

An Attractive cement business attracts cement companies.



Cement production would have ended 2010 with a growth of 16.1% to 8.4 million MT and in 2011 will grow 11.6% to 9.4 million tons, due to an increase in the cement demand which is driven by the dynamism of the construction sector, following the implementation of major construction (housing projects, infrastructure, mining, commercial centers, sanitation, hospitality projects, expansion and installation of new cement plants, etc.). On the other hand, domestic consumption of cement which includes local cement firms and imports, would have advanced by 17.4% in 2010 and would grow by 12.3% in 2011.

Cement imports (excluding Clinker, powdered cement) grew 125.2% in 2010 up to 322,200 MT (U.S. \$ 33.3 million) and would expand 76.1% in 2011, boosted by demand for cement in the domestic market. The large unsatisfied demand for housing, the large infrastructure deficit and the possibility of good returns on their investment makes the market attractive for foreign cement. It has been declared that four new cement plants will be installed in the country, and some of them would begin to build this year. These companies are: Cemex, Cementos Portland, Cementos Otorongo and Cementos Interoceanic.