**Ceramic**

**KSA**

Summary:

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. Global: Demand for ceramic-grade zinc oxide is strong, with the operating rate increasing to 62.41%. Zinc prices rose, leading to just-in-time procurement and lower raw material inventories. Finished product sales improved, but rubber-grade demand slowed due to high inventory levels. Overall, zinc oxide operations are expected to remain stable next week.
2. Global: French company Nanoe has acquired the Upryze-Shock product line from Saint-Gobain ZirPro. This includes exclusive rights to the trademark and technology transfer. Upryze-Shock is a high-performance zirconia ceramic powder for wear-resistant tools and medical devices, enhancing Nanoe's specialty ceramic materials portfolio.
3. India: Kolkata-based CSIR-Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute (CGCRI) and Indian Institute of Technology-BHU have signed an MoU to enhance research in ceramics and related technologies. This collaboration aims to promote joint research, share ideas, and develop projects in various fields, including glass-ceramics and energy materials, while providing internship opportunities for students.
4. Europe: The European Union is supporting a more innovative and sustainable ceramics industry in Tunisia through the #INNOVATILE project, which aims to transform ceramic tile manufacturing using semi-wet granulation technology. This initiative promotes sustainable production, reduces energy consumption and CO₂ emissions, and strengthens Tunisia's position in the development of sustainable industrial solutions.

**Top Domains:**

* timesofindia.com
* news.metal.com
* 3printr.com
* south.euneighbours.eu

**Contracting Services NDD Monitoring:**

**KSA**

Summary:

1. The $2.3 billion Abraj Kudai hotel project in Mecca, announced nearly a decade ago, faces ongoing delays due to financial issues and shifting priorities. Despite rising religious tourism, construction remains stalled, raising doubts about its future as Saudi Arabia pushes for ambitious tourism goals.

**Top Domains:**

* ttwmadagascar.com

**Global**

Summary:

1. UAE: UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed welcomed US President Trump during his visit. They discussed enhancing cooperation in technology, investment, and defense, emphasizing shared values and commitments to peace. The UAE plans to invest $1.4 trillion in the US over ten years.
2. USA: The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development’s $3.8 million Youree Drive project will finish by June. The $123 million I-20 reconstruction is 77% complete, expected to finish by early next year. Additional projects include a $1.5 million safety upgrade on I-49, set for completion this Fall. Funding comes from various sources.

**Top Domains:**

* bignewsnetwork.com
* theworldnewswire.com

**Aluminium:**

**KSA**

Summary**:**

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. UAE: Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA) have signed a five-year supply agreement valued at $500 million to localize the supply of calcined petroleum coke, a key raw material used in aluminum production. This agreement will enable EGA to produce around 3.75 million tonnes of aluminum over the five-year term, reducing the UAE's reliance on imports and fostering local industrial capabilities.
2. Africa: Manufacturing Africa (MA) has partnered with TLG Capital to enhance funding for Nigerian manufacturers. TLG Capital raised $75 million for its $200 million fund, aiming to support job creation and economic growth. Terra Aqua, an aluminum recycler, is the first company to receive $7.5 million in financing.

**Top Domains:**

* zawya.com
* newslodge.com.ng

**Construction M&E:**

**KSA**

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. The construction industry is rapidly adopting AI and technology to improve efficiency and profitability. Electrical contractors can benefit from AI in project management, back-office operations, safety, and predictive maintenance. Embracing these innovations helps streamline processes and enhances competitiveness in a complex market.
2. Canada: The Home Depot Canada partnering with the Canadian Association of Women in Construction (CAWIC) to promote and support women in the construction industry. This collaboration aims to address the gender gap in construction by providing resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities for women. The initiative reflects a commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion within the industry, encouraging more women to pursue careers in construction.

