Abrasives

US Industry Study with Forecasts for 2019 & 2024

Study #3248 | February 2015 | $5300 | 309 pages
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Increased consumption will be driven by solid growth in durable goods manufacturing, while rising market share for higher-priced goods such as superabrasives will strengthen demand in value terms.

US demand to rise 3.8% annually through 2019

Demand for abrasives in the US is forecast to rise 3.8 percent per year through 2019 to $7.0 billion. Gains will decelerate from those seen over the 2009-2014 period, when abrasives demand grew quickly as a result of recovery from an unusually low, recession-impacted 2009 base. Solid growth in durable goods manufacturing will contribute to increased consumption of abrasives going forward. In addition, rising market share for higher-priced goods such as superabrasives will strengthen demand in value terms.

Furniture, machinery among best opportunities

Durable goods manufacturing represents the largest market for abrasive products, accounting for 76 percent of the total in 2014. The strongest outlooks for abrasives in durable goods manufacturing are expected in markets such as furniture and wood products, machinery, and nonmetallic mineral products, all of which are expected to see improvements in manufacturing output through 2019. Cleaning and maintenance applications, which represent the second largest source of abrasives demand after durable goods, are expected to grow at a more modest pace, reflecting the maturity of abrasives use in typical cleaning activities. Construction applications are expected to be the single fastest growing market for abrasives.

Bonded abrasives to be fastest growing products

Nonmetallic abrasives account for the vast majority of abrasive products, comprising 93 percent of the total in 2014. Within nonmetallic abrasives, coated products are the largest category, followed by bonded abrasives and loose abrasive grains and powders. Bonded abrasives will post the fastest gains through 2019, in part due to the fact that this category contains the highest concentration of superabrasive materials, which are expected to expand their market share. Increased consumption of superabrasives (e.g., manufactured diamond) will also benefit coated abrasives and loose abrasives to some degree. Metallic abrasives will post slightly below average growth, reflecting their relative maturity and competition from alternative materials such as polyester nonwoven pads.

Superabrasives to see above average gains

Among abrasive raw materials, superabrasives, which include manufactured diamond and cubic boron nitride (CBN), are expected to see above average gains. The hardness of these materials allows them to offer superior performance. Improving production processes are expected to make these products more cost competitive.
RAW MATERIALS

METALLIC ABRASIVE MATERIALS

Demand for metallic abrasive raw materials is forecast to grow 3.1% annually to $282 million in 2019. Growth will be fueled by increased use of coated abrasive products that use these materials, as well as coated and similar cleaning products. The rising importance of coated products has led to a greater share in recent years, driving market share, constraining domestic production and pricing. The superior performance qualities of such coated abrasive products, taking market share from metallic abrasive materials in more high-end applications.

Metallic abrasive raw materials include steel grit and shot, or annealed iron grit and shot, cut wire shot, and steel and nonferrous wools. (Most of the raw materials used to make metallic abrasives such as files and wire brushes are excluded from this report.) Steel and iron grit and shot, which are used as blast cleaning abrasives, are produced by spraying molten metal through nozzles and casting it into spheres by the application of high-pressure water sprays or by mechanical means. Cut wire shot is manufactured by cutting wire of various diameters and materials, including carbon steel, stainless steel, aluminum, copper, and zinc.

Steel wool is produced by shaving steel wire into long strands of steel fiber resembling lamb’s wool. The fibers, which can be manufactured in varying degrees of fineness, are matted together, usually to make pads or rolls that can be used for household cleaning as well as rust and polishing wood and metal. Nonferrous wools -- e.g., bronze, aluminum -- are produced in a similar manner. Bronze wool is often used for use in marine applications (such as polishing boats) over steel wool because steel rusts in wet environments. Additionally, steel discolor oak, making bronze wool preferable for polishing and cleaning oak.

