

The Dawn of 2025, Part 9: Metallurgical Coal Outlook 2025: Price Trends, Trade Dynamics, and Global Demand

Updated on : Jan 18, 2025

Synopsis: The global metallurgical coal market is set to face price stabilization following a sharp decline in 2024, with prices expected to remain around US\$200 per metric ton in 2025 and 2026. While export earnings are projected to decrease due to lower prices, global trade volumes are anticipated to rise, driven by growing demand from countries like India and Southeast Asia. Despite uncertainty in demand due to geopolitical factors and trade policy changes, the market remains resilient, with China continuing to be the largest importer, while Russia and Australia maintain strong export volumes.

China's Steel Output Dips to Five-Year Low in 2024 Amid Struggling Property Sector

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Synopsis: China's crude steel production for 2024 fell 1.7% year-on-year to 1.005 billion metric tons, marking a five-year low, due to weakened demand from the property market. Exports surged, but domestic consumption remained weak. Analysts predict further declines in 2025.

Gerdau Celebrates 124 Years of Steelmaking Legacy & Innovation

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Synopsis: Brazilian steel giant Gerdau, celebrating 124 years since its founding in 1901, has evolved from a small nail factory into a global leader in steel production. Over the decades, it has expanded significantly, particularly from 1948 onwards when it began producing steel. Last year, the company achieved its best-ever workplace safety records, marking an important milestone in its long history.

China's Trade Surplus Hits Record High, Surpassing Historical Milestones

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Synopsis: China's commercial surplus reached a historic high of nearly 1 trillion dollars in the last year, marking an unprecedented level when adjusted for inflation. The country's booming exports have sparked concerns globally, prompting both industrialized and developing nations to impose tariffs in a bid to curb the growing flood of Chinese products in their markets.

Trump to Unveil External Revenue Service for Aggressive Tariff Collection

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Synopsis: US President-elect Donald Trump has revealed plans to introduce the External Revenue Service, a new agency dedicated to collecting tariffs, taxes, and other revenues from foreign entities. While Trump criticizes previous trade policies, experts are concerned about the potential impacts of higher tariffs on consumer prices and inflation.

Centre Approves Rs 11,440 Crore Revival Package for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

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Synopsis: The Indian government has approved a revival package of Rs 11,440 crore for the ailing Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.

Biden's Block on Nippon Steel's U.S. Steel Acquisition: Political Fallout & Strategic Ramifications

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Synopsis: Nippon Steel's failed attempt to acquire US Steel has sparked significant controversy after President Joe Biden blocked the \$14.9 billion deal in January 2025. The company's vice chairman, Takahiro Mori, condemned the move as politically motivated, claiming it undermines US-Japan relations and could deter future foreign investments. Nippon Steel has since filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government, contesting the decision on grounds of fairness and due process.

South Africa's Industrial Crisis: Mining Equipment Manufacturers Face Threat Amid ArcelorMittal Steel Plant Closures

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Synopsis: The recent closure of ArcelorMittal's steel plants in South Africa has triggered widespread concern within the Mining Equipment Manufacturers of South Africa, as these closures affect not just the steel industry but the entire industrial ecosystem. With sectors like mining equipment manufacturing, construction, and automotive production all relying on steel as a core material, the ripple effects are vast. MEMSA urges the South African government to intervene and address policy gaps to prevent further de-industrialisation, which threatens jobs and national economic stability.

India's Push for Merger of State-Owned Mining Giants KIOCL & NMDC

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Synopsis: India has proposed a merger between two major state-owned miners, KIOCL and NMDC, to address the challenges faced by the struggling KIOCL and strengthen the overall mining and steel sector. The merger, announced by Federal Steel Minister H D Kumaraswamy, aims to enhance efficiency and bring greater stability to these key players in the industry.

Huta Częstochowa Auction Set for February 2025 Amid Resurgence Plans

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Synopsis: The auction for Huta Częstochowa, formerly Liberty Częstochowa, will take place on February 17, 2025, with an opening bid of PLN 226.95 million (\$66.8 million). The plant, currently leased by the state-owned Węglukoks, offers them a first right of purchase. With plans for revitalization and possible involvement in the defense and energy transformation sectors, the auction could mark a pivotal moment for the future of this steelmaker.

Brazil's Steel Production Rises 5.6% Year-on-Year Amid Challenges from China

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Synopsis: Brazil's crude steel production increased by 5.6% in 2024, reaching 31.1 million metric tons from January to November, surpassing 2023 figures. Despite this growth, the Brazilian Steel Institute (Instituto Aço Brasil) expressed concerns over China's aggressive market practices, which are putting pressure on Brazil's steel industry.

Steel Exports from Mexico Pose No Threat to the US Industry, Says Canacero

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Synopsis: Mexico's steel exports have been a beneficial trade for the U.S., with the U.S. experiencing a trade surplus of 1.2 million metric tons annually between 2015 and 2023. The Mexican steel industry, represented by Canacero, asserts that the best way to combat unfair Chinese competition is through the T-MEC USMCA and greater regional integration.

