

MICA (NATURAL), SHEET¹

(Data in metric tons, unless noted)

Domestic Production and Use: A minor amount of sheet mica, estimated at less than 500 kilograms, was produced in 1995. The domestic consuming industry was dependent on imports and shipments of Government stockpile excesses to meet demand. During 1995, an estimated 920 tons of mica split block and mica splittings valued at \$1.3 million was consumed by 14 companies in 7 States, mainly in the East and Midwest. Most was fabricated into parts for electronic and electrical equipment. An additional 1,200 tons of imported worked mica valued at \$7.8 million was also consumed.

Salient Statistics—United States:	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995^e
Production, mine ^e	(²)				
Imports, split block, splittings, other	2,340	3,460	4,310	6,320	9,430
Exports, crude and rifted, and plates, sheets, and strips	616	606	909	1,110	1,310
Shipments from Government stockpile excesses	2	264	165	134	600
Consumption, apparent	1,780	2,250	2,180	5,350	8,710
Price, average value, dollars per kilogram, muscovite mica, reported:					
Block	85	80	95	66	80
Splittings	1.54	1.53	1.55	1.59	1.60
Stocks, fabricator and trader, yearend ^e	NA	NA	502	503	510
Net import reliance ³ as a percent of apparent consumption	100	100	100	100	100

Recycling: None.

Import Sources (1991-94): India, 88%; Brazil, 4%; Finland, 3%; China, 2%; and other, 3%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Most favored nation (MFN) 12/31/95	Non-MFN⁴ 12/31/95
Split block mica	2525.10.0010	Free	Free.
Mica splittings	2525.10.0020	Free	Free.
Unworked-other	2525.10.0050	Free	Free.
Plates, sheets, and strips of agglomerated or reconstructed mica	6814.10.0000	Free	Free.
Worked mica and articles of mica-other	6814.90.0000	Free	Free.

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

Government Stockpile:**Stockpile Status—9-30-95**

Material	Uncommitted inventory	Committed inventory	Authorized for disposal	Disposals Jan.-Sept. 95
Block:				
Muscovite	1,895	116	1,836	321
Phlogopite	59	—	—	—
Film, muscovite	337	123	337	132
Splittings:				
Muscovite	6,234	59	6,234	59
Phlogopite	546	13	542	26

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Events, Trends, and Issues: Demand for sheet mica remained at about the same level as that of the previous year. Imports remained the primary source of sheet mica, and shipments from Government stockpile excesses remained a minor source of supply. The availability of good quality mica remains in short supply. There were no environmental problems associated with the manufacture of mica products.

World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:

	Mine production		Reserves ⁵	Reserve base ⁵
	1994	1995 ^e		
United States	(²)	(²)	Very small	Small
India	3,000	3,000	Very large	Very large
Russia	1,500	1,500	Moderate	Large
Other countries	900	900	Moderate	Large
World total	5,400	5,400	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 many electrical and electronic 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 uses.

^eEstimated. NA Not available.

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.

⁵See Appendix C for definitions.