



Hungary Refractory Materials Overseas Market Analysis Report

Target Country: Hungary

Main Category: Refractory Materials

Report Type: Overseas Market Analysis

Report Update Date: June 30, 2026

Hungary Refractory Materials: Key Conclusions

Hungary's refractory materials market is highly import-dependent, with import reliance exceeding 75%. China firmly holds the position as the largest supply source, accounting for approximately 38%. Magnesia-based and aluminosilicate materials dominate the market, with the steel and cement industries being the largest consumption sectors. In the first half of 2026, magnesia prices remained at elevated levels, bauxite supply tightened, and the CIF prices of Chinese refractory exports to Hungary rose approximately 8%-12% year-on-year. Core risks lie in EUR/CNY exchange rate fluctuations, the indirect transmission of the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) to steel customers, and logistics cost disruptions caused by the geopolitical situation in Eastern Europe.

- Import dependence: ~76% (limited domestic production capacity in Hungary)
- China supply share: ~38% (2025 customs data, carried forward as of June 2026)
- CIF price YoY change: 18%-12% (magnesia-based materials leading the increase)
- Core consuming industries: Steel (~45%), Cement (~22%), Glass (~15%)

⚠ Attention: The EU CBAM transitional period ended at the close of 2025, with the carbon border tax officially levied from 2026. Downstream steel customers of refractory materials face cost pressures that may impact procurement volumes.

Source: China General Administration of Customs, 2025 Annual Export Statistics; European Refractory Association (PRE) 2025 Market Brief; Mysteel Refractory Materials Monthly Report, June 2026 (some data carried forward from prior period)

Supply & Demand Fundamentals

Hungary's annual refractory materials demand is approximately 180,000-220,000 tonnes. The country has only one medium-sized refractory manufacturer (MOTIM Zrt., primarily producing magnesia-chrome bricks) with an annual capacity of approximately 50,000 tonnes, leaving the supply-demand gap to be filled by imports. Steel accounts for the highest share of consumption, followed by cement rotary kilns and glass furnaces. In 2025, Hungary's crude steel output was approximately 1.6 million tonnes and cement output approximately 2.8 million tonnes, both serving as important drivers of refractory material consumption.

Indicator	Value	Trend
Annual Demand (est.)	180-220 kt	Stable
Domestic Capacity	~50 kt/year	Stable
Net Imports (2025)	~150-170 kt	↑3%
Steel Consumption Share	~45%	—
Cement Consumption Share	~22%	—

Source: Hungarian Central Statistical Office (KSH) 2025 Industrial Data; European Refractory Association (PRE) 2025 Annual Report; Mysteel analysis, June 2026

China Market Status

China is the world's largest refractory materials producer and exporter, with 2025 output of approximately 24.8 million tonnes and export volume of approximately 6.1 million tonnes. As of June 2026, Liaoning magnesia (97% purity) ex-works price was approximately 3,650-3,900 CNY/tonne, and Shanxi bauxite (85% Al_2O_3) was approximately 1,850-2,100 CNY/tonne. Industry operating rates stand at approximately 68%-72%, with environmental production restriction policies continuing to impact small and medium-sized capacity. China's refractory exports to the EU have maintained growth, and Hungary, as a key Central and Eastern European market, benefits from the China-Europe Railway Express logistics corridor.

- 2025 China refractory output: **~24.8 million tonnes**
- 2025 total export volume: **~6.1 million tonnes** (YoY +4.2%)
- Magnesia (97%) ex-works price: **3,650-3,900 CNY/tonne** (June 2026, 100ppi.com)
- Industry operating rate: **~68%-72%** (Mysteel survey, June 2026)

Source: 100ppi.com Refractory Raw Material Prices, June 2026; Mysteel Refractory Materials Industry Weekly Report, June 2026; China Refractory Industry Association 2025 Annual Report

Hungary Market Status

The Hungarian refractory materials market is predominantly import-based, with 2025 import value of approximately 185 million EUR. China is the largest source country (~38% share), followed by Germany (~18%), Austria (~12%), Poland (~9%), and Slovakia (~7%). End-user consumption is concentrated in the Dunaújváros steel industrial zone and cement plants nationwide. Local distributors maintain spot inventory of magnesia bricks and high-alumina bricks at approximately 1.5-2 months of usage.

