuating conditions and the lack of immediate demand recovery.
3. Global: Recent reports show rising steel rebar prices in the USA and Germany, while China maintains stable prices despite supply constraints, highlighting regional disparities in the market. Prices for steel rebar increased by 0.3% in the USA and Germany due to supply disruptions, whereas they remained stable in China. U.S. raw steel production has slightly decreased, and challenges such as high electricity costs are impacting supply in Germany. Future price trends suggest potential increases in the USA and Germany, while a decline may be anticipated in China.
4. USA: The UK government has unveiled a £2.5 billion plan to support the steel industry by enhancing production efficiency, protecting jobs, and promoting the use of UK-made steel in public projects, all while negotiating with the US to mitigate tariff threats and improve competitiveness against rising costs and foreign competition.

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**Flat Rolled Steel:**

**KSA**

Summary:

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. Vietnam: Vietnam has imposed a temporary 27.83% anti-dumping duty on hot-rolled steel coils from China, effective March 23, 2025, for a duration of 120 days, underscoring ongoing trade tensions and protective measures in the region. Indian products are exempt from this duty, and some Chinese producers may face lower rates. The ministry is expected to finalize its decisions later.
2. China: China's hot-rolled steel market is experiencing increased production and inventory levels as it approaches the Lunar New Year, reflecting seasonal demand patterns.
3. Thailand: Thailand has initiated an anti-dumping sunset review on cold-rolled steel imports from China, Vietnam, and Taiwan, reflecting ongoing scrutiny of trade practices in the steel industry. The Department of Foreign Trade is currently reviewing the anti-dumping tariffs on cold-rolled carbon steel from these countries, with responses due by March 7. Local businesses are encouraged to participate in the review process to mitigate potential negative impacts on trade and tariffs.
4. UK: The UK has lifted safeguard measures on cold-rolled steel imports, potentially increasing market access for foreign producers and impacting domestic competition positively.
5. South Korea: South Korea is planning anti-dumping probes on hot-rolled steel imports from China and Japan, highlighting concerns over fair trade practices in the steel industry.
6. Turkey: Turkey’s hot-rolled steel imports fell by 16% year-on-year in 2024 to 4.23 million tons, driven by anti-dumping duties imposed on imports from China, India, Japan, and Russia.

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* theinvestor.vn
* yieh.com
* article.wn.com
* gmk.center

**Cement:**

**KSA**

Summary:

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. Global: Terra CO2 has successfully secured $82 million in Series B funding to enhance the commercial deployment of its OPUS technology, which reduces carbon emissions in cement production. This funding marks a significant step towards promoting eco-friendly construction practices as the company plans to establish production facilities in North America and Europe, positioning itself to lead the transition to low-carbon construction materials.
2. Global: The recent increase in cement prices is raising alarms within the construction industry, prompting calls for investigations into the causes and potential impacts on project costs and housing affordability.
3. Africa: Sub-Saharan Africa's largest cement manufacturer is expanding operations in Ethiopia with new grinding units, reflecting growth opportunities and investment potential within the region's construction market.
4. India: GMDC has signed a 40-year deal with JK Cement to supply 250 million tonnes of limestone from the Lakhpat Punrajpur Mine in Kutch. This partnership will enhance cement production, boost the local economy, and create thousands of jobs while supporting industrial growth in Gujarat.
5. Nigeria: Yemi Osinbajo urged cement manufacturers to lower prices to enhance infrastructure development. At the BUA Cement Plant inauguration in Sokoto, he emphasized the need for affordable cement and increased use in concrete roads, marking a significant step for Nigeria's economy and self-sufficiency in cement production.
6. Kenya: The National Assembly's Trade Committee is investigating rising cement and steel prices despite a policy to boost local manufacturing. Chairperson James Gakuya expressed concern over the negative impact on real estate and urged research on the export levy’s effects.
7. Brazil: Cement consumption in Brazil rose 5.4% in January 2025, with domestic sales at 5.174Mt. The southeast and northeast saw increases, while the central-west declined by 3.7%. Positive trends are linked to job growth and real estate financing, despite concerns over inflation and rising costs. Exports fell by 25%.

