

TALC AND PYROPHYLLITE

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless noted)

Domestic Production and Use: The total estimated crude ore value of 1998 domestic production was \$30.2 million. There were 15 talc-producing mines in 7 States in 1998. Companies in Montana, New York, Texas, and Vermont accounted for most of the domestic production. Ground talc was consumed in ceramics, 29%; paper, 22%; paint, 18%; plastics, 7%; roofing, 5%; cosmetics, 3%; and other, 16%. Two firms in North Carolina accounted for all of domestic pyrophyllite production, which was unchanged from that of 1997. Consumption was in ceramics, refractories, and insecticides, in decreasing order of tonnage.

Salient Statistics—United States: ¹	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998^e
Production, mine	935	1,060	994	1,050	958
Sold by producers	923	901	909	942	895
Imports for consumption	155	146	187	123	136
Exports	154	183	192	179	162
Shipments from Government stockpile excesses	—	—	—	(²)	1
Consumption, apparent	936	1,020	989	994	933
Price, average, processed, dollars per ton	126	111	111	118	116
Stocks, producer, yearend	80	80	NA	NA	NA
Employment, mine and mill ^e	750	750	750	750	700
Net import reliance ³ as a percent of apparent consumption	E	E	E	E	E

Recycling: Insignificant.

Import Sources (1994-97): China, 40%; Japan, 21%; Canada, 18%; and other, 21%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations (NTR) 12/31/98	Non-NTR⁴ 12/31/98
Crude, not ground	2526.10.0000	0.01¢/kg	0.6¢/kg.
Ground, washed, powdered	2526.20.0000	0.5% 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:

Material	Stockpile Status—9-30-98⁵ (Metric tons)				
	Uncommitted inventory	Committed inventory	Authorized for disposal	Disposal plan FY 1998	Disposals FY 1998
Talc, block and lump	911	—	911	907	1
Talc, ground	988	—	988	—	—

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Events, Trends, and Issues: Production, sales, and apparent consumption decreased from those of 1997. Imports increased and exports decreased from those of 1997. Canada was the major importer of U.S. talc. Canada and China supplied approximately 43% of the imported talc.

World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:

	Mine production		Reserves ⁶	Reserve base ⁶
	1997	1998 ^e		
United States ¹	1,050	958	136,000	544,000
Brazil	625	625	14,000	54,000
China	2,350	2,350	Large	Large
India	610	620	4,000	9,000
Japan	1,010	1,000	132,000	200,000
Korea, Republic of	810	810	14,000	18,000
Other countries	<u>2,015</u>	<u>2,040</u>	<u>Large</u>	<u>Large</u>
World total (may be rounded)	8,470	8,400	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, mica, and silica in paint; calcium carbonate and kaolin in paper; clays, feldspar, mica, silica, and wollastonite in plastics; and calcium carbonate, kaolin, mica, and silica 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.

⁶See Appendix D for definitions.