

TALC AND PYROPHYLLITE

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless noted)

Domestic Production and Use: The total estimated crude ore value of 2002 domestic talc production was \$21 million. There were 10 talc-producing mines in 5 States in 2002. Companies in Montana, New York, Texas, and Vermont accounted for most of the domestic production. Ground talc was consumed in ceramics, 25%; paint, 22%; paper, 22%; roofing, 8%; plastics, 6%; rubber, 4%; cosmetics, 3%; and other, 10%. Two firms in North Carolina mined pyrophyllite. Production was essentially unchanged from that of 2001. Consumption was, in decreasing order, in refractories, ceramics, and paint.

Salient Statistics—United States: ¹	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002^o
Production, mine	971	925	851	853	830
Sold by producers	870	881	821	786	820
Imports for consumption	165	208	270	180	230
Exports	146	147	154	137	160
Shipments from Government stockpile excesses	—	(²)	—	—	—
Consumption, apparent	990	986	967	896	900
Price, average, processed dollars per ton	126	116	116	119	112
Stocks, producer, yearend	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Employment, mine and mill	730	690	640	520	530
Net import reliance ³ as a percentage of apparent consumption	2	6	12	5	8

Recycling: Insignificant.

Import Sources (1998-2001): China, 48%; Canada, 24%; France, 9%; Japan, 5%; and other, 14%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations 12/31/02
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—9-30-02⁴ (Metric tons)

Material	Uncommitted inventory	Committed inventory	Authorized for disposal	Disposal plan FY 2002	Disposals FY 2002
Talc, block and lump	910	—	910	⁵ 1,810	—
Talc, ground	988	—	988	—	—

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Events, Trends, and Issues: Production decreased 3% and sales increased 4% from those of 2001. Apparent consumption increased slightly. Exports increased by 17% compared with those of 2001. Canada was the major destination for U.S. talc exports, accounting for about 37% of the tonnage. U.S. imports of talc increased by 28% compared with those of 2001. Canada, China, and France supplied approximately 91% of the imported talc.

World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base: Reserves and reserve base estimates for Brazil, India, and Japan have changed significantly based on new information from those countries.

	Mine production		Reserves ⁶	Reserve base ⁶
	2001	2002 ^e		
United States ¹	853	830	140,000	540,000
Brazil	450	450	180,000	250,000
China	3,500	3,500	Large	Large
India	546	550	4,000	9,000
Japan	668	650	100,000	160,000
Korea, Republic of	1,100	1,100	14,000	18,000
Other countries	2,040	2,040	Large	Large
World total (rounded)	8,920	9,120	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. Revised data from the Brazilian government resulted in a large increase in the estimated reserves and reserve base for pyrophyllite and talc in that country.

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. NA Not available. — Zero.

¹Excludes pyrophyllite.

²Less than ½ unit.

³Defined as imports - exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes.

⁴See Appendix B for definitions.

⁵Includes Talc, ground.

⁶See Appendix C for definitions.