

# News and events that affect our industry

January 2025



The ultimate "intelligence" provider in the global cement sector

[cembrgroup.com](http://cembrgroup.com)

**Week ending: 05-01-2025**

## DEMAND:

- **South Korea:** Ssangyong C&E expects cement demand to drop to around 41Mt in 2025, while Sungshin Cement anticipates a reduction to under 40Mt.
- **India:** CRISIL Ratings expects domestic cement demand to grow by 5% in FY25.

## M&A:

- **Pakistan:** Lebanon's Pharaon Investment Group Limited is reportedly considering the sale of its 84% stake in Attock Cement Pakistan.
- **India:** UltraTech Cement has acquired an 8.69% stake in Star Cement for US\$99m, at US\$2.74/share. This minority stake acquisition could reportedly lead to UltraTech Cement eventually buying out Star Cement entirely, similar to its previous acquisition of India Cements on 20 December 2024.
- **China:** Dalian Onoda Cement, located in Dalian City, Liaoning Province, China, has announced an agreement to be acquired by Jilin Penglin Industry.
- **Saudi Arabia:** Saudi-based City Cement has reached an agreement with Umm Al Qura Cement to acquire its entire stake by increasing capital through issue of new shares in the company. Following the capital hike resulting from the transaction, the shareholders of Umm Al Qura Cement will own 30.4% of its capital.

### SUPPLY:

- **Philippines:** DMCI Holdings will postpone developing a cement plant on Semirara Island following its acquisition of almost 90% of Cemex Holdings Philippines (CHP). The company will reconsider the project upon the renewal of its coal operating contract in July 2027.
- **Malaysia:** Makin Teguh Sdn Bhd (MTSB) has increased its production of cement to 700t/day to address construction demand in Sabah's east coast amid a reported blockade affecting Cement Industries Sabah (CIS). The plant was commissioned in October 2023.
- **India:** Odisha Chief Minister, Mohan Charan Majhi, has announced plans to set up a mega US\$466.1m cement plant in Malkangiri district, Odisha, eastern India. No further details are currently available.
- **Iraq:** Iraqi General Cement Co's Kirkuk factory, the country's largest, has resumed operations, following a major environmental overhaul leading to its shut-down in mid-November 24.

### M&A:

- **India:** Nuvoco Vistas has reportedly won a bidding process to acquire Vadraj Cement through a corporate insolvency resolution. The acquisition includes Vadraj's 6Mt/yr grinding unit in Surat and 3.5Mt/yr clinker capacity in Kutch, increasing Nuvoco Vista's production capacity of 25Mt/yr by over 20%. The value of the deal was not disclosed. Production will commence in 3QFY27. The acquisition awaits National Company Law Tribunal approval.

### CARBON:

- **USA:** A project at Roanoke Cement Company in Virginia, led by Titan Group in partnership with Leilac, Amazon and Virginia Tech, received US\$1.49m from the US Department of Energy (DOE), for preliminary front-end engineering design (pre-FEED) studies, subject to final negotiations. It aims to capture over 500,000t/yr of CO<sub>2</sub> from cement Scope 1 emissions using Leilac's technology.

### DEMAND:

- **Morocco:** Cement sales in 2024 +9% YoY to 13.7Mt, according to the Ministry of National Territory and Urban Planning, Housing and City Policy.
- **Morocco:** Cement deliveries in 2024 +9.5% YoY to 13.693Mt, according to APC.
- **Vietnam:** Vietnam's 2024 cement production +3.5% YoY to 184.2Mt, according to the latest data from the General Statistics Office.
- **Argentina:** Argentina's 2024 dispatches -24% YoY to 9.56Mt, according to the Association of Portland Cement Manufacturers. Total dispatches -24% YoY to 9.5Mt.
- **Argentina:** Argentina's cement demand in 2024 -24% YoY to 9.499Mt, production -24% YoY to 9.494Mt. All according to the AFCP.

### IMPORTS/EXPORTS:

- **Argentina:** Argentina's cement exports in 2024 -0.6% YoY to 61,157t, imports +79.2% YoY to 4698t, according to AFCP.

### PRICING:

- **Romania:** The Competition Council has reportedly fined Holcim Romania, Romcim and Heidelberg Materials Romania a total of €43.7m for allegedly coordinating pricing policies

during the period of 2017–2018. Holcim Romania was fined €18.2m, Romcim €13.3m and Heidelberg Materials €12.2m.

