

CALCIUM

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Canadian Developments

Timminco Limited produces all of Canada's calcium metal at its Haley, Ontario operation. Timminco has an annual production capacity of about 900 t. The capacity is variable as the operation can switch a portion of its production between calcium and magnesium metal. Canadian tariffs for calcium metal are 3% for Most Favoured Nation and 2% for General Preferential.

World Developments

World production of calcium metal is estimated at about 2500 t/y. Other major calcium metal producers are China, France, the United States and Russia.

Consumption and Uses

Calcium is a powerful reduction agent. It is used to reduce oxides of niobium, samarium, titanium, uranium and vanadium. Calcium deoxidizes, desulphurizes, and degasses steels and cast irons. It is easier to work with calcium metal alloys than with the pure metal due to the reactivity of the pure metal. Calcium is used as an alloying element for lead in maintenance-free automotive batteries; it increases the strength of the lead as well as its corrosion- and creep-resistance.

Prices

During 1995, calcium metal prices averaged about US\$2.50/lb.

Notes: (1) For definitions and valuation of mineral production, shipments and trade, please refer to Chapter 70. (2) Information in this review was current as of January 31, 1996.

TARIFFS

Item No.	Description	Canada			United States
		MFN	GPT	USA	Canada
2805.21	Calcium metal	3%	2%	Free	Free

Sources: Customs Tariff, effective January 1996, Revenue Canada; Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, 1996.

TABLE 1. CANADA, CALCIUM METAL PRODUCTION AND TRADE, 1993-95

Item No.	1993		1994		1995P	
	(tonnes)	(\$000)	(tonnes)	(\$000)	(tonnes)	(\$000)
PRODUCTION	x	x	x	x	x	x
IMPORTS						
2805.21						
Calcium						
People's Republic of China	553	2 685	759	3 731	718	3 572
Russia	—	—	13	56	566	2 957
United States	9	175	39	328	38	247
Other countries	—	—	72	315	—	—
Total	562	2 860	883	4 434	1 322	6 778
EXPORTS						
2805.21						
Calcium						
Netherlands	62	443	121	925	82	580
United States	152	870	144	1 103	64	435
France	—	—	—	—	21	272
Other countries	7	90	34	342	46	574
Total	221	1 405	299	2 373	214	1 865

Sources: Natural Resources Canada; Statistics Canada.
— Nil; P Preliminary; x Confidential.