FELDSPAR

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless noted)

Domestic Production and Use: U.S. feldspar production (including aplite) in 1995 had an estimated value of $32 million. The three largest producers accounted for about two-thirds of the output, with five other companies supplying the remainder. Operations in North Carolina provided more than 60% of the output and facilities in five other States contributed smaller quantities.

Production of lithium ores and mica yielded moderate quantities of byproduct or coproduct feldspar and feldspar-silica mixtures and feldspar processors reported coproduct recovery of mica and silica sand.

Feldspar is ground for industry use to about 20 mesh for glassmaking and to 200 mesh or finer for most ceramic and filler applications. It was estimated that feldspar shipments went to at least 31 States and to foreign destinations, including Canada and Mexico. In ceramics and glass, feldspar functions as a flux. Estimated 1995 end-use distribution of domestic feldspar was glass, 63%; and pottery and other, 37%.

Salient Statistics—United States:	**1991**	**1992**	**1993**	**1994**	**1995[e]**
Production, marketable	580	726	770	765	770
Imports for consumption	18	13	7	7	8
Exports	8	18	18	17	17
Consumption, apparent	590	721	759	755	761
Price, average value, marketable production, dollars per ton	44.83	39.31	40.78	40.78	41.56
Stocks, producer, yearend[1]	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Employment, mine and preparation plant	430	400	400	400	400
Net import reliance[2] as a percent of apparent consumption	E	2	E	E	E

Recycling: Insignificant.

Import Sources (1991-94): Mexico, 99%; and other, 1%.

Tariff: Item	**Number**	**Most favored nation (MFN) 12/31/95**	**Non-MFN[3] 12/31/95**
Feldspar	2529.10.0000	Free	49¢/t.

Depletion Allowance: 14% (Domestic), 14% (Foreign).

Government Stockpile: None.

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FELDSPAR

Events, Trends, and Issues: Feldspar consumption in plumbing fixtures, tile, and glass fiber insulation reflected trends in construction activity. Total construction spending for 1995 was projected by a non-Government source to show an increase of 2% to 3% compared with that of 1994. In residential construction, total housing starts were expected to decrease about 8% in 1995 to 1.3 million units. All segments of nonresidential construction were projected to have good growth: commercial (office, retail, and hotel construction), industrial, and institutional. Residential remodeling was also active.

Shipments of glass containers, feldspar's largest end use, were forecast to decrease about 3% in 1995, according to the same non-Government source cited above. Glass has faced competition from plastic and other types of containers.

World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:

	Mine production		Reserves and reserve base[4]
	1994	1995[e]	
United States	765	770	Significant in the United States and assumed to be similar in other countries.
Brazil	145	145	
France	300	310	
Germany	350	350	
India	67	70	
Italy	1,600	1,600	
Japan	53	60	
Korea, South	500	510	
Mexico	130	130	
Norway	100	100	
Russia	55	55	
Spain	200	210	
Thailand	600	600	
Turkey	500	500	
Uzbekistan	70	70	
Venezuela	230	230	
Other countries	585	590	
World total	6,250	6,300	

World Resources: Identified and hypothetical resources of feldspar are more than adequate to meet anticipated world demand. Quantitative data on resources of feldspar existing in granites, pegmatites, and feldspathic sands generally have not been compiled. There is ample geologic evidence that resources are immense, although not always conveniently accessible from the principal centers of consumption.

Substitutes: Feldspar can be replaced in some of its end uses by feldspar-silica mixtures, clays, talc, pyrophyllite, spodumene, or electric-furnace slag. Imported nepheline syenite, however, was the major alternate material.

[e]Estimated. E Net exporter. NA Not available.
[1]Change in stocks assumed to be zero for apparent consumption and net import reliance calculations.
[2]Defined as imports - exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes.
[3]See Appendix B.
[4]See Appendix C for definitions.