## Week ending: 19-01-2025

### SUPPLY:

- **India:** The Adani Group will reportedly invest US\$577m to develop and expand its cement plants in Bhatapara and Jamul. The expansion at the Bhatapara unit has already been announced. No further details are currently available.
- **Cambodia:** The government has reportedly cancelled 463 hectares of cement projects in Kampong Trach district, Kampot, to preserve the region's ecotourism and cultural heritage. The project spans hectares across six limestone-rich mountainous sites, with a license valid from March 2020 to March 2035.
- **USA:** Start-up Brimstone has reportedly received a US Department of Energy grant worth up to US\$189m to establish a plant with a capacity of 80,000t/yr of 'green' cement (and 20,000t/yr of smelter-grade alumina). Brimstone plans to begin pilot operations in 2025 and aims to have the US\$378m plant fully operational by the end of the decade.
- **South Africa:** PPC has partnered with Sinoma Overseas Development to build a US\$159m 1.5Mt/yr cement plant at an existing site in Western Cape. Over the next three months, the parties will finalise the scope and final assessment of the new plant, as well as the associated turn-key engineering, procurement and construction agreements. Construction of the new plant is expected to begin in 2025, with the plant commissioned by the end of 2026.
- **Brazil:** A front-end engineering design contract from Circlua for the construction of the world's largest activated clay plant has been secured, with a capacity of 0.96Mt/yr (3000t/day). The plant will be largely powered by renewable electricity, and will be located in Pará, utilising clay sourced from the Carajás iron ore complex.
- **Kazakhstan:** Primus Capital and Sinoma Cement reportedly plan to invest more than US\$200m in the construction of a 1.3Mta cement plant in the Aktobe region.
- **Angola:** The SNL cement and clinker factory in Catumbela, Benguela province, a \$170 million project set to produce 1.2Mt/yr of cement, is expected to be completed in mid-2026.

### IMPORTS/EXPORTS:

- **Turkey:** Turkey's cement exports in 2024 -6.2% YoY to US\$4.3bn, according to its Ministry of Trade.
- **Peru:** Cement exports from Peru in 2024 -8% YoY, and cement imports +29% YoY, according to ASOCEM.

### CARBON:

- **Latvia:** Capsol Technologies has commenced its first CapsolGo demonstration campaign at the Akmenės Cementas plant in Lithuania, owned by Schwenk, to evaluate its carbon capture technology. Following the demonstration campaign, the CapsolGo unit will be transferred to Schwenk's Brocēni cement plant in Latvia, where a feasibility study was conducted in 2024.

### DEMAND:

- **Uzbekistan:** Uzbekistan's 2024 cement sales +58% YoY to 5.9Mt, according to Business World Magazine.
- **Switzerland:** Cement deliveries in 2024 -4.6% YoY to 3.6Mt, impacted by slow economic recovery, uncertainty and high energy prices, according to industry association Cemsuisse. Cement sales also -4.6% YoY to 3.56Mt.
- **Peru:** Cement dispatches in Peru in 2024 +0.01% YoY to 12Mt, domestic cement production -3% YoY to 11Mt, and clinker production -8% YoY. All according to ASOCEM.

## Week ending: 26-01-2025

### SUPPLY:

- **India:** Shiva Cement has signed an agreement with Bhushan Power and Steel (BPSL) for the development of a 1Mt/yr cement grinding unit at BPSL's premises in Sambalpur, Odisha. The agreement formalises the proposed transaction following board and shareholder approvals in 2024, as well as the signing of a memorandum of understanding. Under the agreement, BPSL will construct, install and operate the grinding unit for Shiva Cement. The total transaction value is capped at US\$44m.
- **Malaysia:** Cahya Mata Cement will build a second line at its Mambong facility in Kuching to increase cement production and support Sarawak's infrastructure development. Construction is expected to take 24 months, with expected completion in March 2027. The project will add 6000t/day of clinker capacity, raising output to 1.92Mt/yr.

