

TALC AND PYROPHYLLITE

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless noted)

Domestic Production and Use: The total estimated crude ore value of 1999 domestic talc production was \$30 million. There were 15 talc-producing mines in 7 States in 1999. Companies in Montana, New York, Texas, and Vermont accounted for most of the domestic production. Ground talc was consumed in ceramics, 30%; paper, 21%; paint, 18%; roofing, 8%; plastics, 7%; cosmetics, 3%; and other, 13%. Two firms in North Carolina accounted for all of the domestic pyrophyllite production, which increased from that of 1998. Consumption was, in decreasing order, in ceramics, refractories, and paint.

Salient Statistics—United States:¹	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999^e
Production, mine	1,060	994	1,050	971	954
Sold by producers	901	909	942	870	879
Imports for consumption	146	187	123	165	213
Exports	183	192	179	146	150
Shipments from Government stockpile excesses	—	—	—	—	(²)
Consumption, apparent	1,020	989	992	990	1,020
Price, average, processed dollars per ton	111	111	118	126	105
Stocks, producer, yearend	80	NA	NA	NA	NA
Employment, mine and mill	750	750	750	700	700
Net import reliance ³ as a percent of apparent consumption	E	E	E	2	6

Recycling: Insignificant.

Import Sources (1995-98): China, 42%; Canada, 17%; Japan, 14%; and other, 27%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations 12/31/99
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: 23% (Domestic), 15% (Foreign). Other: 15% (Domestic and foreign).

Government Stockpile:

Stockpile Status—9-30-99⁴ (Metric tons)

Material	Uncommitted inventory	Committed inventory	Authorized for disposal	Disposal plan FY 1999	Disposals FY 1999
Talc, block and lump	907	2	907	907	2
Talc, ground	988	—	988	—	—

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Events, Trends, and Issues: Production decreased 2% and sales increased slightly from those of 1998. Apparent consumption increased 3%. Exports increased by 3% compared with those of 1998. Canada was the major importer of U.S. talc. U.S. imports of talc increased by 29% compared with those of 1998. 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
	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999^e</u>		
United States ¹	971	954	140,000	540,000
Brazil	452	450	14,000	54,000
China	2,300	2,300	Large	Large
India	543	550	4,000	9,000
Japan	965	950	130,000	200,000
Korea, Republic of	822	830	14,000	18,000
Other countries	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,170</u>	<u>Large</u>	<u>Large</u>
World total (rounded)	8,050	8,200	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 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. E Net exporter. NA Not available

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.