

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MANUFACTURED ABRASIVES IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2026

The U.S. Geological Survey 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, 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 first quarter of 2026, an estimated 36,000 metric tons (t) of steel shot and grit valued at an estimated \$13.7 million was produced, and an estimated 36,400 t valued at an estimated \$34.4 million was shipped in the United States. These numbers compared with an estimated 41,700 t valued at \$32.1 million produced and an estimated 46,900 t valued at \$50.6 million shipped during the first quarter of 2025. At least one company produced shot and grit from reclaimed material. Production of other types of metallic shot and grit (primarily cut wire shot) was estimated to be 496 t valued at \$1.83 million, essentially the same in quantity and value compared with those of the first quarter of 2025. The quantity of shipments of other types of metallic shot was estimated to be 580 t valued at \$2.65 million, essentially the same in quantity and 5 percent more in value compared with those of the first quarter of 2025. Total first quarter 2026 production of metallic abrasives was 36,500 t valued at \$15.6 million, for an average unit value of \$427 per ton. Total first quarter 2026 shipments of metallic abrasives were 37,000 t valued at \$37.0 million, for an average unit value of \$1,000 per ton (table 1).

Exports of all types of metallic abrasives during the first quarter of 2025 were 4,690 t valued at \$6.94 million, for an average unit value of \$1,480 per ton compared with 4,790 t valued at \$8.20 million, for an average unit value of \$1,710 during the first quarter of 2025 (table 2).

Imports of all types of metallic abrasives during the first quarter of 2026 were 3,210 t valued at \$5.89 million, for an average unit value of \$1,840 per ton compared with 4,220 t valued at \$8.86 million, for an average unit value of \$2,100 during the first quarter of 2025 (table 2).

Fused Aluminum Oxide

Production quantities are rounded to the nearest 5,000 t to avoid disclosing proprietary data. Combined production of regular-grade crude fused aluminum oxide in the United States and Canada during the first quarter of 2026 was estimated to be 5,000 t, a quantity that has remained unchanged for several years as the production figures are rounded. The production value was estimated at \$1.73 million—16 percent more than in the first quarter of 2025 and essentially the same as that of the fourth quarter of 2025 (table 1).

Exports of crude fused aluminum oxide for the first quarter of 2026 were 2,130 t valued at \$5.31 million, for an average unit value of \$2,490 per ton (table 2).

Imports of crude fused aluminum oxide during the first quarter of 2026 were 19,700 t valued at \$13.5 million, for an average unit value of \$685 per ton. Imports of ground and refined fused aluminum oxide for the same period were 14,600 t valued at \$18.5 million, for an average unit value of \$1,270 per ton (table 2).

Silicon Carbide

Production quantities are rounded to the nearest 5,000 t to avoid disclosing proprietary data. Total production of abrasive-grade silicon carbide in the United States during the first quarter of 2026 was estimated to be 10,000 t with an estimated value of \$3.52 million. The value was 48 percent less compared with the first quarter of 2025 and unchanged from that of the fourth quarter of 2025 (table 1).

Exports of crude silicon carbide during the first quarter of 2026 were 3,060 t with a value of \$8.96 million, for an average unit value of \$2,930 per ton. Exports of ground and refined silicon carbide for the same period were 1,200 t valued at \$3.42 million, for an average unit value of \$2,850 per ton (table 2).

Imports of crude silicon carbide during the first quarter of 2026 were 26,500 t valued at \$17.1 million, for an average unit value of \$645 per ton. Imports of ground and refined silicon carbide for the same period were 7,360 t valued at \$18.9 million, for an average unit value of \$25,600 per ton (table 2).

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Abrasives in First Quarter 2026

This workbook includes 2 tables.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This publication is provided by the National Minerals Information Center (NMIC), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Includes data available through August 19, 2026, unless otherwise noted.

NMIC data included in Excel tables of the Minerals Yearbook Chapters and Minerals Industry Surveys are considered preliminary, for informational purposes only.

Comprehensive data releases and list services for NMIC publications are available at <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center>.

Data in these tables may not include granular footnotes.

Unless otherwise noted, totals, United States (U.S.) data, and estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices and unit values; may not add to totals shown. Data may include revisions to previously published data.

