

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MANUFACTURED ABRASIVES IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2025

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) collects quarterly data on manufactured abrasives through its survey of producers. Manufactured abrasives included in this report are metallic abrasives, fused aluminum oxide, and silicon carbide. Where indicated, data from the United States and Canada are combined to avoid disclosing proprietary information. Except where noted, the quantities cited in this report are in metric units. All unit value calculations in this report are based on unrounded data.

Metallic Abrasives

During the third quarter of 2025, an estimated 50,300 metric tons (t) of steel shot and grit valued at an estimated \$37.0 million was produced, and an estimated 33,900 t valued at an estimated \$55.1 million was shipped in the United States. This compares with an estimated 47,800 t valued at \$35.1 million produced and an estimated 54,800 t valued at \$54.1 million shipped during the third quarter of 2024. At least one company produced shot and grit from reclaimed material. During the third quarter of 2025, production of other types of metallic shot and grit (primarily cut wire shot) was estimated to be 435 t valued at \$1.50 million, and shipments were estimated to be 579 t valued at \$2.65 million. This was compared to production of other types of metallic shot and grit that was estimated to be 575 t valued at \$2.65 million, and shipments that were estimated to be 600 t valued at \$2.76 million in the third quarter of 2024. Total third quarter 2025 production of metallic abrasives was 50,800 t valued at \$38.5 million, for an average unit value of \$758 per metric ton. Total third quarter 2025 shipments of metallic abrasives were 34,500 t valued at \$57.8 million, for an average unit value of \$1,680 per metric ton (table 1).

Exports of all types of metallic abrasives during the third quarter of 2025 were 4,030 t valued at \$8.57 million, for an average unit value of \$2,130 per metric ton (table 2).

Imports of all types of metallic abrasives during the third quarter of 2025 were 3,200 t valued at \$7.09 million, for an average unit value of \$2,220 per metric ton (table 2).

Fused Aluminum Oxide

Combined production of regular-grade crude fused aluminum oxide in the United States and Canada during the third quarter of 2025 was estimated to be 5,000 t with an estimated value of \$1.57 million, compared with 5,000 t with an estimated value of \$1.21 million during the third quarter of 2024 and 5,000 t with an estimated value of \$1.18 million (revised) during the second quarter of 2025. These production quantity figures were rounded to the nearest 5,000 t to avoid disclosing proprietary data (table 1).

Exports of crude fused aluminum oxide in the third quarter of 2025 were 1,900 t valued at \$5.49 million, for an average unit value of \$2,880 per metric ton (table 2).

Imports of crude fused aluminum oxide during the third quarter of 2025 were 28,800 t valued at \$20.5 million, for an average unit value of \$712 per metric ton. Imports of ground and refined fused aluminum oxide for the same period were 15,100 t valued at \$22.8 million, for an average unit value of \$1,510 per metric ton (table 2).

Silicon Carbide

Total production of abrasive-grade silicon carbide in the United States during the third quarter of 2025 was estimated to be 10,000 t with an estimated value of \$3.58 million, compared with 10,000 t with an estimated value of \$7.78 million during the third quarter of 2024 and 10,000 t with an estimated value of \$4.36 million (revised) during the second quarter of 2025. These production quantity figures were rounded to the nearest 5,000 t to avoid disclosing proprietary data (table 1).

Exports of crude silicon carbide during the third quarter of 2025 were 1,140 t with a value of \$3.55 million, for an average unit value of \$3,110 per metric ton. Exports of ground

and refined silicon carbide for the same period were 834 t valued at \$5.09 million, for an average unit value of \$6,100 per metric ton (table 2).

Imports of crude silicon carbide during the third quarter of 2025 were 30,200 t valued at \$21.3 million, for an average unit value of \$705 per metric ton. Imports of ground and refined silicon carbide for the same period were 7,490 t valued at \$22.1 million, for an average unit value of \$2,950 per metric ton (table 2).