### CARBON:

- **USA:** The US Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management has reportedly selected Cemex's Knoxville cement plant in Tennessee as the site for a carbon capture, removal and conversion test centre. The project is part of a US\$101m initiative shared among five projects that aim to decarbonise cement plants and power facilities.
- **Spain:** Holcim, Enagás and gas supplier Saggas have announced the 'CO<sub>2</sub>necta' project, a joint decarbonisation initiative that will capture, transmit and store over 0.56Mt/yr of CO<sub>2</sub>. The project will involve the construction of a CO<sub>2</sub> capture plant at Holcim's Sagunto plant in Valencia. Captured CO<sub>2</sub> will be transported through Enagás infrastructure to the Saggas terminal in the Port of Sagunto, where it will be liquefied and then shipped for geological storage.

### DEMAND:

- **Azerbaijan:** Azerbaijan's 2024 cement production +1.6% YoY to 4.03Mt and cement clinker output + 16% YoY, according to the State Statistics Committee.
- **Saudi Arabia:** Cement sales in 2024 +3.7% YoY to 51.2Mt.
- **Iraq:** The General Company for Iraqi Cement, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals, reported a 7% year-on-year increase in cement production in 2024, to 10.2Mt.
- **Poland:** The Polish cement industry predicts a 5% increase in production in 2025, to nearly 18Mt, driven by anticipated economic growth and potential EU fund unblocking under a national

recovery plan. 2024 cement sales were +3-4% YoY to 17Mt, according to the Institute of Economic Forecasting and Analyses (IPIAG).

- **Indonesia:** Cement sales in 2024 +0.9% YoY to 64.887Mt, cement production +1% YoY to 55.842Mt, clinker production -2.8% YoY to 57.091Mt, according to ASI.
- **Vietnam:** Vietnam's 2024 total cement sales +1% YoY to 95.043Mt, according to VNCA. Domestic sales +3% YoY to 65.191Mt.

#### IMPORTS/EXPORTS:

- **Indonesia:** 2024 cement exports -22.8% YoY to 998,000t, clinker exports +14.6% YoY to 10.9Mt, according to ASI.
- **Vietnam:** 2024 cement exports flat YoY to 20.288Mt, clinker exports -13% YoY to 9.564Mt, according to VNCA.
- **Egypt:** Egypt's exports of cement and clinker were 9.7Mt in 2024, a record volume nearly three times larger than the amount shipped out in 2022, according to ship tracking data from Kpler.

#### PRICING:

- **Cambodia:** The government has waived the 5% tax on domestic cement products from January 2025 to December 2026 to support the local cement industry, as announced by the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

---

## Week ending: 02-02-2025

---

#### DEMAND:

- **Spain:** Cement consumption in 2024 +3% YoY to 14.9Mt, according to Oficemen. Oficemen projects a 5% growth in Spain's cement consumption for 2025.
- **Vietnam:** VICEM projects cement supply to reach approximately 124.75Mt this year, and domestic demand to be around 63.5Mt.
- **Global:** The World Cement Association (WCA) projects a 22% decline in global cement demand by 2050. Price increases are expected to continue in European and North American markets, while significant market restructuring is already underway to address overcapacity in China and Japan. Multinational companies are scaling back cement business and focusing instead on North America, while cement production in Europe continues to decline due to strict CO<sub>2</sub> regulations and capacity reductions.

#### M&A:

- **India:** JK Cement has entered a JV with Saifco Cement, through which it will expand its offering in northern India. JK Cement will acquire a 60% stake in Saifco Cement for US\$20.1m to expand in Jammu and Kashmir, where Saifco owns limestone reserves of 129Mt across 144 hectares.
- **India:** Aditya Birla Group subsidiary UltraTech Cement has reportedly entered talks to acquire Heidelberg Materials' 69% stake in HeidelbergCement India. Heidelberg Materials' stake has been valued at approximately US\$391m.

- **India:** JK Cement has won a bid for 250Mt of limestone reserves in Lakhpat Punrajpur, Kutch, Gujarat, through a Request for Proposal from Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation. The reserves are expected to supply the company with raw materials for the next 40 years.

#### IMPORTS/EXPORTS:

- **Canada:** Cement exports -2% YoY to 4.4Mt in 2024, according to a report by IndexBox. In terms of value, exports reached US\$534m in 2024.
- **Spain:** Cement exports from Spain in 2024 -8.3% YoY to 4.82Mt, imports +37.6% YoY to 1.37Mt, according to Oficemen.

#### PRICING:

- **Ivory Coast:** Côte d'Ivoire's government lowered the price of a tonne of cement by XOF7000 (US\$11.12) by decree on 26 December 2024, according to local press reports. The price change applies to all types of cement.