**Top Domains:**

* ieci.org
* theworldnewswire.com

**Steel Rebar:**

**KSA**

Summary:

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. USA: Steel rebar prices in the U.S. reached 825 USD/MT in December 2024, supported by stable demand and rising energy costs. In China, prices were lower at 437 USD/MT due to reduced production costs. The steel rebar market was valued at $6.50 billion in 2024, with a projected growth rate of 5.2% from 2025 to 2030, driven by investments in affordable housing and public construction. Prices have fluctuated, stabilizing around $800 per ton by mid-2023.
2. UAE: Aldar Properties will be the first MENA developer to use hydrogen-based steel rebar for Abu Dhabi's first net-zero carbon mosque on Yas Island. This initiative aims to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable construction, supporting the UAE's economy and green building goals.

**Top Domains:**

* openpr.com
* decypha.com

**Flat Rolled Steel:**

**KSA**

Summary:

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. China: Hot-rolled steel output in China is expected to rise 4.75% in December, reaching 9.29 million mt as mills recover from maintenance. Exports will increase by 5.5%, and domestic production is set to grow by 4.7%. Improved profits and market conditions are driving this rise.
2. India: Indian hot rolled steel export offers to the EU rose by $10 per ton to $650–655 CFR. Trading remains slow as traders await clearer trends post-holidays. Indian mills are focusing on domestic sales due to better profitability, while demand in the Middle East is weak.
3. South Africa: South Africa's International Trade Administration Commission (ITAC) announced the imposition of safeguard measures on certain flat hot-rolled steel products, effective from May 2, 2025, for a duration of three years. The duty rates will be 13% in the first year, 11% in the second year, and 9% in the third year, with exemptions for some developing countries like Malaysia, South Korea, and Vietnam.
4. Vietnam: Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) revised its temporary anti-dumping duties on hot-rolled steel imports from China and India, maintaining the duty rate for China between 19.38% and 27.83%. The specific trading company, Win Faith Trading Limited, is subject to the highest duty rate of 27.83%, affecting various hot-rolled steel products classified under multiple HS codes.
5. Indonesia: PT Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel (AM/NS) Indonesia has set a record by exporting 10,000 tons of galvanized steel to the United States, marking the highest export volume in the last 20 years, with a total value of $10 million. The company aims to strengthen its global market position, targeting monthly exports of 5,000 to 6,000 tons to the U.S. and expanding into new markets such as Europe, Malaysia, and Australia, despite facing challenges from trade regulations and tariffs.
6. Uzbekistan: Uzmetkombinat is set to launch a new foundry and rolling complex in Bekabad, Uzbekistan, in May 2025, which will enable the production of over 1 million tons of hot-rolled steel annually. This project aims to reduce steel imports, enhance export potential, and create approximately 1,250 direct jobs, while also stimulating related industries through significant investments in modern technology and infrastructure
7. USA: In February 2025, U.S. exports of hot-rolled steel bars decreased to approximately 31,000 tons, reflecting an 8% decline from January and a 2% drop compared to February 2024. The majority of these exports went to Mexico, which received about 17,400 tons, while the total export value was nearly $50 million, down 3% month-on-month and 9.5% year-on-year.

**Top Domains:**

* Steelradar.com
* news.metal.com
* yieh.com
* tempo.co
* gmk.center

**Cement:**

**KSA**

Summary:

1. Sinoma Overseas Development is partnering with Raysut Cement to build Oman’s first waste heat recovery power plant, reducing energy reliance and CO₂ emissions. In Saudi Arabia, Sinoma is upgrading Yamama Cement’s production line and has completed a preheater tower. Additionally, PPC and Sinoma are constructing a new cement plant in South Africa.
2. Yamama Cement expects a 6% rise in production costs due to a fuel price hike effective January 1, 2025, as notified by Saudi Aramco. This will impact financial results starting Q1 2025.