A worksheet has been added to the Excel table files that includes a button to remove text and numerical footnotes from data cells. This will allow users to only have numbers in data cells. Please see the worksheet titled RemoveTextButton for instructions on how to use the tool. Note: you must download the Excel file in order to use the tool.

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Table 1. Estimated production and shipments of aluminum oxide, silicon carbide, and metallic abrasives.

[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Revised data are marked with a superscript "r".]

Source and product	2024						2025					
	3d quarter		4th quarter		1st quarter–4th quarter		1st quarter		2nd quarter		3d quarter	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousand dollars)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousand dollars)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousand dollars)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousand dollars)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousand dollars)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousand dollars)
United States, production												
Steel shot and grit	47,800	35,100	43,800	35,400	191,000	147,000	41,700	32,100	38,000	35,900	50,300	37,000
Other shot and grit ¹	575	2,650	536	2,230	2,360	10,900	497	1,830	478	1,460	435	1,500
Total	48,400	37,800	44,300	37,600	193,000	158,000	42,200	33,900	38,500	37,400	50,800	38,500
United States, shipments												
Steel shot and grit	54,800	54,100	52,200	53,800	220,000	237,000	46,900	50,600	39,500	42,800	33,900	55,100
Other shot and grit ¹	600	2,760	542	2,950	2,440	12,100	572	2,520	564	2,400	579	2,650
Total	55,400	56,800	52,700	56,800	223,000	249,000	47,500	53,100	40,100	45,200	34,500	57,800
United States and Canada, production²												
Crude aluminum oxide, regular-grade	5,000	1,210	5,000	1,840	22,800 ^r	5,020	5,000	1,490	5,000	1,180 ^r	5,000	1,570
United States, production²												
Silicon carbide ³	10,000	7,780	10,000	8,950	41,500 ^r	29,400	10,000	6,790	10,000	4,360 ^r	10,000	3,580

¹Includes cut wire shot and reclaimed shot and grit from primary producers.

²Quantities are rounded to the nearest 5,000 tons to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. Values are rounded to 3 significant figures to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

³Includes materials for metallurgical uses and other applications.

Table 2. U.S. exports and imports for consumption of aluminum oxide, silicon carbide, and metallic abrasives.[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Revised data are marked with a superscript "r". Source: U.S. Census Bureau (<https://usatrade.census.gov/>).]

Source and product	2024						2025					
	3d quarter		4th Quarter		1st quarter–4th quarter		1st quarter		2nd quarter		3rd quarter	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ¹ (thousand dollars)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ¹ (thousand dollars)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ¹ (thousand dollars)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ¹ (thousand dollars)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ¹ (thousand dollars)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ¹ (thousand dollars)
Exports												
Metallic abrasives	4,660	7,770	4,700	10,600	19,300	35,400	4,790	8,230	4,650	8,550	4,030	8,570
Aluminum oxide, crude	2,140	7,990	2,330	6,850	9,190	31,400	1,650	5,050	2,430	6,270	1,900	5,490
Silicon carbide												
Crude	859 ^r	1,120	926	3,240	4,410	8,110	1,030	1,290	933	1,900	1,140	3,550
Ground and refined	813	5,160	1,510	3,780	5,280	19,100	1,510	5,790	810	4,640	834	5,090
Imports for consumption												
Metallic abrasives	3,970	7,980	4,550	7,510	16,900	32,200	4,240	8,900	3,860	7,410	3,200	7,090
Aluminum oxide												
Crude	39,100	24,900	37,000	24,100	111,000	70,700	24,500	17,100	15,700	10,900	28,800	20,500
Ground and refined	13,500	19,000	10,800	14,700	49,700	71,400	14,400	21,500	16,000	23,900	15,100	22,800
Silicon carbide												
Crude	19,600	20,100	24,000	18,500	83,900	69,700	27,000	17,700	11,000	11,300	30,200	21,300
Ground and refined	6,890	30,000	6,010	27,000	29,400	128,000	9,330	32,200	3,330	21,200	7,490	22,100

¹Export values are free alongside ship values; import values are customs values.