

ZrO₂ (Toyo Soda Mfg. Co., Ltd.)

ZrO₂, major application of which is for refractories, for electronic industry (including sensors) hold 10% of the overall demand. As products for electronic industry require materials of 99.0 - 99.6% purity, the price range is very wide from 2,500 yen to 10,000 yen (PSZ)/kg. The company is perplexed with the strong requirements from electronic component manufacturers.

Estimated Demand for Zirconia by Type of END Product (t)

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1985/1984(%)
Refractories	3,200	3,300	4,300	4,600	107
Abrasives/grinders	550	500	520	650	125
Electronic components	350	460	510	500	98
Pigments for ceramic industry	450	450	600	600	100
Glass products	70	90	110	120	109
Sensors	150	150	130	150	115
Fine ceramics	-	50	80	80	100
Total	4,720	5,000	6,250	6,700	107

(Data from Dai-ichi Kogenso Kagaku Kogyo Ltd.)

ZnO (Toho Zinc Co., Ltd., Sakai Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.)

The price of zinc ingot fell sharply from 270,000 yen/ton in 1985 to 170,000 yen/ton in June 1986. Although we consider the price has hit the bottom, the market is still soft. However, we might make mistakes with the price movement, if we forecast the yearly mean based only on the current price level.

ZnO for electronic ceramics often differ with respect to their purity, impurities to be eliminated and particle distribution depending on users' specifications. Therefore, it is difficult to specify general prices. They range from 250 yen to 10,000 yen/kg with no significant price cut.

MgO (Kyowa Chemical Co., Ltd.)

Although the price of product with 0.9999 purity is kept at 9,000 - 10,000 yen/kg, the price of ordinary high quality product is generally at 2,000 yen/kg. However, even if a laboratory requires a high purity product, negotiations with Materials Supply Department often result in the acceptance of general-purpose product priced at 400 yen to 600 yen/kg. Therefore, practical demand for high purity material will not likely increase.

Accordingly, the prices are gradually lowering.