

TALC AND PYROPHYLLITE

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless noted)

Domestic Production and Use: The total estimated crude ore value of 2000 domestic talc production was \$25 million. There were 12 talc-producing mines in 6 States in 2000. Companies in Montana, New York, Texas, and Vermont accounted for most of the domestic production. Ground talc was consumed in ceramics, 27%; paper, 22%; paint, 18%; plastics, 8%; roofing, 8%; cosmetics, 4%; and other, 13%. Three firms in California and North Carolina accounted for all of the domestic pyrophyllite production, which decreased from that of 1999. Consumption was, in decreasing order, in ceramics, refractories, and paint.

Salient Statistics—United States:¹	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000^e
Production, mine	994	1,050	971	925	961
Sold by producers	909	942	870	881	877
Imports for consumption	187	123	165	208	290
Exports	192	179	146	147	165
Shipments from Government stockpile excesses	—	—	—	(²)	—
Consumption, apparent	989	992	990	986	1,090
Price, average, processed dollars per ton	111	118	126	116	117
Stocks, producer, yearend	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Employment, mine and mill	750	750	700	700	680
Net import reliance ³ as a percent of apparent consumption	E	E	2	6	12

Recycling: Insignificant.

Import Sources (1996-99): China, 45%; Canada, 19%; France, 12%; Japan, 9%; and other, 15%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations 12/31/00
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—9-30-00⁴ (Metric tons)

Material	Uncommitted inventory	Committed inventory	Authorized for disposal	Disposal plan FY 2000	Disposals FY 2000
Talc, block and lump	907	—	907	907	2
Talc, ground	988	—	988	—	—

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Events, Trends, and Issues: Production increased 4%, and sales were unchanged from those of 1999. Apparent consumption increased 10%. Exports increased by 12% compared with those of 1999. Canada was the major importer of U.S. talc. U.S. imports of talc increased by 39% compared with those of 1999. Canada, China, and Japan supplied approximately 77% of the imported talc and accounted for more than 60% of the increase in imports in 2000.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Toxicology Program, considered including talc on its list of carcinogens in its *10th Report on Carcinogens* for Congress. The program panel cited the results of recent health studies and reevaluations of previous studies as the basis for this action.

World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:

	Mine production		Reserves ⁵	Reserve base ⁵
	1999	2000 ^e		
United States ¹	925	961	140,000	540,000
Brazil	452	450	14,000	54,000
China	3,900	3,900	Large	Large
India	535	530	4,000	9,000
Japan	800	825	130,000	200,000
Korea, Republic of	875	880	14,000	18,000
Other countries	<u>1,980</u>	<u>1,940</u>	<u>Large</u>	<u>Large</u>
World total (rounded)	9,470	9,490	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 for definitions.

⁵See Appendix C for definitions.