Steel Industry Under Pressure: Siderperu's Marcos Augusto Zilles Mattiello Expresses Concerns Over Chinese Overcapacity

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Synopsis: Marcos Augusto Zilles Mattiello, General Manager of Siderperu, expresses concerns about the future of the steel industry, specifically regarding the pressure caused by China's surplus steel production. With China's steel market experiencing a downturn, its excess production capacity is being channeled into exports, creating an overabundance that could impact global markets.

Mexico's Strategic Push to Replace Asian Imports & Strengthen North American Manufacturing

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Synopsis: Juan Antonio Reboulen, president of the Political Linkage Commission of Canacero, outlines Mexico's potential to competitively replace imports from Asia and supply North American manufacturing chains. With the Mexican government's

commitment to this shift, private initiatives are eager to capitalize on opportunities to strengthen ties with the US and Canada, aiming for better alignment on policy and defense processes.

Mexico & Canada Open New Era of Economic Cooperation: Steel and Beyond

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Synopsis: Mexico and Canada have initiated a new phase of economic cooperation, focusing on key industries like steel, energy, manufacturing, mining, transportation, and agro-industry. The meeting, attended by leaders and private sector representatives, emphasized the importance of strengthening the T-MEC USMCA agreement to foster stronger bilateral ties and mutual growth.

Peru Investigates Alleged Steel Pipe Dumping from China: A Threat to Domestic Industry

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Synopsis: Peru's National Institute for the Defense of Competition and Intellectual Property, Indecopi, has launched an investigation into whether steel pipes imported from China are being sold at unfairly low prices, potentially harming local production. The inquiry follows a request from local steel companies, including Corporación Aceros Arequipa, Tubos y Perfiles Metálicos, and Precor

Argentina Opens Door to Scrap Metal Exports After 16 Years: A Strategic Shift for the Economy

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Synopsis: Argentina has lifted a 16-year ban on scrap metal exports, establishing clear guidelines for both temporary and permanent imports and exports of non-hazardous waste. These materials, once processed, can be used as production inputs or direct products. This move marks a significant shift in the country's economic strategy, potentially boosting industries reliant on recycled materials.

Odisha Plans \$465 Million Shipbreaking Hub at Paradip Port to Boost Maritime Logistics

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Synopsis: The Indian state of Odisha has announced plans to set up a \$465 million shipbreaking and recycling hub at Paradip Port. The project, led by the Paradip Port Authority, aims to enhance the state's maritime logistics and could involve a public-private partnership to attract private investment. This initiative complements other efforts by the state government to improve port infrastructure.

Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train: Technologically Advanced Leap with Over 20,000 Steel Masts

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Synopsis: The Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Corridor is progressing rapidly with the inclusion of over 20,000 steel masts, manufactured under India's Make in India initiative. These steel masts, built to meet Japanese standards, will support the system's 2x25 kV Overhead Traction, allowing trains to achieve speeds of up to 350 km/h. This project combines indigenous manufacturing with cutting-edge global technology, bringing India closer to high-speed rail travel.

Araucaria Heterophylla: A Revolutionary Green Method for Controlling Acidic Corrosion on Mild Steel

Updated on : Jan 18, 2025

Synopsis: A study investigates the potential of Araucaria heterophylla, a plant species, as an eco-friendly and sustainable inhibitor to prevent corrosion on mild steel in acidic environments. The results show that the plant's extract effectively protects mild steel, offering a greener alternative to synthetic corrosion inhibitors. With an inhibition efficiency of approximately 83.94% at 1000 ppm concentration, this natural extract promises to be a game-changer in corrosion control.

Ternium Empowers Mexican University Students through Cátedra Ternium Program

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Synopsis: Ternium, a leading steel manufacturer, is enhancing the skills of engineering students in Mexico through its Cátedra Ternium program. In the latest edition, 30 students gained practical knowledge, improved key competencies, and aligned their career expectations with industry needs, contributing to their professional growth.

ArcelorMittal Brazil Foundation Recognizes Winners of National STEAM League Award

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Synopsis: ArcelorMittal Brazil Foundation has announced the winners of the National STEAM League Award, honoring educators and students who use Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics to create innovative solutions that positively impact their communities. The winning projects are recognized for their creativity, relevance, and commitment to community transformation.

Siderperu's Steel Contribution Fuels the Construction of 17 Schools in Peru

Updated on : Jan 18, 2025

Synopsis: Siderperu has made a significant contribution to Peru's education and sustainable development by supplying over 7,200 metric tons of steel for the construction of 17 Bicentennial Schools in Lima and Junín. These schools will benefit over 25,600 students, reinforcing Siderperu's commitment to social responsibility.

Ternium's Roberto Rocca Technical School Nears Completion in Brazil's Final Stretch

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Synopsis: Ternium is set to inaugurate its Roberto Rocca Technical School in Santa Cruz, Rio de Janeiro, in February. The school will provide full scholarships and training in Electromechanics and Mechatronics, supporting Brazil's workforce development in key technical fields.

