PUMICE AND PUMICITE

(Data in thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Domestic Production and Use: In 2025, 10 operations in five States produced pumice and pumicite. Estimated production[1] was 430,000 tons with an estimated processed value of $19 million, free on board (f.o.b.) plant. That represented an increase in both quantity and value from the 2024 reported production of 410,000 tons valued at $18.2 million. Pumice and pumicite were mined in California, Idaho, Kansas, New Mexico, and Oregon. The porous, lightweight properties of pumice are well suited for its main uses. Mined pumice was used in the production of abrasives, concrete admixtures and aggregates, lightweight building blocks, horticultural purposes, and other uses, including absorbent, filtration, laundry stone washing, and road use.

Salient Statistics—United States:	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025[e]
Production, mine[1]	504	295	438	410	430
Imports for consumption	87	103	53	144	64
Exports	11	14	11	11	15
Consumption, apparent[2]	580	384	480	543	480
Price, average unit value, f.o.b. mine or mill, dollars per metric ton	46	65	41	42	44
Employment, mine and mill, number	140	140	140	140	140
Net import reliance[3] as a percentage of apparent consumption	13	23	9	24	10

Recycling: Little to no known recycling.

Import Sources (2021–24): Greece, 80%; Iceland, 9%; Norway, 4%; Poland, 3%; and other, 4%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations 12–31–25
Pumice, crude or in irregular pieces, including crushed	2513.10.0010	Free.
Pumice, other	2513.10.0080	Free.

Depletion Allowance: 5% (domestic and foreign).

Government Stockpile: None.

Events, Trends, and Issues: The amount of domestically produced pumice and pumicite sold or used in 2025 was estimated to be 5% more than that in 2024. Imports were estimated to have decreased and exports were estimated to have increased compared with those in 2024. An estimated 80% of all imported pumice originated from Greece in 2025 and primarily supplied markets in the eastern and gulf coast regions of the United States.

Pumice and pumicite are plentiful in the Western States, but legal challenges and public land designations could limit access to known deposits. Production of pumice and pumicite is sensitive to mining and transportation costs.

All known domestic pumice and pumicite mining in 2025 was accomplished through open pit methods, generally in remote areas away from major population centers. Although the generation and disposal of reject fines in mining and milling may result in local dust issues at some operations, such environmental impacts were estimated to be restricted to small geographic areas.

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World production of pumice and related material was estimated to be 20 million tons in 2025, which was less than the 20.2 million tons produced in 2024. Turkey was the leading global producer of pumice and pumicite, followed by Jordan. Pumice is used more extensively as a building material outside the United States, which explains the large global production of pumice relative to that of the United States. In Europe, basic home construction uses stone and concrete as the preferred building materials. Prefabricated lightweight concrete walls, which may contain pumice as lightweight aggregate, are often produced and shipped to construction locations. Because of their cementitious properties, light weight, and strength, pumice and pumicite perform well in European-style construction.

World Mine Production and Reserves: Significant revisions were made to the 2024 production for Cameroon, Chile, Spain, Tanzania, and Turkey based on company and Government reports.

	Mine production[e]		Reserves[4]
	2024	2025	
United States[1]	[5]410	430	Large in the United States. Quantitative estimates of reserves for most countries were not available.
Algeria[6]	900	900	
Cameroon[6]	370	370	
Chile[6]	530	530	
Ecuador	800	800	
Ethiopia	510	510	
France[6]	280	280	
Greece[6]	1,010	1,000	
Guatemala	570	570	
Jamaica	290	290	
Jordan[6]	1,100	1,100	
Saudi Arabia[6]	980	980	
Spain	300	300	
Tanzania[6]	350	350	
Turkey	9,700	9,700	
Uganda[6]	830	830	
Other countries[6]	1,300	1,100	
World total (rounded)	20,200	20,000	

World Resources:[4] The identified U.S. resources of pumice and pumicite, estimated to be more than 25 million tons, are concentrated in the Western States. The estimated total resources (identified and undiscovered) in the Western and Great Plains States are at least 250 million tons and may total more than 1 billion tons. Large resources of pumice and pumicite have been identified on all continents.

Substitutes: The costs of transportation determine the maximum economic distance pumice and pumicite can be shipped and still remain competitive with alternative materials. Competitive materials that may be substituted for pumice and pumicite include crushed aggregates, diatomite, expanded shale and clay, and vermiculite.

[e]Estimated.

[1]Quantity sold and used by producers.

[2]Defined as production + imports – exports.

[3]Defined as imports – exports.

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

[5]Reported.

[6]Includes pozzolan and (or) volcanic tuff.