**Top Domains:**

* globalcement.com
* argaam.com

**Global**

Summary:

1. Global: 'The global push for low-carbon alternatives is reshaping the cement industry, with innovations aimed at reducing carbon emissions by 40% and enhancing energy efficiency across production processes.
2. Global: Betolar's innovative process transforms industrial waste into green cement, while NexGen Cem introduces fast-setting cement for military and civilian applications, showcasing advancements in the industry.
3. Ukraine: Pavlo Kachur head of Association "Ukrcement" reported that five major cement companies in Ukraine meet domestic demand with an annual capacity of 13.6 million tons. Despite challenges, the industry has grown, aided by anti-dumping duties. Ukraine also attracts international investment in critical minerals, with many deposits still undeveloped.
4. Nigeria: Economic experts have supported the decision by Abdul Samad Rabiu of BUA Cement and Aliko Dangote of Dangote Cement to reduce cement prices for contractors involved in the Federal Government's Renewed Hope projects. This initiative aims to address the affordable housing challenge in Nigeria, where the housing gap has reached approximately 28 million, and is expected to benefit end users by stabilizing costs in the construction sector.
5. Nigeria: BUA Cement reported a revenue of N290.82 billion for Q1 2025, an 80.48% increase from the previous year, despite facing a 52.39% cost of production that significantly impacted its revenue. However, the company achieved a remarkable profit before tax of N99.74 billion, reflecting a 368.58% year-on-year increase, and a profit after tax of N81.12 billion, which grew by 351.44% compared to the same period in 2024.
6. India: JK Lakshmi Cement partners with SwitchLabs Automobiles to use Electric Vehicles (EVs) for logistics between its plants in Rajasthan and Gujarat. This move emphasizes their commitment to sustainability and reducing carbon emissions while enhancing operational efficiency. The initiative aims to lead the cement sector towards greener practices.
7. India: A report indicates that labour shortages caused by heatwaves and price hikes are negatively impacting cement demand in India, highlighting challenges faced by the industry amid climate issues.
8. France: Hoffmann Green Cement and Betolar are pioneering methods to recycle industrial waste into green cement, significantly reducing carbon emissions. This innovation is crucial for sustainable construction practices.
9. China: 'Conch Group' is collaborating with Huawei to launch an AI model aimed at enhancing efficiency within the cement industry. This partnership signifies a shift towards integrating advanced technologies into traditional manufacturing processes.
10. Iran: Iran's halt on cement and steel manufacturing due to power issues highlights significant challenges within the industry. Additionally, local market weaknesses are impacting profits for major manufacturers like Cemex.
11. USA: Suffolk Technologies and Queens Carbon are leading investments in low-carbon cement manufacturing, aiming to enhance sustainability and innovation in the industry. These initiatives reflect a growing trend towards environmentally friendly construction materials.
12. USA: 'ZS2 Technologies' has successfully scaled domestic production of magnesium cement technology in North America, marking a significant step forward in innovative cement solutions that promise lower environmental impact.
13. USA: Queens Carbon has secured a $10 million seed round aimed at enhancing U.S. leadership in low-carbon cement manufacturing, signalling a positive shift towards sustainable construction practices.
14. Africa: Despite social media claims, cement prices, especially GHACEM 32R, remain steady at around 120 cedis per bag. Retailers report no price reductions due to high transport costs and supply chain issues. They urge the government to address clinker shortages for potential price relief.
15. Africa: Former Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Michael Okyere Baafi has publicly refuted claims regarding the reduction of cement prices to GH₵82., emphasizing that such assertions are unfounded. This statement aims to clarify misinformation circulating in the market.

**Top Domains:**

* finway.com.ua
* thetimes.com.ng
* primebusiness.africa
* cement.com
* connectcre.com
* english.publictv.in
* times.indiatimes.com
* postingtree.com
* globalcement.com
* capitolweekly.net
* ghanamma.com

**Glass:**

**KSA**

Summary:

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. Global: Recent advancements in glass manufacturing include energy-efficient windows and the use of AI in recycling. Companies like Vindov & Glass are leading the way in sustainable practices, enhancing both product quality and environmental impact.
2. India: Teknor Apex introduces Crealen, a glass-filled, halogen-free flame-retardant polypropylene. It meets UL94V0 at 1.5mm and UL5VA at 3.0mm, ideal for demanding applications in eMobility and electronics. Crealen offers moisture resistance and excellent adhesion, making it a superior choice for high-performance needs.
3. India: Standard Glass Lining Technology Limited (SGLTL) has launched India's first glass-lined shell and tube heat exchangers, in collaboration with Japan's AGI Group. This innovation aims to replace imported graphite systems, enhancing safety and durability. SGLTL expects a ₹2,000 crore domestic market and plans to start production by FY26.