FOOTNOTES AND TERMINOLOGY

Year-to-date indicates the sum of all months or quarters for the given year to the given period.

Estimated data contained in a row or column are marked with a superscript "e." Preliminary data contained in a row or column are marked with a superscript "p."

Do, ditto. NA, not available. No., number. W, withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. —, not applicable. <0.5, less than half a unit.

TRADE DATA

Trade data are sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau (<https://usatrade.census.gov/>). "HTS" indicates the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States code.

"Schedule B" indicates the Schedule B of the United States number.

Only the leading trade partners are listed individually in the table. Data for all countries are provided in the data release file at

Mineral Industry Surveys Data Release (Provisional) - ScienceBase-Catalog.

Imports refers to "imports for consumption." Import valuation is customs value, free-alongside-ship basis.

Exports refers to "domestic exports." Export valuation is on a free-alongside-ship basis.

CONTACT

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If you are an industry producer or consumer and would like to contribute to NMIC industry surveys, please contact Michelle B. Blackwell, mblackwell@usgs.gov.

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

Source and product	2025 ¹								2026			
	1st quarter		2nd quarter		3d quarter		4th quarter		1st quarter–4th quarter		1st 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	41,700	32,100	38,000	35,900	50,300	37,000	38,500	13,700	169,000	119,000	36,000	13,700
Other shot and grit ²	497	1,830	478	1,460	435	1,500	477	1,730	1,890	6,520	496	1,830
Total	42,200	33,900	38,500	37,400	50,800	38,500	39,000	15,500	170,000	125,000	36,500	15,600
United States, shipments												
Steel shot and grit	46,900	50,600	39,500	42,800	33,900	55,100	40,200	34,400	161,000	183,000	36,400	34,400
Other shot and grit ²	572	2,520	564	2,400	579	2,650	556	2,520	2,270	10,100	580	2,650
Total	47,500	53,100	40,100	45,200	34,500	57,800	40,800	36,900	163,000	193,000	37,000	37,000
United States and Canada, production³												
Crude aluminum oxide, regular-gr.	5,000	1,490	5,000	1,180	5,000	1,570	5,000	1,730	20,000	5,960	5,000	1,730
United States, production³												
Silicon carbide ⁴	10,000	6,790	10,000	4,360	10,000	3,580	10,000	3,520	30,000	18,200	10,000	3,520

¹May include revisions to previously published data.²Includes cut wire shot and reclaimed shot and grit from primary producers.³Quantities 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.⁴Includes materials for metallurgical uses and other applications.

Table 2. U.S. exports and imports of aluminum oxide, silicon carbide, and metallic abrasives.

Source and product	2025 ¹								2026			
	1st quarter		2nd quarter		3rd quarter		4th Quarter		1st quarter–4th quarter		1st quarter	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Exports												
Metallic abrasives	4,790	8,200	4,660	8,580	4,030	8,580	3,970	6,590	17,400	31,900	4,690	6,940
Aluminum oxide, crude	1,660	5,060	2,430	6,280	1,980	5,530	2,570	6,700	8,640	23,600	2,130	5,310
Silicon carbide												
Crude	1,010	1,270	933	1,900	1,140	3,550	2,010	8,750	5,090	15,500	3,060	8,960
Ground and refined	1,510	5,640	812	4,650	838	5,110	836	3,690	3,990	19,100	1,200	3,420
Imports for consumption												
Metallic abrasives	4,220	8,860	3,860	7,420	3,200	7,080	3,320	6,600	14,600	30,000	3,210	5,890
Aluminum oxide												
Crude	24,500	17,100	15,700	10,900	28,800	20,500	24,900	16,100	93,800	64,600	19,700	13,500
Ground and refined	15,800	22,600	15,800	23,800	15,100	22,800	14,200	16,800	60,900	86,000	14,600	18,500
Silicon carbide												
Crude	27,000	17,700	10,900	11,300	30,200	21,300	12,900	7,820	81,100	58,200	26,500	17,100
Ground and refined	9,330	32,200	3,340	21,300	7,490	22,100	3,560	20,300	23,700	96,000	7,360	18,900

¹May include revisions to previously published data.²Export values are free alongside ship values; import values are customs values.