

FELDSPAR AND NEPHELINE SYENITE

(Data in thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Domestic Production and Use: In 2025, the quantity of domestic feldspar production was estimated to be 440,000 tons with a value of \$49 million. Feldspar was mined by six companies operating eight mines and beneficiating facilities: four in North Carolina, two in California, and one each in Idaho and Virginia. In addition to feldspar, processors reported recovery of mica and silica sand. Two companies produced nepheline syenite in Arkansas, but production data were not available.

Feldspar is ground to about 20 mesh for glassmaking and to 200 mesh or finer for most ceramic and filler applications. In glass and pottery, feldspar and nepheline syenite function as a flux. Ceramics, pottery, and miscellaneous applications accounted for 53% of end-use distribution of domestic feldspar, and glass manufacturing including fiberglass for home insulation, flat glass, glass containers, and specialty glass accounted for the remaining 47%.

Salient Statistics—United States:	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025^e
Production, feldspar, marketable ¹	430	440	460	450	440
Imports for consumption:					
Feldspar	169	276	68	153	100
Nepheline syenite	529	484	440	456	420
Exports:					
Feldspar	4	3	7	5	2
Consumption, apparent: ^{1, 2}					
Feldspar	590	710	520	590	540
Feldspar and nepheline syenite ³	1,100	1,200	960	1,000	960
Price, average unit value, dollars per metric ton:					
Feldspar only, marketable production ^e	107	107	107	108	110
Nepheline syenite, imports	164	183	195	198	220
Employment, mine, preparation plant, and office, number ^e	180	150	160	160	160
Net import reliance ⁴ as a percentage of apparent consumption:					
Feldspar	28	38	12	25	18
Nepheline syenite	>95	>95	>95	>95	>95

Recycling: Feldspar and nepheline syenite are not recycled by producers; however, glass container producers use cullet (recycled container glass), thereby reducing feldspar and nepheline syenite consumption.

Import Sources (2021–24): Feldspar: Turkey, 93%; Mexico, 5%; and other, 2%. Nepheline syenite: Canada, 99%; and other, 1%.

Tariff:	Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations 12-31-25
Feldspar	2529.10.0000		Free.
Nepheline syenite	2529.30.0010		Free.

Depletion Allowance: 14% (domestic and foreign).

Government Stockpile: None.

Events, Trends, and Issues: In 2025, estimated domestic production and sales of feldspar decreased slightly compared with those in 2024, and the average unit value increased slightly compared with that in 2024. Estimated imports of feldspar decreased by 35% and imports of nepheline syenite decreased by 8% compared with those in 2024.

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In the United States, new residential construction housing starts, for which feldspar is a raw material commonly used in the manufacture of plate glass, ceramic tiles and sanitaryware, and insulation, increased slightly during the first 8 months of 2025 compared with the same period in 2024. Market trends continue to shift toward alternatives to plastic, leading to greater adoption of glass packaging. Companies have launched initiatives to reduce plastic use and promote glass containers among consumers. These developments in both the construction and packaging sectors are expected to continue driving the demand for feldspar-based products.

The leading feldspar-producing countries, which accounted for 74% of the world production, listed in descending order of estimated production, were India, Turkey, Iran, China, Italy, and Thailand.

World Mine Production and Reserves:⁵ Significant revisions were made to the 2024 production for Brazil, China, Iran, Morocco, Spain, and Turkey based on company and Government reports.

	Mine production ^a		Reserves ⁶
	2024	2025	
United States ¹	450	440	NA
Brazil (beneficiated, marketable)	620	620	150,000
China	3,700	3,700	730,000
India	6,000	6,000	320,000
Iran	3,900	3,900	130,000
Italy	2,200	2,200	NA
Korea, Republic of	990	1,000	200,000
Morocco	720	720	NA
Russia	650	650	NA
Saudi Arabia	650	650	NA
Spain (includes pegmatites)	620	620	NA
Thailand	1,900	1,900	45,000
Turkey	⁷ 5,274	5,300	720,000
Other countries	3,400	3,400	NA
World total (rounded)	31,100	31,000	Large

World Resources:⁶ Identified and undiscovered resources of feldspar are more than adequate to meet anticipated world demand. Quantitative data on resources of feldspar existing in feldspathic sands, granites, and pegmatites generally have not been compiled. Ample geologic evidence indicates that resources are large, although not always conveniently accessible to the principal centers of consumption.

Substitutes: Imported nepheline syenite was the major alternative material for feldspar. Feldspar can be replaced in some of its end uses by clays, electric furnace slag, feldspar-silica mixtures, pyrophyllite, spodumene, or talc.

^aEstimated. NA Not available.

¹Rounded to two significant digits to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

²Defined as production + imports – exports.

³Includes feldspar and imported nepheline syenite; excludes nepheline syenite exports.

⁴Defined as imports – exports.

⁵Feldspar only.

⁶See Appendix C for resource and reserve definitions and information concerning data sources.

⁷Reported.