

TALC AND PYROPHYLLITE

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless noted)

Domestic Production and Use: The total estimated crude ore value of 1995 domestic production was \$35 million. There were 16 talc-producing mines in 7 States in 1995. Companies in Montana, New York, Texas, and Vermont accounted for 98% of domestic production. Ground talc was consumed in ceramics, 35%; paint, 19%; paper, 16%; plastics, 6%; roofing, 5%; cosmetics, 4%; 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 1994. Consumption was in ceramics, refractories, and insecticides, in decreasing order of tonnage.

Salient Statistics—United States:	1991	1992¹	1993¹	1994¹	1995¹
Production, mine	1,040	997	968	935	1,050
Sold by producers	864	817	900	923	959
Imports for consumption	67	80	100	155	110
Exports	178	175	135	154	190
Shipments from Government stockpile excesses	—	(²)	—	—	—
Consumption, apparent	929	902	933	936	970
Price, crude or ground, dollars per ton	11-308	15-325	13-400	7-350	7-560
Stocks, producer, yearend	80	80	80	80	80
Employment, mine and mill	880	880	800	750	750
Net import reliance ³ as a percent of apparent consumption	E	E	E	E	E

Recycling: Insignificant.

Import Sources (1991-94): China, 35%; Canada, 33%; Japan, 17%; and other, 15%.

Tariff:	Item	Number	Most favored nation (MFN) 12/31/95	Non-MFN⁴ 12/31/95
	Crude, not ground	2526.10.0000	0.03¢/kg	0.6¢/kg.
	Ground, washed, powdered	2526.20.0000	1.9% 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—9-30-95 (Metric tons)

Material	Uncommitted inventory	Committed inventory	Authorized for disposal	Disposals Jan.-Sept. 95
Talc, block and lump	982	—	980	—
Talc, ground	988	—	988	—

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Events, Trends, and Issues: Production and sales increased from those of 1994. Apparent consumption increased 3% in 1995. Exports increased 23% from those of 1994. Belgium, Canada, Japan, and Mexico were the major importers of U.S. talc. Imports for consumption decreased 29% from those of 1994. Canada, China, and Japan supplied approximately 85% of the imported talc.

World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:

	Mine production		Reserves ⁵	Reserve base ⁵
	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995^e</u>		
United States ¹	935	1,050	136,000	544,000
Brazil	440	440	14,000	54,000
China	2,400	2,400	Large	Large
India	442	450	4,000	9,000
Japan	999	990	132,000	200,000
Korea, South	710	710	14,000	18,000
Other countries	<u>1,950</u>	<u>1,860</u>	<u>Large</u>	<u>Large</u>
World total (may be rounded)	7,880	7,900	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.

^eEstimated. E Net exporter.

¹Excludes pyrophyllite.

²Less than ½ unit.

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

⁴See Appendix B.

⁵See Appendix C for definitions.