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### TABLE IV-2

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Source: The Freedonia Group, Inc.
COMPANY PROFILES

Ervin Industries Incorporated
3893 Research Park Drive
Ann Arbor, MI  48108
734-769-4600
http://www.ervinindustries.com

Annual Sales:  $200 million (estimated)
Employment:  400 (estimated)

Key Products:  cast steel shot and grit abrasives, stainless steel shot abrasives, and stainless steel blasting media

Ervin Industries is a leading international manufacturer of cast and stainless steel abrasives. The privately held company also makes steel shot for shotgun shells.

Ervin is active in the US abrasives industry through the production of AMASTEEL cast steel shot and grit abrasives, AMACAST stainless steel shot abrasives, and AMAGRIT stainless steel blasting media. These abrasives are used in the automotive, aerospace, agriculture, construction, foundry, mining, railroad, shipyard, stone cutting, petrochemical, and other industries for blast cleaning, surface preparation, peening, cutting, and other applications.

AMASTEEL cast steel shot and grit abrasives are available in four hardness ranges from Ervin Industries and are typically utilized in blasting and peening applications. The Company’s AMACAST stainless steel shot can be used in nonferrous metal blasting and in applications in which corrosion resistance is required. AMACAST stainless steel shot is produced via a centrifugal atomization process that enables precise control of the material’s microstructure, thereby giving maximum durability and impact energy transfer. AMAGRIT stainless steel...
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Related Studies

World Industrial Silica Sand
Global demand for industrial silica sand is forecast to advance 5.5 percent annually to 291 million metric tons in 2018, with a value of $12.5 billion. The Asia/Pacific region will remain the largest market, while North America will grow the fastest. Glass will remain the leading outlet, while the hydraulic fracturing segment grows the fastest. This study analyzes the 223 million metric ton world silica sand industry, with forecasts for 2018 and 2023 by market, world region, and for 19 countries. The study also evaluates company market share and profiles industry participants. #3237 ............ December 2014 ................ $6200

World Specialty Silicas
Global demand for specialty silicas will rise 5.0 percent per year through 2018 to 2.9 million metric tons, valued at $6.9 billion. Rubber is the largest market and will also be the fastest growing. Precipitated silica will remain the dominant product type. The Asia/Pacific region will remain the largest and fastest growing market. This study analyzes the 2.3 million metric ton world specialty silica industry, with forecasts for 2018 and 2023 by product, market, world region, and for 16 countries. The study also evaluates company market share and profiles industry players. #3178 ............ July 2014 ................ $6300

World Abrasives
World demand for abrasives is forecast to rise 5.8 percent annually to $40 billion in 2017. Over half of additional demand will be attributable to China, the world’s leading national market. Coated and bonded abrasives, which account for most product sales, will benefit from healthy advances in manufacturing and construction activity. This study analyzes the $30 billion world abrasives industry, with forecasts for 2017 and 2022 by product, market, raw material, world region, and for 23 countries. The study also evaluates company market share and profiles industry players. #3132 ............ March 2014 ................ $6200

World Mining Equipment
Global demand for mining machinery is forecast to expand 8.6 percent per year through 2017 to $135 billion. The Asia/Pacific region and Central and South America will be the fastest growing markets. Metals mining equipment will remain the largest product segment and will see the most rapid gains in demand. This study analyzes the $89.5 billion world mining equipment industry, with forecasts for 2017 and 2022 by market, product, world region, and for 29 countries. The study also evaluates company market share and profiles industry competitors. #3107 ............ January 2014 ................ $6300

World Aluminum
World demand for aluminum (primary and secondary/recycled) is projected to expand 5.8 percent per year through 2017 to 82.5 million metric tons. China will remain the largest and fastest growing market. Construction will remain the largest end use while the motor vehicle market grows the fastest. This study analyzes the 62 million metric ton world aluminum industry, with forecasts for 2017 and 2022 by market, world region, and for 20 countries. The study also evaluates company market share and profiles industry players. #3070 ............ October 2013 ................ $6100

About The Freedonia Group

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