LIME[1]

(Data in thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Domestic Production and Use: In 2025, an estimated 15 million tons of quicklime and hydrated lime was produced (excluding independent commercial hydrators[2]), valued at about $4.0 billion. Lime was produced by 24 companies—16 with commercial sales and 8 that produced lime strictly for internal use (for example, sugar companies). These companies had 70 primary lime plants (plants operating quicklime kilns) in 30 States. Of the 24 companies, 3 operated only hydrating plants in eight States. In 2025, the five leading U.S. lime companies produced quicklime or hydrated in 23 States and accounted for about 80% of U.S. lime production. The leading producing States were Alabama, Missouri, Ohio, and Texas. Major markets for lime were, in descending order of consumption, steelmaking, chemical and industrial applications (such as the manufacture of fertilizer, glass, paper and pulp, and precipitated calcium carbonate, and in sugar refining), flue gas treatment, construction, water treatment, and nonferrous-metal mining.

Salient Statistics—United States:	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025[e]**
Production[2, 3]	16,600	16,700	15,800	15,000	15,000
Imports for consumption	323	354	343	362	360
Exports	335	304	344	331	280
Consumption, apparent[4]	16,600	16,800	15,800	15,000	15,000
Price, average value, dollars per metric ton at plant:					
Quicklime	132.8	149.9	184.6	261.4	260
Hydrated	158.0	179.1	234.6	274.2	280
Net import reliance[5] as a percentage of apparent consumption	E	<1	E	<1	<1

Recycling: Large quantities of lime are regenerated by paper mills. Some municipal water-treatment plants regenerate lime from softening sludge. Quicklime is regenerated from waste hydrated lime in the carbide industry. Data for these sources were not included as production to avoid double counting.

Import Sources (2021–24): Canada, 76%; Mexico, 19%; and other, 5%.

Tariff: Item	**Number**	**Normal Trade Relations 12–31–25**
Calcined dolomite	2518.20.0000	3% ad valorem.
Quicklime	2522.10.0000	Free.
Slaked lime	2522.20.0000	Free.
Hydraulic lime	2522.30.0000	Free.

Depletion Allowance: Limestone produced and used for lime production, 14% (domestic and foreign).

Government Stockpile: None.

Events, Trends, and Issues: In 2025, domestic lime production was estimated to be unchanged from that in 2024. In July, a sugar company shut down its sugar beet facility in Brawley, CA, which included the closure of its quicklime kiln. In 2025, a total of 70 quicklime plants were in operation along with 11 hydrating plants. Hydrated lime is a dry calcium hydroxide powder made from reacting quicklime with a controlled amount of water in a hydrator. It is used in chemical and industrial, construction, and environmental applications.

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LIME

World Lime Production and Limestone Reserves:

	Production[6]		Reserves[7]
	2024	2025[e]	
United States	15,000	15,000	Adequate for all countries with listed production.
Australia	1,890	1,900	
Belgium[8]	1,100	1,100	
Brazil	8,200	8,200	
Bulgaria	1,300	1,300	
Canada	1,550	1,600	
China	310,000	310,000	
France	3,500	3,500	
Germany	4,800	4,800	
India	17,000	17,000	
Iran	4,000	4,000	
Italy[8]	2,500	2,500	
Japan (quicklime only)	5,870	5,900	
Korea, Republic of	5,000	5,000	
Malaysia	1,400	1,400	
Poland (hydrated and quicklime)	1,290	1,300	
Russia (industrial and construction)	11,800	12,000	
South Africa	1,000	1,000	
Spain	1,700	1,700	
Turkey	4,000	4,000	
Ukraine	1,100	1,100	
United Kingdom	1,300	1,300	
Other countries	16,200	16,000	
World total (rounded)	421,000	420,000	

World Resources:[7] Domestic and world resources of limestone and dolomite suitable for lime manufacture are very large.

Substitutes: Limestone is a substitute for lime in many applications, such as agriculture, fluxing, and sulfur removal. Limestone, which contains less reactive material, is slower to react and may have other disadvantages compared with lime, depending on the application; however, limestone is considerably less expensive than lime. Calcined gypsum is an alternative material in industrial plasters and mortars. Cement, cement kiln dust, fly ash, and lime kiln dust are potential substitutes for some construction uses of lime. Magnesium hydroxide is a substitute for lime in pH control, and magnesium oxide is a substitute for dolomitic lime as a flux in steelmaking.

[e]Estimated. E Net exporter.

[1]Data are for quicklime, hydrated lime, and refractory dead-burned dolomite. Includes Puerto Rico.

[2]To avoid double counting quicklime production, excludes independent commercial hydrators that purchase quicklime for hydration.

[3]Sold or used by producers.

[4]Defined as production + imports – exports. Includes some double counting based on nominal, undifferentiated reporting of company export sales as U.S. production.

[5]Defined as imports – exports.

[6]Only countries that produced 1 million tons or more of lime are listed separately.

[7]See Appendix C for resource and reserve definitions and information concerning data sources.

[8]Includes hydraulic lime.