POTASH

[Data in thousand metric tons, potassium oxide (K_2O) equivalent, unless otherwise specified]

Domestic Production and Use: In 2025, the estimated sales value of marketable potash, free on board (f.o.b.) mine, was $550 million, which was 13% higher than that in 2024. The majority of U.S. production was from southeastern New Mexico, where two companies operated two underground mines and one deep-well solution mine. Sylvinite and langbeinite ores in New Mexico were beneficiated by flotation, dissolution-recrystallization, heavy-media separation, solar evaporation, and (or) combinations of these processes. In Utah, two companies operated three facilities. One company extracted underground sylvinite ore by deep-well solution mining. Solar evaporation crystallized the sylvinite ore from the brine solution, and a flotation process separated the muriate of potash (MOP) from byproduct sodium chloride. The firm also processed subsurface brines by solar evaporation and flotation to produce MOP at its other facility. Another company processed brine from the Great Salt Lake by solar evaporation to produce potassium sulfate or sulfate of potash (SOP) and other byproducts.

Potash denotes a variety of mined and manufactured salts that contain the element potassium in water-soluble form. In agriculture, the term potash refers to potassic fertilizers, which are potassium chloride (KCl), SOP, and potassium magnesium sulfate (SOPM) or langbeinite. MOP is an agriculturally acceptable mix of KCl (95% pure or greater) and sodium chloride for fertilizer use. The fertilizer industry used about 85% of U.S. potash sales, and the remainder was used for chemical and industrial applications. More than 60% of the potash produced was SOPM and SOP, which are required to fertilize certain chloride-sensitive crops. The remainder of production was MOP and was used for agricultural and chemical applications.

Salient Statistics—United States:	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025[e]**
Production, marketable[1]	480	430	390	410	500
Sales by producers, marketable[1]	490	400	400	420	460
Imports for consumption	6,480	4,940	5,620	5,970	5,600
Exports	112	267	157	150	170
Consumption, apparent[1, 2]	6,900	5,100	5,900	6,200	5,900
Price, average, f.o.b. mine, dollars per metric ton of K_2O equivalent:					
All products[3]	1,120	1,790	1,250	1,150	1,200
MOP	650	980	620	690	600
Employment, mine and mill, number[e]	900	900	900	900	900
Net import reliance[4] as a percentage of apparent consumption	93	92	93	94	92

Recycling: None.

Import Sources (2021–24): Canada, 79%; Russia, 12%; Israel, 3%; and other, 6%.

Tariff: Item	**Number**	**Normal Trade Relations 12–31–25**
Potassium nitrate	2834.21.0000	Free.
Potassium chloride, less than or equal to 62% K_2O	3104.20.0010	Free.
Potassium chloride, greater than 62% K_2O	3104.20.0050	Free.
Potassium sulfate	3104.30.0000	Free.
Potassic fertilizers, other	3104.90.0100	Free.

Depletion Allowance: 14% (domestic and foreign).

Government Stockpile: None.

Events, Trends, and Issues: In 2025, domestic production, sales, and exports were estimated to have increased compared with those in 2024. Apparent consumption and imports were both lower than those in 2024. World consumption of potash in fertilizer was estimated to be 41.6 million tons of K_2O, compared with 40.6 million tons in 2024. Asia and South America were the regions with the highest growth in consumption. World consumption was projected to increase to 45.3 million tons in 2029.

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In January 2025, a Michigan-based company received a conditional commitment from the U.S. Department of Energy for a $1.26 billion loan to help finance the development of a new potash and salt mine in Osceola County, MI. The company is required to meet certain environmental, financial, legal, and technical conditions within 1 year before the loan can be approved. The new mine was planned to have an initial annual production capacity of 800,000 tons of MOP and 1 million tons of salt.

World annual potash production capacity was 66.1 million tons of K_2O in 2025 and projected to increase to 77.4 million tons of K_2O by 2029. Most of the increase would be MOP from new mines and expansion projects in Laos and Russia. New MOP mines in Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Ethiopia, Morocco, and Spain were planned to begin operation beyond 2029.

On November 7, 2025, the U.S. Final 2025 List of Critical Minerals was published in the Federal Register (90 FR 50494). The changes in the 2025 list from the prior list published in 2022 (87 FR 10381) were the addition of copper, lead, potash, rhenium, silicon, and silver, based on the U.S. Geological Survey updated methodology for the 2025 list. As required by the Energy Act, public comment and interagency input were requested in response to the draft U.S. list of critical minerals published in the Federal Register (90 FR 41591). Based on that input, boron, metallurgical coal, phosphate rock, and uranium were also added.

World Mine Production and Reserves: Significant revisions were made to the 2024 production for Belarus, Germany, and Laos based on company and industry reports. Reserves for China and Russia were revised based on Government reports.

	Mine production		Reserves[5]	
	2024	2025[e]	Recoverable ore	K_2O equivalent
United States[1]	410	500	970,000	220,000
Belarus	[e]5,000	6,000	3,300,000	750,000
Brazil	331	300	10,000	2,300
Canada	14,400	15,000	4,500,000	1,100,000
Chile	564	600	NA	100,000
China	[e]6,300	6,300	NA	200,000
Germany	[e]2,500	3,000	NA	150,000
Israel	2,260	2,000	NA	[6]Large
Jordan	1,730	1,800	NA	[6]Large
Laos	[e]2,400	2,400	NA	1,000,000
Russia	[e]10,000	10,000	NA	2,000,000
Spain	489	450	NA	100,000
Other countries	350	350	1,500,000	300,000
World total (rounded)	46,700	49,000	>10,000,000	>5,900,000

World Resources:[5] Estimated domestic potash resources total about 7 billion tons. Most of these lie at depths between 1,800 and 3,100 meters in a 3,110-square-kilometer area of Montana and North Dakota as an extension of the Williston Basin deposits in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Canada. The Paradox Basin in Utah contains resources of about 2 billion tons, mostly at depths of more than 1,200 meters. The Holbrook Basin of Arizona contains resources of about 0.7 billion to 2.5 billion tons. A large potash resource lies about 2,100 meters under central Michigan and contains more than 75 million tons. Estimated world resources total about 250 billion tons.

Substitutes: No substitutes exist for potassium as an essential plant nutrient and as an essential nutritional requirement for animals and humans. Manure and glauconite (greensand) are low-potassium-content materials that can be profitably transported only short distances to crop fields. Glauconite is used as a potassium source for organic farming.

[e]Estimated. NA Not available.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than two significant digits to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

[2]Defined as sales + imports – exports.

[3]Includes MOP, SOP, and SOPM. Does not include other chemical compounds that contain potassium.

[4]Defined as imports – exports.

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

[6]Israel and Jordan recover potash from the Dead Sea, which contains nearly 2 billion tons of potassium chloride.