

CLAYS

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless noted)

Domestic Production and Use: In 1995, clays were produced in most States except Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin. The leading 90 firms supplied 25% of the output, and about 203 firms provided the remainder. Together, these firms operated about 983 mines. Estimated value of all marketable clay produced was about \$1.8 billion. Major domestic uses for specific clays were estimated as follows: kaolin—55% paper, 8% kiln furniture, 6% fiberglass, 4% grogs, and 4% paint; ball clay—30% floor and wall tile, 13% pottery, and 24% sanitaryware; fire clay—69% grogs, calcines, and firebrick; bentonite—25% foundry sand bond, 21% drilling mud, and 18% iron ore pelletizing; fuller's earth—75% absorbent uses and 12% insecticide dispersant; and common clay—50% brick, 27% cement, and 14% lightweight aggregate.

Salient Statistics—United States:¹	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995^e
Production, mine:					
Kaolin	9,550	8,740	8,830	8,770	9,490
Ball clay	784	854	911	1,050	975
Fire clay ²	474	383	459	458	412
Bentonite	3,310	2,950	2,870	3,290	3,540
Fuller's earth	2,320	2,410	2,480	2,640	2,500
Common clay	<u>24,600</u>	<u>24,900</u>	<u>25,300</u>	<u>25,900</u>	<u>29,700</u>
Total ³	41,020	40,200	40,900	42,200	46,600
Imports for consumption	35	41	39	36	39
Exports	4,000	4,160	4,150	4,620	4,505
Consumption, apparent	37,060	36,100	36,600	37,600	42,100
Price, average, dollars per ton:					
Kaolin	96	107	107	116	115
Ball clay	43	42	42	43	49
Fire clay	28	27	25	26	26
Fuller's earth	100	100	92	93	108
Common clay	5	5	5	5	5
Bentonite	37	39	36	41	58
Stocks, yearend ⁴	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Employment: ^e Mine	5,500	5,000	4,500	3,950	4,900
Mill	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Net import reliance ⁵ as a percent of apparent consumption	E	E	E	E	E

Recycling: Insignificant.

Import Sources (1991-94): Mexico, 31%; China, 20%; United Kingdom, 20%; Canada, 15%; and other, 14%.

Tariff:	Item	Number	Most favored nation (MFN) 12/31/95	Non-MFN⁶ 12/31/95
	Kaolin and other kaolinic clays, whether or not calcined ⁷	2507.00.0000	26¢/t	\$2.46/t.
	Bentonite ⁷	2508.10.0000	31.5¢/t	\$3.20/t.
	Fuller's and decolorizing earths ⁷	2508.20.0000	19.7¢/t	\$1.48/t.
	Fire clay ⁷	2508.30.0000	39.4¢/t	\$1.97/t.
	Common blue and other ball clays ⁷	2508.40.0010	37.4¢/t	\$1.97/t.
	Other clays ⁷	2508.40.0050	37.4¢/t	\$1.97/t.
	Chamotte or dinas earth	2508.70.0000	Free	Free.
	Activated clays and earths ⁸	3802.90.2000	2.5% ad val.	0.6¢ per kg + 30% ad val.
	Expanded clays and mixtures ⁸	6806.20.0000	3.9% ad val.	30% ad val.

Depletion Allowance: Kaolin, ball clay, bentonite, fuller's earth, and fire clay, 14% (Domestic), 14% (Foreign); clay used for extraction of alumina or aluminum compounds, 22% (Domestic); clay and shale used for making brick, tile, and lightweight aggregate, 7.5% (Domestic), 7.5% (Foreign); clay used in making drainage and roofing tile, flowerpots, and kindred products, 5% (Domestic), 5% (Foreign).

Government Stockpile: None.

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Events, Trends, and Issues: The total tonnage and value of clays sold or used by domestic producers increased 10% and 13%, respectively, in 1995. There was an increase in sales and/or use for bentonite, common clay, and kaolin, with the largest increases being in common clay and kaolin. Imports for consumption increased 8% to 39,000 tons. China and Mexico were the major sources for imported clays. Exports decreased 2% to 4.5 million tons. Canada, Finland, Japan, and the Netherlands were major markets for exported clays. U.S. apparent consumption was estimated to be 42 million tons.

World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base: Not available.

World Resources: Clays are divided for commercial purposes into kaolin, ball clay, fire clay, bentonite, fuller's earth, and common clay. Resources of these types of clay are extremely large except for lesser resources of high-grade ball clay and sodium-bentonite. Resources of kaolin in Georgia are estimated to be 5 to 10 billion tons.

Substitutes: Limited substitutes and alternatives, such as talc and whiting, are available for filler and extender applications.

^eEstimated. E Net exporter. NA Not available.

¹Excludes Puerto Rico.

²Refractory uses only.

³Data may not add to total shown because of independent rounding.

⁴Data on stocks are not available and are assumed to be zero for apparent consumption and net import reliance calculations.

⁵Defined as imports - exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes.

⁶See Appendix B.

⁷Per metric ton.

⁸Ad valorem per kilogram.