TALC AND PYROPHYLLITE

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless noted)

Domestic Production and Use: The total estimated crude ore value of 1996 domestic production was $31 million. There were 13 talc-producing mines in 6 States in 1996. Companies in Montana, New York, Texas, and Vermont accounted for 99% of domestic production. Ground talc was consumed in ceramics, 35%; paint, 19%; paper, 18%; roofing, 6%; plastics, 4%; cosmetics, 3%; and other, 15%. Two firms in North Carolina and one firm in California accounted for 100% of domestic pyrophyllite production, which increased slightly from that of 1995. Consumption was in ceramics, refractories, and insecticides, in decreasing order of tonnage.

Salient Statistics—United States:[1]	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996[e]
Production, mine	997	968	935	1,060	976
Sold by producers	817	900	923	901	899
Imports for consumption	80	100	155	146	142
Exports	175	135	154	183	179
Shipments from Government stockpile excesses	([2])	—	—	—	—
Consumption, apparent	902	933	936	1020	939
Price, crude or ground, dollars per ton	15-325	13-400	7-350	7-560	7-525
Stocks, producer, yearend	80	80	80	80	NA
Employment, mine and mill	880	800	750	750	750
Net import reliance[3] as a percent of apparent consumption	E	E	E	E	E

Recycling: Insignificant.

Import Sources (1992-95): China, 38%; Canada, 26%; Japan, 24%; and other, 12%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Most favored nation (MFN) 12/31/96	Non-MFN[4] 12/31/96
Crude, not ground	2526.10.0000	0.02¢/kg	0.6¢/kg.
Ground, washed, powdered	2526.20.0000	1.4% ad val.	35.0% ad val.
Cut or sawed	6815.99.2000	Free	2.2¢/kg.

Depletion Allowance: Block steatite talc: 22% (Domestic), 14% (Foreign). Other: 14% (Domestic), 14% (Foreign).

Government Stockpile:

Stockpile Status—9-30-96
(Metric tons)

Material	Uncommitted inventory	Committed inventory	Authorized for disposal	Disposals Jan.-Sept. 95
Talc, block and lump	974	3	974	6
Talc, ground	988	—	988	—

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TALC AND PYROPHYLLITE

Events, Trends, and Issues: Production and sales decreased 8% and 1% respectively, from those of 1995. Apparent consumption decreased 8% in 1996. Exports increased 2% from those of 1995. Canada, was the major importers of U.S. talc. Imports for consumption decreased 23% from those of 1995. Canada, China, and Japan supplied approximately 82% of the imported talc.

World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:

	Mine production		Reserves[5]	Reserve base[5]
	1995	1996[e]		
United States[1]	1,060	976	136,000	544,000
Brazil	460	470	14,000	54,000
China	2,400	2,400	Large	Large
India	456	450	4,000	9,000
Japan	994	1,000	132,000	200,000
Korea, Republic of	730	730	14,000	18,000
Other countries	1,050	1,174	Large	Large
World total (may be rounded)	7,150	7,200	Large	Large

World Resources: The United States is self-sufficient in most grades of talc and related minerals. Domestic and world resources are estimated to be approximately five times the quantity of reserves.

Substitutes: The major substitutes for talc are clay and pyrophyllite in ceramics; calcium carbonate, diatomite, kaolin, and mica in paint; calcium carbonate and kaolin in paper; clays, feldspar, mica, silica, and wollastonite in plastics; and calcium carbonate, kaolin, and silica in rubber.

[e]Estimated. E Net exporter. NA Not Available

[1]Excludes pyrophyllite.

[2]Less than ½ unit.

[3]Defined as imports - exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes.

[4]See Appendix B.

[5]See Appendix C for definitions.