

PUMICE AND PUMICITE

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Domestic Production and Use: The estimated value of pumice and pumicite sold or used in 2001 was \$16.9 million. Domestic output came from 15 producers in 6 States. The principal producing States were California, Idaho, New Mexico, and Oregon, with combined production accounting for about 98% of the national total. The remaining production was from Arizona and Kansas. About 67% of the pumice was consumed for building blocks, and the remaining 33% was used in abrasives, concrete, horticulture, landscaping, stone-washing laundries, and other applications.

<u>Salient Statistics—United States:</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001^e</u>
Production, mine ¹	577	583	643	697	687
Imports for consumption	265	288	354	385	390
Exports ^e	12	22	23	27	25
Consumption, apparent	830	849	974	1,060	1,050
Price, average value, dollars per ton, f.o.b.					
mine or mill	27.90	21.59	27.69	24.27	24.53
Stocks, yearend	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Employment, mine and mill, number	70	75	85	85	80
Net import reliance ² as a percentage of apparent consumption	30	31	34	34	35

Recycling: Not available.

Import Sources (1997-2000): Greece, 84%; Italy, 10%; Turkey, 5%; and other, 1%.

<u>Tariff: Item</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Normal Trade Relations</u> <u>12/31/01</u>
Crude or in irregular pieces, including crushed pumice	2513.11.0000	Free.
Other	2513.19.0000	Free.

Depletion Allowance: 5% (Domestic and foreign).

Government Stockpile: None.

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Events, Trends, and Issues: The amount of pumice and pumicite sold or used in 2001 decreased slightly when compared with that of 2000. Imports increased about 1.3% compared with those of 2000 as more Greek pumice was brought into the eastern half of the United States. Total consumption fell about 4.5% from the record levels achieved in 2000. Consumption decreased because the slowing National economy decreased demand for lightweight-block and lightweight-concrete products. Stone-washing laundry use of pumice continued to decline in 2001.

In 2002, domestic mine production of pumice and pumicite is expected to be about 700,000 tons, with U.S. apparent consumption at approximately 1,100,000 tons. Imports, mainly from Greece, will continue to supply markets in the East Coast and Gulf Coast States of the United States.

Although pumice and pumicite are plentiful in the Western United States, changes in laws and public land designations could decrease access to many deposits. Pumice and pumicite are sensitive to mining costs, and, if domestic production costs were to increase, imports and competing materials might replace pumice in many domestic markets.

All domestic mining of pumice in 2001 was by open pit methods, and generally occurred in relatively remote areas where land-use conflicts were not severe. Although the generation and disposal of reject fines in mining and milling resulted in a dust problem at some operations, the environmental impact was restricted to a small geographic area.

World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:

	Mine production		Reserves ³	Reserve base ³
	2000	2001 ^e		
United States ¹	697	687	Large	Large
Chile	650	800	NA	NA
France	450	450	NA	NA
Germany	600	600	NA	NA
Greece	1,600	1,600	NA	NA
Italy	4,600	4,600	NA	NA
Spain	600	600	NA	NA
Turkey	600	600	NA	NA
Other countries	2,200	2,200	NA	NA
World total (rounded)	12,000	12,000	NA	NA

World Resources: The identified U.S. domestic resources of pumice and pumicite in the West are estimated to be at least 25 million tons. The estimated resources in the Western and Great Plains States are 250 million to 450 million tons.

Substitutes: Transportation cost determines the maximum distance that pumice and pumicite can be shipped and remain competitive with alternate materials. Competitive materials that can be substituted for pumice and pumicite for several end uses include expanded shale and clay, diatomite, and crushed aggregates.

^eEstimated. NA Not available.

¹Quantity sold and used by producers.

²Defined as imports - exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes.

³See Appendix C for definitions.