**Top Domains:**

* gurufocus.com
* modernplasticsindia.com
* business-news-today.com
* glass-international.com

**Elevator:**

**KSA**

**NA**

**Global**

**NA**

**HVAC**

**KSA**

**NA**

**Global**

Summary:

1. Global: The HVAC Blower & Fan Systems market is projected to reach USD 2,096.2 million by 2035, driven by the increasing demand for smart and efficient HVAC solutions. This growth indicates a positive trend in the industry.
2. USA: 123Invent Inventor Randy Castleman created CASTLEMAN’S CLEANSE, a low-pressure cleaning system for HVAC units (LBT-6159) that promises to enhance air quality and system efficiency. This innovation could significantly impact the HVAC industry by providing cleaner and healthier indoor environments.
3. Canada: The Garner City Council is exploring the costs of repairing or replacing the HVAC system at the Veterans Memorial Recreation Center. Mayor Tim Schmidt emphasized the need to address this issue proactively to avoid higher expenses for taxpayers in the future.

**Top Domains:**

* kalkinemedia.com
* absolutefusion.my
* b1031.com

**Wood:**

**KSA**

Summary:

NA

**Global**

Summary:

1. Global: SkyQuest Technology Group's Wood Flooring Market study highlights significant growth, projecting a rise from USD 59.55 Billion in 2024 to USD 98.55 Billion by 2032, driven by demand for sustainable options. Challenges include raw material availability and competition from alternatives.
2. Global: In March 2025, the price of wood pellets imported to the United Kingdom increased by 2%, indicating a slight rise in market demand. However, during the same month, imports of wood pellets decreased by 7%, suggesting potential challenges in supply or shifts in consumption patterns.
3. Global: Recent advancements in the wood industry include AI-enhanced automation, eco-friendly alternatives, and innovative processing technologies. Companies are focusing on efficiency and high-value products to adapt to market demands. Efforts towards sustainability in the wood industry are highlighted by projects focusing on replanting, value-added processing, and eco-friendly materials. These initiatives aim to enhance environmental responsibility.
4. Global: In April 2025, the price of bleached softwood kraft pulp imported to China rose by 3%, reflecting a tightening supply in the market. Despite this price increase, the volume of imports fell by 5%, indicating potential challenges in demand or shifts in sourcing strategies among Chinese manufacturers.
5. Sweden: Woodsafe R&D has Sweden's most advanced fire testing lab for wood products, capable of simulating years of weather exposure in weeks. This unique facility combines durability and fire classification testing, providing architects and builders with reliable data on long-term fire protection performance.
6. Germany: Fraunhofer Institute for Wood Research Wilhelm-Klauditz-Institut (WKI) is advancing timber construction through the “SafeTeCC” project, developing quick-bonding techniques for wood-concrete composite elements. This innovation enhances sustainability and structural integrity, aiming to make these composites competitive with traditional concrete. A practical guide will support SMEs in adopting these technologies.
7. Finland: Finnish wood companies face potential losses due to EUDR regulations, while the overall wood market remains muted despite rising sawn timber prices. This indicates significant challenges ahead for the industry.
8. USA: Boise Cascade Co. is investing $140 million to enhance its engineered wood product operations, focusing on reliability and efficiency for builders facing economic challenges. Upgrades at Oakdale and Thorsby plants will improve manufacturing and support a national supply network, helping builders manage costs and uncertainties.
9. Canada: Clarendon County has landed possibly its largest economic development announcement ever with a leading European wood paneling maker’s decision to invest $250 million in a new facility
10. Canada: Swinerton Inc. is creating a domestic lumber supply chain to avoid Trump’s tariffs by expanding manufacturing on both coasts. Timberlab aims to enhance mass timber supply chains, while developers like Neutral are exploring domestic alternatives due to potential cost increases from tariffs on timber projects.

**Top Domains:**

* newstrail.com
* woodandpanel.com
* timberindustrynews.com
* globalwoodmarketsinfo.com
* furnishingidea.com
* theitem.com
* woodcentral.com.au
* lesprom.com