TALC AND PYROPHYLLITE

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless noted)

Domestic Production and Use: The total estimated crude ore value of 2004 domestic talc production was $25 million. There were 10 talc-producing mines in 5 States in 2004. Companies in Montana, New York, Texas, and Vermont accounted for most of the domestic production. Domestically produced ground talc was used in ceramics, 32%; paint, 19%; paper, 16%; roofing, 6%; plastics, 4%; rubber, 2%; cosmetics, 2%; and other, 19%. One company in California and two companies in North Carolina mined pyrophyllite. Production of pyrophyllite declined slightly from that of 2003. Consumption was, in decreasing order by tonnage, in refractory products, ceramics, and paint.

Salient Statistics—United States:[1]	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004[e]
Production, mine	851	863	828	869	911
Sold by producers	821	784	793	875	872
Imports for consumption	270	180	232	237	220
Exports	154	137	166	192	210
Shipments from Government stockpile excesses	—	—	—	([2])	([2])
Consumption, apparent	967	906	894	914	921
Price, average, processed dollars per ton	116	108	99	90	112
Stocks, producer, yearend	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Employment, mine and mill	640	520	510	460	450
Net import reliance[3] as a percentage of apparent consumption	12	5	7	5	1

Recycling: Insignificant.

Import Sources (2000-03): China, 46%; Canada, 23%; France, 5%; Japan, 3%; and other, 23%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations 12-31-04
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—9-30-04[4]
(Metric tons)

Material	Uncommitted inventory	Committed inventory	Authorized for disposal	Disposal plan FY 2004	Disposals FY 2004
Talc, block and lump	867	—	867	[5]907	—
Talc, ground	988	—	988	—	—

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TALC AND PYROPHYLLITE

Events, Trends, and Issues: Production of talc increased 5%, and sales were essentially unchanged from those of 2003. Apparent consumption increased slightly. Exports increased by 9% compared with those of 2003. Canada remained the major destination for U.S. talc exports, accounting for about 33% of the tonnage. U.S. imports of talc decreased by 7% compared with those of 2003. In 2004, Canada and China supplied approximately 97% of the imported talc.

World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:

	Mine production		Reserves[6]	Reserve base[6]
	2003	2004[e]		
United States[1]	869	911	140,000	540,000
Brazil	400	500	180,000	250,000
China	3,600	2,700	Large	Large
India	555	560	4,000	9,000
Japan	640	600	100,000	160,000
Korea, Republic of	940	950	14,000	18,000
Other countries	1,920	1,900	Large	Large
World total (rounded)	8,920	8,120	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.

[e]Estimated. NA Not available. — Zero.
[1]Excludes pyrophyllite.
[2]Less than ½ unit.
[3]Defined as imports – exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes.
[4]See Appendix B for definitions.
[5]Includes lump and block talc and ground talc.
[6]See Appendix C for definitions.