

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 170 tons was valued at about \$110 million. Based on sales revenues, approximately 24% of beryllium products were used in aerospace and defense applications; 23% in industrial components; 12% each in automotive electronics and telecommunications infrastructure; 11% in consumer electronics; 9% in energy applications; 1% in semiconductor applications; and 8% in other applications. Beryllium alloy strip and bulk products, the most common forms of processed beryllium, were used in all application areas. Most unalloyed beryllium metal and beryllium composite products were used in defense and scientific applications.

Salient Statistics—United States:

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020^e
Production, mine shipments	155	150	165	160	150
Imports for consumption ¹	68	60	67	49	45
Exports ²	34	38	30	37	30
Shipments from Government stockpile ³	3	2	—	—	3
Consumption:					
Apparent ⁴	182	179	202	167	170
Reported, ore	160	160	170	160	150
Price, annual average value, beryllium-copper master alloy, ⁵ dollars per kilogram of contained beryllium	510	640	590	620	620
Stocks, ore, consumer, yearend	35	30	30	35	35
Net import reliance ⁶ as a percentage of apparent consumption	15	16	18	4	11

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 (2016–19):¹ Kazakhstan, 43%; Japan, 16%; Brazil, 12%; Latvia, 7%; and other, 22%.

Tariff:	Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations
			12–31–20
	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	FY 2020			FY 2021	
	Inventory as of 9–30–20	Potential acquisitions	Potential disposals	Potential acquisitions	Potential disposals
Beryl ore (gross weight)	1	—	—	—	—
Metal (all types)	64	—	7	—	7
Structured powder	7	—	—	—	—

Prepared by **Brian W. Jaskula [(703) 648–4908, bjaskula@usgs.gov]**

BERYLLIUM

Events, Trends, and Issues: Domestic beryllium consumption in 2020 was estimated to be about 6% lower than that of 2019. Imports of beryl concentrate have decreased substantially since 2015. During the first 6 months of 2020, 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 24% lower than those during the first 6 months of 2019. Value-added sales of beryllium products decreased primarily in the aerospace and defense, consumer electronics, energy, and telecommunications markets. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was reported to have been a substantial factor in the reduction of customer demand.

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:

	Mine production ^{8, 9}		Reserves ¹⁰
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020^e</u>	
United States	160	150	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	^{e3}	3	
China	70	70	
Madagascar	^{e1}	1	
Mozambique	^{e15}	15	
Nigeria	^{e1}	1	
Rwanda	^{e1}	1	
Uganda	—	1	
World total (rounded)	<u>250</u>	<u>240</u>	

World Resources:¹⁰ 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 tonnage, 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 + imports – exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes.

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 and Portugal 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.