

TALC AND PYROPHYLLITE

(Data in thousand metric tons unless noted)

Domestic Production and Use: The total estimated crude ore value of 2005 domestic talc production was \$23.5 million. There were 11 talc-producing mines in 6 States in 2005. Companies in Montana, New York, Texas, and Vermont accounted for most of the domestic production. Domestically produced ground talc was used in ceramics, 33%; paint, 20%; paper, 16%; roofing, 6%; plastics, 4%; rubber, 2%; cosmetics, 1%; and other, 18%. Two companies in North Carolina mined pyrophyllite. Production of pyrophyllite increased slightly from that of 2004. Consumption was, in decreasing order by tonnage, in refractory products, ceramics, and paint.

Salient Statistics—United States: ¹	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005^e
Production, mine	863	828	840	857	842
Sold by producers	784	764	845	838	827
Imports for consumption	180	232	237	226	234
Exports	137	166	192	202	208
Shipments from Government stockpile excesses	—	—	—	(2)	—
Consumption, apparent	906	894	885	881	868
Price, average, processed dollars per ton	108	98	89	88	83
Stocks, producer, yearend	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Employment, mine and mill	520	510	460	470	470
Net import reliance ³ as a percentage of apparent consumption	5	7	5	3	3

Recycling: Insignificant.

Import Sources (2001-04): China, 48%; Canada, 34%; France, 4%; Japan, 1%; and other, 13%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations 12-31-05
Crude, not ground	2526.10.0000	Free.
Ground, washed, powdered	2526.20.0000	Free.
Cut or sawed	6815.99.2000	Free.

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

Government Stockpile:

Stockpile Status—9-30-05⁴ (Metric tons)

Material	Uncommitted inventory	Committed inventory	Authorized for disposal	Disposal plan FY 2005	Disposals FY 2005
Talc, block and lump	867	—	867	⁵ 907	—
Talc, ground	1,050	—	1,050	—	—

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Events, Trends, and Issues: Production and sales of talc decreased slightly from those of 2004. Apparent consumption decreased slightly. Exports increased by 3% to 208,000 tons compared with those of 2004. Canada remained the major destination for U.S. talc exports, accounting for about 45% of the tonnage. U.S. imports of talc increased by 4% to 234,000 tons compared with those of 2004. In 2005, Canada and China supplied approximately 70% of the imported talc.

World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:

	Mine production		Reserves ⁶	Reserve base ⁶
	2004	2005 ^e		
United States ¹	857	842	140,000	540,000
Brazil	570	600	180,000	250,000
China	3,000	3,000	Large	Large
India	636	630	4,000	9,000
Japan	585	642	100,000	160,000
Korea, Republic of	958	930	14,000	18,000
Other countries	<u>1,710</u>	<u>1,710</u>	<u>Large</u>	<u>Large</u>
World total (rounded)	8,320	8,360	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 clays and pyrophyllite in ceramics, kaolin and mica in paint, kaolin in paper, clays and mica in plastics, and kaolin and mica in rubber.

^eEstimated. NA Not available. — Zero.

¹Excludes pyrophyllite.

²Less than ½ unit.

³Defined as imports – exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes.

⁴[See Appendix B for definitions.](#)

⁵Includes lump and block talc and ground talc.

⁶[See Appendix C for definitions.](#)