

BERYLLIUM

(Data in metric tons of beryllium content unless otherwise noted)

Domestic Production and Use: One company in Utah mined bertrandite ore and converted it, along with imported beryl, into beryllium hydroxide. Some of the beryllium hydroxide was shipped to the company's plant in Ohio, where it was converted into metal, oxide, and downstream beryllium-copper master alloy, and some was sold. Based on the estimated unit value for beryllium in imported beryllium-copper master alloy, beryllium apparent consumption of 180 tons was valued at about \$113 million. Based on sales revenues, approximately 21% of beryllium products were used in industrial components; 20% in aerospace and defense applications; 14% each in automotive electronics, consumer electronics, and telecommunications infrastructure; 9% in energy applications; 1% in semiconductor applications; and 7% in other applications. Beryllium alloy strip and bulk products, the most common forms of processed beryllium, were used in all application areas. The majority of unalloyed beryllium metal and beryllium composite products were used in defense and scientific applications.

Salient Statistics—United States:	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019^e
Production, mine shipments	205	155	150	165	170
Imports for consumption ¹	66	68	60	67	45
Exports ²	29	34	38	30	40
Shipments from Government stockpile ³	1	3	2	—	—
Consumption:					
Apparent ⁴	233	182	179	202	180
Reported, ore	220	160	160	170	170
Unit value, annual average, beryllium-copper master alloy, dollars per kilogram contained beryllium ⁵	490	510	640	590	660
Stocks, ore, consumer, yearend	25	35	30	30	30
Net import reliance ⁶ as a percentage of apparent consumption	12	15	16	18	3

Recycling: Beryllium was recovered from new scrap generated during the manufacture of beryllium products and from old scrap. Detailed data on the quantities of beryllium recycled are not available but may account for as much as 20% to 25% of total beryllium consumption. The leading U.S. beryllium producer established a comprehensive recycling program for all of its beryllium products, recovering approximately 40% of the beryllium content of the new and old beryllium alloy scrap.

Import Sources (2015–18):¹ Kazakhstan, 39%; Japan, 15%; Brazil, 13%; United Kingdom, 5%; and other, 28%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations 12–31–19
Beryllium ores and concentrates	2617.90.0030	Free.
Beryllium oxide and hydroxide	2825.90.1000	3.7% ad val.
Beryllium-copper master alloy	7405.00.6030	Free.
Beryllium-copper plates, sheets, and strip: Thickness of 5 millimeters (mm) or more	7409.90.1030	3.0% ad val.
Thickness of less than 5 mm: Width of 500 mm or more	7409.90.5030	1.7% ad val.
Width of less than 500 mm	7409.90.9030	3.0% ad val.
Beryllium:		
Unwrought, including powders	8112.12.0000	8.5% ad val.
Waste and scrap	8112.13.0000	Free.
Other	8112.19.0000	5.5% ad val.

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

Government Stockpile:⁷ The Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials had a goal of retaining 47 tons of beryllium metal in the National Defense Stockpile.

Material	Inventory As of 9–30–19	FY 2019		FY 2020	
		Potential Acquisitions	Potential Disposals	Potential Acquisitions	Potential Disposals
Beryl ore (gross weight)	1	—	—	—	—
Metal	67	—	5	—	7
Structured powder	7	—	—	—	—

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Events, Trends, and Issues: Apparent consumption of beryllium-based products was estimated to have decreased by about 11% in 2019 from that of 2018 owing primarily to a 33% decrease in beryllium imports and a 33% increase in beryllium exports. Imported beryl concentrate has decreased substantially since 2015. Domestic beryllium production and consumption in 2019 were estimated to be close to that of 2018. During the first 6 months of 2019, the leading U.S. beryllium producer reported that net sales of its beryllium alloy strip and bulk products and beryllium metal and composite products were 6% higher than those during the first 6 months of 2018. Value-added sales of beryllium products increased primarily in the aerospace and defense, consumer electronics, energy, and telecommunications markets.

Because of the toxic nature of beryllium, various international, national, and State guidelines and regulations have been established regarding beryllium in air, water, and other media. Industry is required to carefully control the quantity of beryllium dust, fumes, and mists in the workplace.

World Mine Production and Reserves: Reserves for the United States were revised based on updated company information.

	Mine production ^{8,9}		Reserves ¹⁰
	2018	2019 ^e	
United States	165	170	The United States has very little beryl that can be economically hand sorted from pegmatite deposits. The Spor Mountain area in Utah, an epithermal deposit, contains a large bertrandite resource, which is being mined. Proven and probable bertrandite reserves in Utah total about 20,000 tons of contained beryllium. World beryllium reserves are not available.
Brazil	^e 3	3	
China	^e 48	70	
Madagascar	^e 6	1	
Mozambique	^e 16	15	
Nigeria	^e 4	1	
Rwanda	^e 1	1	
World total (rounded)	240	260	

World Resources: The world's identified resources of beryllium have been estimated to be more than 100,000 tons. About 60% of these resources are in the United States; by size, the Spor Mountain area in Utah, the McCullough Butte area in Nevada, the Black Hills area in South Dakota, the Sierra Blanca area in Texas, the Seward Peninsula in Alaska, and the Gold Hill area in Utah account for most of the total.

Substitutes: Because the cost of beryllium is high compared with that of other materials, it is used in applications in which its properties are crucial. In some applications, certain metal matrix or organic composites, high-strength grades of aluminum, pyrolytic graphite, silicon carbide, steel, or titanium may be substituted for beryllium metal or beryllium composites. Copper alloys containing nickel and silicon, tin, titanium, or other alloying elements or phosphor bronze alloys (copper-tin-phosphorus) may be substituted for beryllium-copper alloys, but these substitutions can result in substantially reduced performance. Aluminum nitride or boron nitride may be substituted for beryllium oxide.

^eEstimated. — Zero.

¹Includes estimated beryllium content of imported ores and concentrates, oxide and hydroxide, unwrought metal (including powders), beryllium articles, waste and scrap, beryllium-copper master alloy, and beryllium-copper plates, sheets, and strip.

²Includes estimated beryllium content of exported unwrought metal (including powders), beryllium articles, and waste and scrap.

³Change in total inventory level from prior yearend inventory.

⁴Defined as production + net import reliance.

⁵Calculated from gross weight and customs value of imports; beryllium content estimated to be 4%. Rounded to two significant figures.

⁶Defined as imports – exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes.

⁷See Appendix B for definitions.

⁸In addition to the countries listed, Kazakhstan, Portugal, and Uganda may have produced beryl ore, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output. Other nations that produced gemstone beryl ore may also have produced some industrial beryl ore.

⁹Based on a beryllium content of 4% from bertrandite and beryl sources.

¹⁰See Appendix C for resource and reserve definitions and information concerning data sources.