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steel Matters

Investment Holds the Key to South Africa's Steel Demand Outlook

Steel demand is showing resilience despite weak GDP growth, but a sustained recovery will depend on investment moving from project announcements to actual construction and steel consumption

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Steel Demand Gains Momentum — But Investment Is Key
Steel demand is strengthening, but infrastructure execution and the investment cycle will determine the pace and durability of growth through 2026–27.

IMPORT UP, EXPORT WEAKENS
July data shows rising import dependence and a weakening export position. Primary imports rose 33% in July and 14% YTD, while downstream imports increased 5% YTD. In contrast, primary and downstream exports fell 14% and 17% YTD, respectively.

Steel-Consuming Sectors Show Mixed Demand Signals
Steel-consuming sectors are sending mixed signals. Building plans point to a stronger forward pipeline, while weak construction completions, softer mining and manufacturing output, and declining vehicle exports continue to constrain near-term steel demand.

Scaw's Hot Strip Mill Reaches Commercial Scale
From first coil in 2024 to 25,000–30,000 tonnes a month, Scaw Metals' Hot Strip Mill is rapidly maturing into a significant new supplier to South Africa's flat-steel market.