



Press release

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SCAD's Building Materials Report for December 2010:

Cement and Steel Prices Rise

Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi (SCAD) issued yesterday its monthly report on the prices of building materials during the month of December compared with November 2010, showing a rise main types of building materials, especially cement and steel in local market. In the meantime the prices of certain other categories remained generally stable, including “aggregate and sand”, “cement blocks”, “natural stone”, “false ceilings”, “glass”, and “transportation equipment”. On the other hand, the prices of “PVC” tubes and construction labour retreated during the reference period.

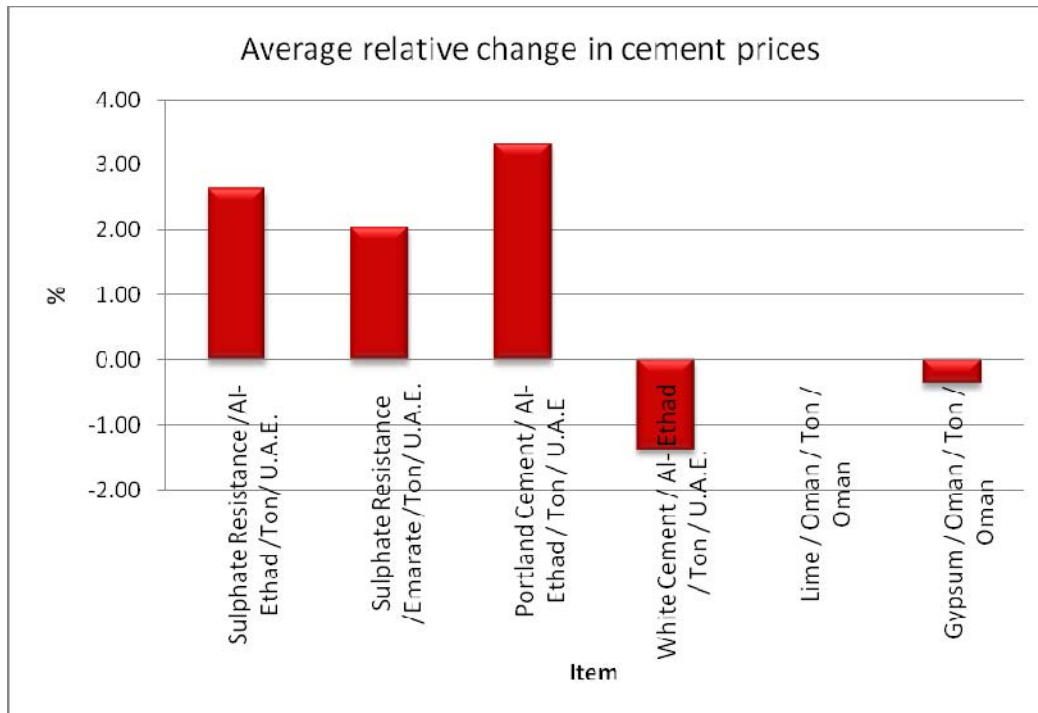
As per SCAD's report, the price of Etihad and Emirates sulphate resistant cement declined by 2.6% and 2.0% respectively, while that of standard Portland cement retreated by 3.3%,

The report indicates a rise of 3.9% to 16.9% in the prices of most steel items during December 2010 compared with November 2010.

Cement

Comparing cement prices during December 2010 with the previous month of November, the report reveals that the price of Etihad and Emirates sulphate resistant cement declined by 2.6% and 2.0% respectively. The price of standard Portland cement retreated by 3.3%, while white cement and Omani Gypsum edged down 1.4% and 0.4%, respectively. However, the price of Omani lime stabilized in December 2010 compared to November 2010.

Relative change in cement prices during December 2010 compared with November 2010



Steel

As SCAD's report points out, the price of construction steel showed a rise of 3.9% to 16.9% in the prices of most steel items during December 2010 compared with November 2010.

Wood

The period under review witnessed an increase in the range of 1.3% and 13.3% in the prices of a wide range of wood items, while the prices of White wood from Chile and Romania declined at 3.6% and 1.5%, respectively.

Concrete

The prices of standard and sulphate resistant concrete increased at 12.2% and 10.4%, respectively.

Aggregate and Sand

The prices of the “aggregate and sand group” remained generally stable during the reporting period.

Tiles and Marble

According to the report, the prices of tiles and marble were generally stable during December 2010, compared with November 2010, but mosaic prices (30 x 30 cm) and (25 x25 cm, unit: m²) advanced by 7.7% and 2.0%, respectively, while Ras Al Khaimah ceramic tiles for walls (size 40 x 25 cm, unit: m²) accelerated by 8.3% over the same period.

Sanitary ware

SCAD reported stable prices for the whole range of sanitary ware, except for the price of one item, namely, “Globo colour bathroom set from Italy” which retreated 7.7% in December 2010 compared to the previous month of November, during which the price of this item had grown by 1.6% over its level back in October 2010.

False Ceilings

The average prices of false ceilings were generally stable during December 2010 compared with November 2010.

Paints

According to the report, the prices of three items of paints advanced by 1.4% - 4.3% in December 2010 compared with November 2010, while the prices of the other paint items remained stable.

Wires

SCAD reported a 1.2% - 2.1% rise in the average prices of UAE made electrical wires for apartments during December 2010 compared with November 2010, while the prices of UAE made electrical wires for buildings advanced by 3.2%. Conversely, the prices of the remaining electrical wiring items declined by 2.2% - 10.6% in December 2010 compared with November 2010.

Electrical Cables

SCAD's report points to a rise of 7.9% - 8.4% in the prices of all types of electrical cables during December 2010 compared with November 2010.

PVC Pipes

The report indicates a decline of 2.7% on average in the prices of PVC pipes of various types and sizes during December 2010 compared with November 2010.

Transportation Equipment

Again the rents of transportation equipment generally stabilized during December 2010 compared with November 2010.

Construction Labour

The price of most types construction labour declined during December 2010 compared with November 2010 by 4.0% - 10.0%, depending on the type of work for which workers are engaged. However, the cost of labour in respect of assistants and semi-skilled labourers was generally stable during the period under review.

Prices of 194 Items Monitored as Part of SCAD's Building Materials Basket

SCAD monitors monthly movements in the prices of 194 items of construction materials, categorized into 21 groups of commodities and services that represent the most important materials used in the construction activity, including cement, aggregate (gravel), sand, wood, steel, concrete, cement blocks, etc.

Prices are collected from over 70 sources selected by SCAD's Price Indices Section through field visits by a team from the section. The team also reports to the Prices Section the closure or relocation of any outlets, and the list of sources is updated accordingly.