

MICA (NATURAL), SHEET¹

(Data in metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Domestic Production and Use: A minor amount of sheet mica was produced in 2003, incidental to scrap and flake mica production and the mining of a gemstone-bearing pegmatite in Virginia. The domestic consuming industry was dependent upon imports and shipments of U.S. Government stockpile excesses to meet demand for sheet mica. During 2003, an estimated 130 tons of unworked mica split block and mica splittings valued at \$348 thousand was consumed by five companies in four States, mainly in the East and Midwest. Most was fabricated into parts for electronic and electrical equipment. An additional estimated 1,010 tons of imported worked mica valued at \$11.1 million also was consumed.

Salient Statistics—United States:	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003^e
Production, mine ^e	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Imports, plates, sheets, strips; worked mica; split block; splittings; other > \$1.00/kg	4,550	5,430	4,290	1,580	1,140
Exports, plates, sheets, strips; worked mica; crude and rifted into sheet or splittings > \$1.00/kg	1,290	1,150	1,160	723	1,030
Shipments from Government stockpile excesses	708	1,230	1,860	894	1,280
Consumption, apparent	3,980	5,500	4,990	1,750	1,390
Price, average value, dollars per kilogram, muscovite and phlogopite mica, reported:					
Block	20	23	55	50	60
Splittings	1.67	1.81	1.67	1.82	2.00
Stocks, fabricator and trader, yearend	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Net import reliance ³ as a percentage of apparent consumption	100	100	100	100	100

Recycling: None.

Import Sources (1999-2002): India, 67%; Belgium, 13%; China, 4%; Germany, 3%; and other, 13%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations 12/31/03
Split block mica	2525.10.0010	Free.
Mica splittings	2525.10.0020	Free.
Unworked—other	2525.10.0050	Free.
Plates, sheets, and strips of agglomerated or reconstructed mica	6814.10.0000	2.7% ad val.
Worked mica and articles of mica—other	6814.90.0000	2.6% ad val.

Depletion Allowance: 22% (Domestic), 14% (Foreign).

Government Stockpile:

Material	Stockpile Status—9-30-03⁴			Disposal plan FY 2003	Disposals FY 2003
	Uncommitted inventory	Committed inventory	Authorized for disposal		
Block:					
Muscovite (stained and better)	7.24	12.0	7.11	(⁵)	2.89
Phlogopite	—	(²)	—	—	(²)
Film, muscovite	0.506	—	0.506	(⁵)	(²)
Splittings:					
Muscovite	—	1,290	—	(⁵)	—
Phlogopite	12.2	—	12.2	(⁵)	119

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Events, Trends, and Issues: Demand for sheet mica decreased in 2003. The decrease in apparent consumption was primarily the result of decreased imports. Although U.S. imports of worked mica increased, unworked mica imports of split block and splittings decreased substantially, partly because of increased shipments from the National Defense Stockpile (NDS). Imports, however, remained a principal source of the domestic supply of sheet mica. Stocks of mica remaining in the NDS have declined and future supplies are expected to come increasingly from imports, primarily from India. Prices for imported sheet mica also are expected to increase. The availability of good quality mica remained in short supply. There were no environmental concerns associated with the manufacture and use of mica products.

World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:

	Mine production		Reserves ⁶	Reserve base ⁶
	2002 ^e	2003 ^e		
United States	(²)	(²)	Very small	Small
India	3,500	3,500	Very large	Very large
Russia	1,500	1,500	Moderate	Large
Other countries	200	200	Moderate	Large
World total	5,200	5,200	Large	Large

World Resources: There has been no formal evaluation of world resources of sheet mica because of the sporadic occurrence of this material. Large deposits of mica-bearing rock are known to exist in countries such as Brazil, India, and Madagascar. Limited resources of sheet mica are available in the United States. These domestic resources are uneconomic because of the high cost of hand labor required to mine and process the sheet mica.

Substitutes: Many materials can be substituted for mica in numerous electrical, electronic, and insulation uses. Substitutes include acrylic, Benelex®, cellulose acetate, Delrin®, Duranel® N, fiberglass, fishpaper, Kapton®, Kel F®, Kydex®, Lexan®, Lucite®, Mylar®, nylon, nylatron, Nomex®, Noryl®, phenolics, Plexiglass®, polycarbonate, polyester, styrene, Teflon®, vinyl-PVC, and vulcanized fiber. Mica paper made from scrap mica can be substituted for sheet mica in electrical and insulation applications.

^eEstimated. NA Not available. — Zero.

¹See also Mica (Natural), Scrap and Flake.

²Less than ½ unit.

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

⁴See Appendix B for definitions.

⁵The total disposal plan for all categories of mica in the National Defense Stockpile is undifferentiated at 3,856 metric tons (8,500,000 pounds).

⁶See Appendix C for definitions.