TALC AND PYROPHYLLITE[1]

(Data in thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Domestic Production and Use: Three companies operated five talc-producing mines in three States during 2025, and domestic production of crude talc was estimated to have increased to 490,000 tons valued at $28 million. Talc was mined in Montana, Texas, and Vermont. Total sales of talc by U.S. producers were estimated to be 460,000 tons valued at about $150 million. Talc produced and sold in the United States was used in plastics, 36%; paint, 19%; ceramics (including automotive catalytic converters), 17%; paper, 12%; roofing, 8%; and rubber, 2%. The remaining 6% was for agriculture, cosmetics, export, insecticides, and other miscellaneous uses.

Two companies in North Carolina mined and processed pyrophyllite in 2025. Domestic production data were withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data and were essentially unchanged from those in 2024. Pyrophyllite was sold for ceramic, paint, and refractory products.

Salient Statistics—United States:	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025e**
Production, mine	577	511	508	457	490
Sold by producers	556	557	529	472	460
Imports for consumption	278	346	235	232	260
Exports	236	203	204	180	120
Consumption, apparent[2]	598	700	560	524	600
Price, average, milled, dollars per metric ton[3]	322	298	333	331	330
Employment, mine and mill, number:[4]					
Talc	334	362	343	339	340
Pyrophyllite	32	37	38	37	33
Net import reliance[5] as a percentage of apparent consumption	7	20	6	10	23

Recycling: Insignificant.

Import Sources (2021–24): Pakistan, 52%; Canada, 24%; China, 12%; and other, 12%. Large quantities of crude talc were estimated to have been mined in Afghanistan before being milled in and exported from Pakistan.

Tariff: Item	**Number**	**Normal Trade Relations 12–31–25**
Natural steatite and talc:		
Not crushed, not powdered	2526.10.0000	Free.
Crushed or powdered	2526.20.0000	Free.
Talc, steatite, and soapstone; cut or sawed	6815.99.2000	Free.

Depletion Allowance: Block steatite talc, 22% (domestic), 14% (foreign); other talc and pyrophyllite, 14% (domestic and foreign).

Government Stockpile: None.

Events, Trends, and Issues: Canada, China, and Pakistan were the principal sources of United States talc imports in recent years. Imports of talc and related materials were estimated to have increased by 12% in 2025 compared with those in 2024. Imports from Pakistan decreased by about 9% in 2025 and accounted for about 49% of total imports. Imports from Canada decreased by 21% and accounted for 20% of the total. Imports from China increased by approximately 125% and accounted for approximately 27% of total imports. Mexico, Canada, and China, in descending order of quantity, were the primary destinations for United States talc exports, collectively receiving about 70% of exports. Exports were estimated to have decreased by 65% in 2025 compared with those in 2024.

Owing to concerns regarding asbestos contamination in talc and risks associated with talc exposure, regulatory bodies began assessing protective measures and classification criteria for talc-containing products. In December 2024, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration proposed stricter testing protocols for talc products to detect and prevent asbestos contamination in talc-containing cosmetics as mandated by the Modernization of Cosmetics Regulation Act of 2022. The comment period for the proposal ended in March 2025.

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TALC AND PYROPHYLLITE

The European Chemicals Agency's Committee for Risk Assessment issued a final opinion in July 2025 recommending the classification of talc as a Category 1B carcinogen (H350: "may cause cancer") and as a Specific Target Organ Toxicant–Repeated Exposure Category 1 (STOT RE 1, H372: "causes damage to lungs through prolonged or repeated inhalation exposure"). This conclusion was based on evidence from animal studies showing lung tumors in rats, human epidemiological data linking perineal talc use to ovarian cancer, and mechanistic data indicating talc-induced inflammation and oxidative stress. The classification applies to all routes of exposure because there was insufficient evidence to exclude any specific route.

Ceramic tile and sanitaryware formulations and the technology for firing ceramic tile changed over recent decades, reducing the amount of talc required for the manufacture of some ceramic products. For paint, the industry shifted its focus to production of water-based paint (a product for which talc is not well suited because it is hydrophobic) from oil-based paint in order to reduce volatile emissions. The amount of talc used for paper manufacturing began to decrease in the 1990s. Some talc used for pitch control was replaced by chemical agents.

World Mine Production and Reserves: Significant revisions were made to the 2024 production for Brazil, Canada, China, France, India, South Africa, and Turkey based on company and Government reports. Reserves for Brazil were revised based on Government reports.

	Mine production[e]		Reserves[6]
	2024	2025	
United States (crude)	[7]457	490	140,000
Afghanistan	190	200	Large
Brazil (crude and beneficiated)[8]	[7]649	570	48,000
Canada (unspecified minerals)[8]	150	150	NA
China (unspecified minerals)	1,300	1,300	60,000
Finland	[7]212	200	Large
France (crude)	280	300	Large
India (steatite)[8]	1,540	1,500	110,000
Italy (includes steatite)	170	170	NA
Japan[8]	130	130	100,000
Korea, Republic of[8]	[7]322	300	81,000
Pakistan (steatite)	[7]221	200	NA
South Africa[8]	[7]390	300	NA
Turkey[8]	[7]304	300	15,000
Other countries (includes crude)[8]	885	790	Large
World total (rounded)	7,200	6,900	Large

World Resources:[7] The United States is self-sufficient in most grades of talc and related minerals, but lower priced imports have replaced domestic sources for some uses. Talc occurs in the United States, from New England to Alabama in the Appalachian Mountains and the Piedmont region, as well as in California, Montana, Nevada, Texas, and Washington. Domestic and world identified resources are estimated to be approximately five times the quantity of reserves.

Substitutes: Substitutes for talc include bentonite, chlorite, feldspar, kaolin, and pyrophyllite in ceramics; chlorite, kaolin, and mica in paint; calcium carbonate and kaolin in paper; bentonite, kaolin, mica, and wollastonite in plastics; and kaolin and mica in rubber.

[e]Estimated. NA Not available.

[1]All statistics do not include pyrophyllite unless otherwise specified.

[2]Defined as sold by producers + imports – exports.

[3]Average ex-works unit value of milled talc sold by U.S. producers, based on data reported by companies.

[4]Includes only companies that mine talc or pyrophyllite. Excludes office workers and mills that process imported or domestically purchased material.

[5]Defined as imports – exports.

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

[7]Reported.

[8]Includes pyrophyllite.