

## TALC AND PYROPHYLLITE

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless noted)

**Domestic Production and Use:** The total estimated crude ore value of 2003 domestic talc production was \$19 million. There were nine talc-producing mines in five States in 2003. Companies in Montana, New York, Texas, and Vermont accounted for most of the domestic production. Domestically produced ground talc was used in paint, 32%; ceramics, 28%; paper, 18%; roofing, 6%; plastics, 6%; rubber, 4%; cosmetics, 3%; and other, 3%. One company in California and two companies in North Carolina mined pyrophyllite. Production of pyrophyllite declined slightly from that of 2002. Consumption was, in decreasing order, in refractory products, ceramics, and paint.

<b><u>Salient Statistics—United States:</u></b> <sup>1</sup>	<b><u>1999</u></b>	<b><u>2000</u></b>	<b><u>2001</u></b>	<b><u>2002</u></b>	<b><u>2003</u></b> <sup>e</sup>
Production, mine	925	851	863	775	817
Sold by producers	881	821	784	791	789
Imports for consumption	208	270	180	232	250
Exports	147	154	137	166	180
Shipments from Government stockpile excesses	(2)	—	—	—	(2)
Consumption, apparent	986	967	906	841	887
Price, average, processed dollars per ton	116	116	108	96	114
Stocks, producer, yearend	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Employment, mine and mill	690	640	520	510	500
Net import reliance <sup>3</sup> as a percentage of apparent consumption	6	12	5	8	8

**Recycling:** Insignificant.

**Import Sources (1999-2002):** China, 45%; Canada, 28%; France, 8%; Japan, 4%; and other, 15%.

<b><u>Tariff: Item</u></b>	<b><u>Number</u></b>	<b><u>Normal Trade Relations</u></b> <b><u>12/31/03</u></b>
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—9-30-03<sup>4</sup>**  
**(Metric tons)**

<b>Material</b>	<b>Uncommitted inventory</b>	<b>Committed inventory</b>	<b>Authorized for disposal</b>	<b>Disposal plan FY 2003</b>	<b>Disposals FY 2003</b>
Talc, block and lump	900	—	900	<sup>5</sup> 1,810	—
Talc, ground	988	—	988	—	—

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**Events, Trends, and Issues:** Production of talc increased 5%, and sales were essentially unchanged from those of 2002. Apparent consumption increased 5%. Exports increased by 8% compared with those of 2002. Canada remained the major destination for U.S. talc exports, accounting for about 40% of the tonnage. U.S. imports of talc increased by 8% compared with those of 2002. In 2003, Canada, China, and Italy supplied approximately 87% of the imported talc.

### **World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:**

	Mine production		Reserves <sup>6</sup>	Reserve base <sup>6</sup>
	2002	2003 <sup>e</sup>		
United States <sup>1</sup>	775	817	140,000	540,000
Brazil	450	600	180,000	250,000
China	3,600	3,500	Large	Large
India	550	560	4,000	9,000
Japan	665	630	100,000	160,000
Korea, Republic of	1,100	1,000	14,000	18,000
Other countries	<u>1,730</u>	<u>1,750</u>	<u>Large</u>	<u>Large</u>
World total (rounded)	8,870	8,860	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. Revised data from the Brazilian government resulted in a large increase in the estimated reserves and reserve base for pyrophyllite and talc in that country.

**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.

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. NA Not available. — Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes pyrophyllite.

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

<sup>3</sup>Defined as imports – exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes.

<sup>4</sup>See Appendix B for definitions.

<sup>5</sup>Includes lump and block talc and ground talc.

<sup>6</sup>See Appendix C for definitions.