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* carbonwire.org
* economictimes.com
* newsheadlines.com.ng
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* mountkenyatimes.co.ke
* cemnet.com

**Glass:**

**KSA**

Summary:

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. USA: Rep. Douglas Welton is sponsoring HB177, which aims to study ways to enhance glass recycling in Utah, including the expansion of curbside options and the establishment of more drop-off locations. The bill has successfully passed through committee and is now awaiting a vote in the House. Currently, Utah lacks curbside glass recycling, resulting in significant waste in landfills.
2. USA: Ardagh is set to close its glass manufacturing facility in the United States, marking a significant shift in its operational strategy. This decision may impact local employment and the glass supply chain.
3. Australia: The AWU urges the Federal Government to support Oceania Glass, Australia’s only glass manufacturer now in administration. With 260 jobs at stake, they seek similar backing as given to Whyalla steelworks. The union emphasizes the need for stronger anti-dumping laws to protect local manufacturing from cheap imports.

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* Yahoo.com
* glassinchina.com
* berwicknews.starcommunity.com.au

**Elevator:**

**KSA**

**NA**

**Global**

**NA**

**HVAC**

**KSA**

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. Global: At the AHR Expo 2025, LG is showcasing its innovative HVAC technologies, including energy-efficient heat pumps and chillers, aimed at enhancing sustainability and comfort in residential and AI data centre applications, while reinforcing its commitment to market leadership through advancements in decarbonization and cost reduction.
2. USA: AUX is entering the U.S. market with high-efficiency HVAC systems that prioritize sustainability and smart home integration, featuring energy-efficient R-32 refrigerant and an innovative Inverter Ducted System (IDS), positioning itself to meet consumer demand for eco-friendly technology while offering cost-effective solutions for residential and commercial applications.
3. USA: Arizona homeowners will see changes as A2L refrigerants become mandatory in new HVAC systems, potentially raising costs by over 20%. To help, rebates up to $8,000 are available for low-income households upgrading to energy-efficient heat pumps, saving about $763 annually. 2025 will be crucial for energy efficiency upgrades.

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* Qubemark.com
* newstrail.com
* abc15.com

**Wood:**

**KSA**

Summary:

NA

**Global**

Summary:

1. Global: The Swiss wood industry, along with Estonia and Finland, is experiencing potential supply shortages this summer due to last year's heavy rainfall hindering timber harvesting, raising concerns about availability and pricing, while Finnish sawmills are ramping up output to address the growing demand for secure wood supplies; to mitigate future shortages, forest owners are advised to mark and log ready timber and engage with buyers promptly.
2. Global: The wood pellets market is experiencing growth driven by increasing demand for carbon-neutral fuel, bolstered by government incentives and sustainability goals. As an efficient alternative to fossil fuels for heating and power generation, wood pellets are gaining traction despite challenges such as low awareness and competition from other energy sources. The wood pellet heating sector is particularly appealing due to its environmental and economic advantages. While prices surged in 2022, they are projected to decrease to approximately €366 per tonne by early 2025. However, rising demand may outpace production, underscoring the need for sustainable practices to ensure future supply.
3. Global: Suzano's announcement of price hikes for its hardwood market pulp, driven by rising demand and higher sales prices, underscores a robust market for hardwood products, signalling resilience even amid challenges faced in other sectors. This strategic move highlights the company's ability to capitalize on favourable market conditions while reinforcing its position as a leading player in the hardwood pulp industry.
4. Germany: Germany's wood exports to China have declined, raising questions about whether demand will shift to the US. Additionally, softwood log imports have dropped as China's total log demand weakens. In 2025, Germany's wood market faces uncertainty. While spruce lumber prices have risen slightly, sawmills struggle with slow sales. The construction sector's weak outlook hampers demand for materials. Conversely, log prices are increasing, especially for pine and hardwoods. Exports to China have dropped significantly, but US demand remains strong.
5. Australia: New wood processing techniques developed in Fiji are currently being trialed in Australia, showcasing significant advancements in the industry. This initiative seeks to enhance both the value and sustainability of wood products, reflecting a commitment to innovative practices that can improve efficiency and reduce environmental impact.
6. New Zealand: Experts from Flinders University and New Zealand have employed AI and 3D laser scanning technology to map pine forests across North Island, providing comprehensive data on forest size, age, and volume. This innovative approach enhances wood supply forecasting and risk management, particularly in the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle, by enabling more accurate assessments of forest resources and potential vulnerabilities.

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