

STRONTIUM

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Canadian Developments

Canada is the world's leading strontium metal producer. Timminco Limited produces all of Canada's strontium metal at its oxide reduction plant in Pembroke, Ontario. The company has the capacity to produce between 400 and 500 t/y of strontium metal and alloys, depending on operating parameters. The Pechiney Corporation of France is the other major strontium metal producer in the Western World.

World production of strontium metal was estimated at 400 t in 1995. There are no Canadian tariffs on strontium metal. Canadian trade statistics do not separate out strontium as a distinct entry, so import and export data are not available.

Timminco produces a 90/10 strontium-aluminum alloy (90% Sr, 10% Al) for use as a modifier in aluminum-silicon alloys to increase the "as-cast" ductility. This permits stronger aluminum alloy castings with increased machinability, allowing aluminum castings to compete better with steel for some automotive applications. Timminco also produces strontium metal in other forms such as crowns (97.5% Sr) and 5-kg or 1-kg cut pieces.

Note: Information in this review was current as of January 31, 1996.

TARIFFS

Item No.	Description	Canada			United States	EU
		MFN	GPT	USA	Canada	MFN
2805.22	Strontium and barium	Free	Free	Free	Free	5.5%
2816.20	Oxide, hydroxide and peroxide of strontium	Free	Free	Free	Free	5.5%
2836.92	Strontium carbonate	4%	3%	Free	Free	7.5%

Sources: Customs Tariff, effective January 1996, Revenue Canada; Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, 1996; The "Bulletin International des Douanes," Journal Number 14 (17th Edition), European Union, 1994-1995, "Conventional" column.

TABLE 1. CANADA, STRONTIUM PRODUCTION, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, 1991-95

Item No.	1991		1992		1993		1994		1995 ^P	
	(tonnes)	(\$000)	(tonnes)	(\$000)	(tonnes)	(\$000)	(tonnes)	(\$000)	(tonnes)	(\$000)
PRODUCTION¹	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
IMPORTS										
2805.22										
Strontium and barium										
United States	8	35	3	15	8	39	2	14	1	5
Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-
Total	8	35	3	15	8	39	3	19	1	5
EXPORTS										
2805.22										
Strontium and barium										
United States	89	1 891	164	3 529	201	4 243	183	3 505	187	4 058
Netherlands	31	594	97	1 797	51	651	89	1 742	75	1 568
United Kingdom	26	469	32	634	26	505	38	734	45	874
Brazil	1	11	10	223	12	255	12	253	19	387
Other countries	6	176	50	1 169	15	238	12	293	16	351
Total	153	3 145	353	7 355	305	5 895	333	6 505	342	7 242

Sources: Natural Resources Canada; Statistics Canada.

- Nil; ^P Preliminary; x Confidential.¹ Production is refined.

Note: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.