

- * It is quite difficult to determine the quantity of respective material used for fine ceramics production.

Accordingly, in this study combined with our analysis, we adopted the figures from the report on the electric and electronic related substances in "Research on the Trend of Fine Ceramics Industry" published by the Fine Ceramics Association in March 1986, based on the results of questionnaire to the members of the Association in January 1986. Generally speaking, the resulting figures are smaller compared to the actual ones. As for the price trend of each substance, we obtained the data respectively from the personnel in charge of marketing of major manufacturers.

- * On the whole, prices are dropping affected by yen's appreciation, price cut requirements from users, originating in semiconductor trade friction and decreased demand. (As for titanium oxide, price remains at the same level due to the increase in demand on the overseas market and little absolute deposits.) Manufacturers have no optimistic views for the future price trend, or they rather take precautions against volume when the demand is stimulated in future.
- * It is almost impossible to get the precise unit price of each substance used for fine ceramics production; as it widely differs by purity, particle shape and particle distribution as well as by application. Therefore, the followings are the approximate average prices.

Price Trend of Each Substance

Al_2O_3 (Sumitomo Aluminum Refining and several others)

Kyocera produces a very high quality and fine particle Al_2O_3 for captive use only to maintain product quality high. Products by few other companies including Sumitomo Aluminum Refining have stepped up to Kyocera's level. The price ranges from 5,000 yen/kg at 0.9999 purity to 200 yen/kg of general product, with lowering price trend.

SiC (Showa Denko K.K.)

The price widely varies from 15,000 yen/kg products of super fine 0.5 μ m particles to 1,000 yen/kg low-purity products. We predict the price will show lower trend considerably.

$BaTiO_3$ (Mitsui Mining & Smelting Co., Ltd.,
TDK Electronics Co., Ltd.)

It is difficult to present prices as they purchase TiO_2 and $BaCO_3$ from material suppliers. However, with lowering of raw material price and improvement of manufacturing technologies, we predict the price will considerably go down.