- 2025 import value: **~185 million EUR** (KSH data, carried forward as of June 2026)
- China share: **~38%** (largest source country)
- Germany share: **~18%** (primarily high-end magnesia-chrome bricks)
- Local spot inventory: **~1.5-2 months of usage** (distributor feedback)

Source: Hungarian Central Statistical Office (KSH) 2025 Import Trade Statistics; European Refractory Association (PRE) 2025 Member Country Brief

Product Segmentation Structure

Among Hungary's refractory imports, magnesia-based refractories (magnesia bricks, magnesia-chrome bricks, magnesia-carbon bricks) account for the highest share, primarily used in steel converters and electric arc furnaces; aluminosilicate refractories (high-alumina bricks, fireclay bricks) are widely used in cement kilns and glass furnaces; silicon carbide and carbon-based materials are used for non-ferrous metal smelting and specialty kilns. Import prices across each subcategory are significantly influenced by fluctuations in Chinese raw material prices.

Product Category	Import Share	CIF Price Range (€/t)	Main Application
Magnesia-Based	~40%	850-1,350	Steel converters/EAFs
Aluminosilicate	~32%	580-920	Cement kilns/Glass furnaces
SiC/Carbon-Based	~15%	1,200-2,100	Non-ferrous smelting/Specialty kilns
Others (Zirconia, etc.)	~13%	1,500-3,500	High-end glass furnaces

Source: Mysteel 2025-2026 Refractory Materials Export Price Monitoring; China Customs HS Code 6902/6903 Classification Statistics; European Importer Survey

Core Finished Products Supply & Demand

Represented by magnesia-carbon bricks (for steelmaking) and high-alumina bricks (for cement kilns), core finished products face a significant supply-demand gap in the Hungarian market. Annual imports of magnesia-carbon bricks are approximately 50,000-60,000 tonnes, and high-alumina bricks approximately 30,000-40,000 tonnes. Chinese export magnesia-carbon bricks (MT-14C grade) FOB Tianjin are quoted at approximately 780-920 USD/tonne, and high-alumina bricks (LZ-65 grade) at approximately 520-650 USD/tonne. CIF prices to Hungary require adding sea freight and inland logistics costs of approximately 12%-15%.

- Magnesia-carbon brick annual imports: ~50,000-60,000 tonnes (Hungarian market)
- High-alumina brick annual imports: ~30,000-40,000 tonnes
- Magnesia-carbon brick FOB Tianjin: 780-920 USD/tonne (June 2026, Mysteel)
- Logistics premium: $CIF \approx FOB \times 1.12-1.15$

Source: Mysteel Refractory Materials Export Quotations, June 2026; China Customs 2025 Export Itemized Data; Hungary Importer Logistics Feedback

Intermediate Products & Raw Material Values

Raw materials account for approximately 55%-65% of refractory cost composition. Magnesia and bauxite prices in Chinese production areas directly influence export quotations. As of June 2026, Liaoning Dashiqiao magnesia ($MgO \geq 97\%$) ex-works price was 3,650-3,900 CNY/tonne, and Shanxi Yangquan bauxite ($Al_2O_3 \geq 85\%$) was 1,850-2,100 CNY/tonne. Indicative CIF prices to Hungarian importers vary depending on quality and logistics. Sea freight (Tianjin-Koper port) is approximately 1,200-1,600 USD per 40ft container.

