

Worldwide Flat Glass Market: 2011 Edition



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Flat glass is a type of glass which is primarily manufactured in plane form and then can be bent, curved or rolled as per the requirement. Flat glass can be manufactured by a number of processes, like float, rolled and sheet, out of which float process remains to be the most widely used one and around 90% of the total flat glass worldwide is manufactured through float process. Primarily, the flat glass is used in building products or construction industry, automotive industry and some specialty industries including PV cells and display market, among the others. Construction industry accounts for the maximum share in the flat glass consumption, followed by automotive, with some but growing share in the specialty industries.

The global flat glass market has increased in terms of available capacity as well as demand from the past few years, but declined in 2009, mainly due to the global economic recession. In terms of demand, China has been the largest market for flat glass, followed by Europe and North America. China is also the largest flat glass producing region, and is the only country where the demand had not been affected by the global economic recession, that started in late 2007.

With the solar PV market on a rise, the flat glass market is also going to benefit. There has been an increasing demand for energy efficient buildings, which would increase the consumption of glass in buildings and motor vehicles. Also, since the end use markets for flat glass are all highly sensitive to the global economic environments, this makes the flat glass demand correlated to the economic conditions.

The report analyzes the global flat glass market, with focus on regional markets including Europe, Japan, ASEAN, North America, South America, China and Former Soviet Union. The report delves into the factors driving the global demand for flat glass, as well as the recent prevailing trends in the global flat glass industry. The regional competitive conditions, along with the market share of the leading companies have also been given in the report. The report profiles the four largest players, AGC Group, Saint Gobain, NSG Group and Guardian.

By combining SPSS Inc.'s data integration and analysis capabilities with our relevant findings, we have predicted the future growth of the industry. We employed various significant variables that have an impact on this industry and created regression models with SPSS Base to determine the future direction of the industry. Before deploying the regression model, the relationship between several independent or predictor variables and the dependent variable was analyzed using standard SPSS output, including charts, tables and tests.

Table of Content

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Glass: An Overview

1.2 Flat Glass

1.2.1 Overview

1.2.2 Main Routes to Market in the Flat Glass industry

2. GLOBAL FLAT GLASS MARKET

- 2.1 Market size
 - Global Capacity Growth
 - Global Demand Growth
 - Regional Demand
- 2.2 Segments Based on Application Market
 - 2.2.1 Building Products
 - 2.2.2 Automotive
 - 2.2.3 Specialty Applications

3. REGIONAL ANALYSIS

- 3.1 Europe
- 3.2 Japan
- 3.3 ASEAN
- 3.4 North America
- 3.5 South America
- 3.6 China
- 3.7 Former Soviet Union
- 3.8 Rest of the World

4. KEY TRENDS

- 4.1. Sustainability throughout the Life Cycle
- 4.2 Trend in Capacity Utilization Rates

5. GROWTH DRIVERS

- 5.1 Growing PV Solar Market
- 5.2 Economic Growth
- 5.3 Increasing Demand for Energy Efficient Buildings
- 5.4 Growth in Automobile Industry

6. COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

- Global Market Share
- Regional Market Share

7. COMPANY PROFILES

- 7.1 Asahi Glass (AGC)
 - Business Description
 - Key Financials
 - Business Strategies
 - Expansion of Solar Related Business
 - Focus on Research and Development
 - Making the Company Glass-technology Driven
- 7.2 Saint Gobain
 - Business Description
 - Key Financials
 - Business Strategies
 - Growth through Acquisitions
 - Increasing Share in Emerging Markets
- 7.3 NSG Group
 - Business Description
 - Key Financials

Business Strategies
Focus on Technological Innovation

3-PHASE STRATEGY

7.4 Guardian
Business Description
Key Financials
Business Strategies
Focus on Research and Development
Providing Energy Efficient Products

8. MARKET OUTLOOK

8.1 Market Forecast
8.2 Forecast Methodology
8.2.1 Dependent and Independent Variables
8.2.2 Correlation Analysis
8.2.3 Regression Analysis

LIST OF CHARTS

Glass Industry-Segments
Flat Glass Manufacturing-Share by Type of Manufacturing Process (2009)
Float Process for Flat Glass Manufacturing
Main Routes to Market in the Flat Glass Industry
Global Flat Glass Available Capacity (2001-2011E)
Global Flat Glass Demand (2001-2010E)
Global Flat Glass Demand-Share by Types (2009)
Global Flat Glass demand-Share by Regions (2009)
Global Special Application Flat Glass Market by Sector (2009)
European Flat Glass Available Capacity and Capacity Utilization (2001-2011E)
European Flat Glass Demand (2001-2011E)
Japanese Flat Glass Available Capacity and Capacity Utilization (2001-2011E)
Japanese Flat Glass Demand (2001-2011E)
ASEAN Flat Glass Available Capacity and Capacity Utilization (2001-2011E)
ASEAN Flat Glass Demand (2001-2011E)
North American Flat Glass Available Capacity & Capacity Utilization (2001-2011E)
North American Flat Glass Demand (2001-2011E)
South American Flat Glass Available Capacity & Capacity Utilization (2001-2011E)
South American Flat Glass Demand (2001-2011E)
Chinese Flat Glass Available Capacity and Capacity Utilization (2001-2011E)
Chinese Flat Glass Demand (2001-2011E)
Former Soviet Union Flat Glass Available Capacity & Utilization (2001-2011E)
Former Soviet Union Flat Glass Demand (2001-2011E)
Life Cycle of Flat Glass
Global Flat Glass Capacity Utilization Rates (2001-2011E)
Global Cumulative PV Installations (2005-2011E)
Worldwide GDP (2005-2012E)
World Motor Vehicle Production (2001-2010)
Global High Quality Float Glass Market-Share by Companies (2009)
European Float and Sheet Flat Glass Capacity-Share by Company (2009)
Japanese Float and Sheet Flat Glass Capacity-Share by Company (2009)
ASEAN Float and Sheet Flat Glass Capacity-Share by Company (2009)
North America Float and Sheet Flat Glass Capacity-Share by Company (2009)

South American Float and Sheet Flat Glass Capacity-Share by Company (2009)
China Float and Sheet Flat Glass Capacity-Share by Company (2009)
Former Soviet Union Float/ Sheet Flat Glass Capacity-Share by Company (2009)
AGC Group Revenue (FY06-FY10)
AGC Group Revenue-Share by Business Segments (2010)
AGC Group Revenue-Share by Regions (2010)
Saint Gobain Revenue (2006-2010)
Saint Gobain Revenue-Share by Business Segments (2010)
Saint Gobain Revenue-Share by Regions (2010)
Saint Gobain-Revenue Share of Emerging Markets (2010)
Saint Gobain-Revenue Share of Emerging Markets (2015)
NSG Revenue (FY06-FY10)
NSG Revenue-Share by Business Segments (FY06-FY10)
NSG Revenue-Share by Regions (FY10)
Guardian Revenue (2005-2009)
Global Flat Glass Demand (2010-2014E)

LIST OF TABLES

Global Building Products Flat Glass Market by Sector (2009)
Global Automotive Glass Products Market by Sector (2009)
Display Market-Volume Share by Type (2005-2009)
AGC Group-Description of Segments and Product Categories
NSG Group 3-Phase Strategy
Dependent & Independent Variables (2002– 2009)
Correlation Matrix
Model Summary – Coefficient of Determination
Regression Coefficients Output

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