

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MANUFACTURED ABRASIVES IN THE FOURTH 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 fourth quarter of 2025, an estimated 38,500 metric tons (t) of steel shot and grit valued at an estimated \$13.7 million was produced, and an estimated 40,200 t valued at an estimated \$34.4 million was shipped in the United States. This was compared with an estimated 43,800 t valued at \$35.4 million produced and an estimated 52,200 t valued at \$53.8 million shipped during the fourth quarter of 2024. At least one company produced shot and grit from reclaimed material. During the fourth quarter of 2025, production of other types of metallic shot and grit (primarily cut wire shot) were estimated to be 477 t valued at \$1.73 million, and shipments were estimated to be 556 t valued at \$2.52 million. This was compared to production of other types of metallic shot and grit that were each estimated to be 536 t valued at \$2.23 million, and shipments of that were each estimated to be 542 t valued at \$2.95 million in the fourth quarter of 2024. Total fourth quarter 2025 production of metallic abrasives was 39,000 t valued at \$15.5 million, for an average unit value of \$397 per metric ton. Total fourth quarter 2025 shipments of metallic abrasives were 40,800 t valued at \$36.9 million, for an average unit value of \$905 per metric ton. Total production in 2025 for all types of metallic shot and grit was estimated to be 170,000 t valued at \$125 million compared with an estimated 193,000 t valued at \$158 million during 2024 (table 1).

Imports of all types of metallic abrasives during the fourth quarter of 2025 were 3,320 t valued at \$6.6 million, for an

average unit value of \$1,990 per metric ton (table 2).

Exports of all types of metallic abrasives during the fourth quarter of 2025 were 3,970 t valued at \$6.59 million, for an average unit value of \$1,660 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 fourth quarter of 2025 was estimated to be 5,000 t with an estimated value of \$1.73 million, compared with 5,000 t with an estimated value of \$1.84 million during the fourth quarter of 2024 and 5,000 t with an estimated value of \$1.57 million during the third quarter of 2025. Total production in 2025 for regular-grade crude fused aluminum oxide was 20,000 t valued at \$5.96 million, compared with 25,000 t valued at \$5.02 million in 2024. These production quantity figures were rounded to the nearest 5,000 t (table 1).

Imports of crude fused aluminum oxide during the fourth quarter of 2025 were 24,900 t valued at \$16.1 million, for an average unit value of \$646 per metric ton. Imports of ground and refined fused aluminum oxide for the same period were 14,200 t valued at \$16.8 million, for an average unit value of \$1,190 per metric ton (table 2).

Exports of crude fused aluminum oxide in the fourth quarter of 2025 were 2,570 t valued at \$6.70 million, for an average unit value of \$2,600 per metric ton (table 2).

Silicon Carbide

Total production of abrasive-grade silicon carbide in the United States during the fourth quarter of 2025 was estimated to be 10,000 t with an estimated value of \$3.52 million, compared with 10,000 t with an estimated value of \$8.95 million during the fourth quarter of 2024 and 10,000 t with an estimated value of \$3.58 million during the third quarter of 2025. Total production in 2025 of abrasive-grade silicon carbide was 30,000 t valued at \$18.2 million, compared with

40,000 t valued at \$29.4 million in 2024. These production quantity figures were rounded to the nearest 5,000 t (table 1).

Imports of crude silicon carbide during the fourth quarter of 2025 were 12,900 t valued at \$7.82 million, for an average unit value of \$605 per metric ton. Imports of ground and refined silicon carbide for the same period were 3,560 t valued at \$20.4 million, for an average unit value of \$5,730 per metric ton (table 2).

Exports of crude silicon carbide during the fourth quarter of 2025 were 1,990 t with a value of \$8.72 million, for an average unit value of \$4,390 per metric ton. Exports of ground and refined silicon carbide for the same period were 836 t valued at \$3.69 million, for an average unit value of \$4,420 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.]

Source and product	2024						2025							
	4th quarter		1st quarter–4th quarter		1st quarter		2nd quarter		3d quarter		4th quarter		1st quarter–4th 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)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousand dollars)
United States, production														
Steel shot and grit	43,800	35,400	191,000	147,000	41,700	32,100	38,000	35,900	50,300	37,000	38,500	13,700	169,000	119,000
Other shot and grit ¹	536	2,230	2,360	10,900	497	1,830	478	1,460	435	1,500	477	1,730	1,890	6,520
Total	44,300	37,600	193,000	158,000	42,200	33,900	38,500	37,400	50,800	38,500	39,000	15,500	170,000	125,000
United States, shipments														
Steel shot and grit	52,200	53,800	220,000	237,000	46,900	50,600	39,500	42,800	33,900	55,100	40,200	34,400	161,000	183,000
Other shot and grit ¹	542	2,950	2,440	12,100	572	2,520	564	2,400	579	2,650	556	2,520	2,270	10,100
Total	52,700	56,800	223,000	249,000	47,500	53,100	40,100	45,200	34,500	57,800	40,800	36,900	163,000	193,000
United States and Canada, production²														
Crude aluminum oxide, regular-gr.	5,000	1,840	25,000	5,020	5,000	1,490	5,000	1,180	5,000	1,570	5,000	1,730	20,000	5,960
United States, production²														
Silicon carbide ³	10,000	8,950	40,000	29,400	10,000	6,790	10,000	4,360	10,000	3,580	10,000	3,520	30,000	18,200

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. Source: U.S. Census Bureau (<https://usatrade.census.gov/>).]

Source and product	2024						2025							
	4th Quarter		1st quarter–4th quarter		1st quarter		2nd quarter		3rd quarter		4th Quarter		1st quarter–4th 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)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ¹ (thousand dollars)
Exports														
Metallic abrasives	4,700	10,600	19,300	35,400	4,790	8,230	4,650	8,550	4,030	8,570	3,970	6,590	17,400	31,900
Aluminum oxide, crude	2,330	6,850	9,190	31,400	1,650	5,050	2,430	6,270	1,900	5,490	2,570	6,700	8,560	23,500
Silicon carbide														
Crude	926	3,240	4,410	8,110	1,030	1,290	933	1,900	1,140	3,550	1,990	8,720	5,090	15,500
Ground and refined	1,510	3,780	5,280	19,100	1,510	5,790	810	4,640	834	5,090	836	3,690	3,990	19,200
Imports for consumption														
Metallic abrasives	4,550	7,510	16,900	32,200	4,240	8,900	3,860	7,410	3,200	7,090	3,320	6,600	14,600	30,000
Aluminum oxide														
Crude	37,000	24,100	111,000	70,700	24,500	17,100	15,700	10,900	28,800	20,500	24,900	16,100	93,800	64,600
Ground and refined	10,800	14,700	49,700	71,400	14,400	21,500	16,000	23,900	15,100	22,800	14,200	16,800	59,700	85,100
Silicon carbide														
Crude	24,000	18,500	83,900	69,700	27,000	17,700	11,000	11,300	30,200	21,300	12,900	7,820	81,200	58,200
Ground and refined	6,010	27,000	29,400	128,000	9,330	32,200	3,330	21,200	7,490	22,100	3,560	20,400	23,700	95,900

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