Raw Material	China Production Area Price (CNY/t)	Hungary Indicative CIF (€/t)
Magnesia $MgO \geq 97\%$	3,650-3,900	520-590
Bauxite $Al_2O_3 \geq 85\%$	1,850-2,100	270-340
Silicon Carbide $SiC \geq 88\%$	5,800-6,500	820-960

Source: 100ppi.com Raw Material Prices, June 2026; Mysteel Refractory Raw Materials Channel; Sea Freight Reference (Freightos Baltic Index FBX Europe Route)

Trade & Macro Indicators

Hungary's 2025 GDP growth rate was approximately 1.8%, with a forecast recovery to 2.3%-2.6% in 2026. Construction and manufacturing investment are experiencing moderate growth, supporting refractory materials demand. China-Hungary bilateral trade continues to expand, and refractory materials enjoy zero-tariff treatment within the EU (0% import duty on Chinese refractory exports to the EU). The Hungarian Forint to Euro exchange rate is relatively stable, though the EUR/CNY rate is subject to fluctuations influenced by USD cross-currency movements.

Indicator	Value	Date/Source
Hungary GDP Growth	1.8% (2025)	KSH, March 2026
2026 GDP Forecast	2.3%-2.6%	European Commission, Spring 2026
Refractory Import Tariff	0% (EU)	EU TARIC
EUR/HUF Exchange Rate	~385-395	MNB, June 2026

Source: Hungarian Central Statistical Office (KSH); European Commission Spring 2026 Economic Forecast; Hungarian National Bank (MNB) Exchange Rate Data

Risk & Opportunity Window

Risks: The official implementation of CBAM increases steel enterprise costs, potentially squeezing refractory procurement budgets; the Eastern European geopolitical situation forces logistics detours, extending sea + inland transportation time by 10-15 days; EUR/CNY fluctuations impact importer profitability. **Opportunities:** Deepening China-Hungary Belt and Road cooperation, with capacity expansion at the China-Europe Railway Express Budapest hub; Hungary's limited domestic refractory production capacity gives Chinese suppliers a pricing advantage in magnesia-based and aluminosilicate segments; the EU's reliance on high-quality Chinese refractories is difficult to substitute in the short term.

- **CBAM Risk:** Steel customer carbon costs increase; refractory procurement may shrink by 5%-8%
- **Logistics Risk:** Detour transportation extends delivery cycle by 10-15 days
- **Exchange Rate Risk:** EUR/CNY fluctuation range approximately $\pm 4\%-6\%$ (annualized)
- **Opportunity:** China-Europe Railway Express Budapest hub capacity increases **~20%** in 2026

▲ **Key Focus:** EU CBAM officially takes effect in 2026; refractory materials exporters should monitor downstream steel customers' carbon cost transmission and procurement strategy adjustments.

Source: European Commission CBAM Implementation Announcement 2026; China-Europe Railway Express Operational Data; Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade China Economic Brief, May 2026

Key Data Sources Summary

- China General Administration of Customs — 2025 Annual Refractory Materials Export Statistics (HS Code 6902/6903)
- 100ppi.com — Magnesia, Bauxite, and Silicon Carbide Raw Material Prices, June 2026
- European Refractory Association (PRE) — 2025 Market Brief and Member Country Data
- Hungarian National Bank (MNB) — Exchange Rate Data, June 2026
- Freightos Baltic Index (FBX) — Europe Route Sea Freight Reference
- Mysteel (Shanghai Ganglian) — Refractory Materials Industry Weekly Report and Export Price Monitoring, June 2026
- Hungarian Central Statistical Office (KSH) — 2025 Import Trade Statistics and Industrial Data
- European Commission — Spring 2026 Economic Forecast and CBAM Implementation Announcement
- China Refractory Industry Association — 2025 Annual Industry Report
- EU TARIC Tariff Database — Refractory Materials Import Tariff Inquiry

Disclaimer: The data in this report is for reference only and does not constitute any investment advice. Markets involve risks; decisions should be made with caution.