## ASBESTOS

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless otherwise noted)
Domestic Production and Use: One firm in California accounted for $100 \%$ of domestic production. Asbestos was consumed in roofing products, $56 \%$; friction products, $20 \%$; gaskets, $12 \%$; and other, $12 \%$.

| Salient Statistics-United States: | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | $1999{ }^{\text {e }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Production (sales), mine | 9 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 6 |
| Imports for consumption | 22 | 22 | 21 | 16 | 15 |
| Exports ${ }^{1}$ | 15 | 15 | 20 | 18 | 19 |
| Shipments from Government stockpile excesses | - | - | - | 3 | 5 |
| Consumption, apparent | 22 | 22 | 21 | 16 | 15 |
| Price, average value, dollars per ton, f.o.b. | W | W | W | W | W |
| Stocks, producer, yearend | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Employment, mine and mill, number | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Net import reliance ${ }^{2}$ as a percent of apparent consumption | 32 | 32 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

Recycling: Insignificant.
Import Sources (1995-98): Canada, 99\%; and other, 1\%.

| Tariff: Item | Number | Normal Trade Relations |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Asbestos | 2524.00 .0000 | $\frac{12 / 31 / 99}{\text { Free. }}$ |

Depletion Allowance: $23 \%$ (Domestic), 10\% (Foreign).
Government Stockpile:

## Stockpile Status-9-30-99 ${ }^{3}$ <br> (Metric tons)

| Material | Uncommitted <br> inventory |
| :--- | :---: |
| Amosite | 29,229 |
| Chrysotile | 197 |
| Crocidolite | 33 |

Committed
inventory
-
2,161
Authorized
for disposal
29,229
197
33

| Disposal plan | Disposals |
| :---: | :---: |
| FY 1999 | FY 1999 |
| $-\overline{44}$ | 5,220 |

## ASBESTOS

Events, Trends, and Issues: Domestic sales of asbestos were unchanged from those of 1998. Imports decreased by $6 \%$ and exports increased by $6 \%$ from those of 1998, according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Apparent consumption decreased by $6 \%$. Some exports were likely to have been reexports, asbestos-containing products, or nonasbestos products. Exports of asbestos fiber were estimated to be approximately 6,000 tons. Almost all of the asbestos consumed in the United States was chrysotile. Canada remained the largest supplier of asbestos for domestic consumption.

World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:

| Word Min Produr | Mine | ction | Reserves ${ }^{4}$ | Reserve base ${ }^{4}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1998 | $1999{ }^{\circ}$ |  |  |
| United States | 6 | 6 | Moderate | Large |
| Brazil | 170 | 170 | Moderate | Moderate |
| Canada | 330 | 300 | Large | Large |
| China | 250 | 250 | Large | Large |
| Kazakhstan | 125 | 125 | Large | Large |
| Russia | 650 | 650 | Large | Large |
| South Africa | 20 | 20 | Moderate | Moderate |
| Zimbabwe | 140 | 125 | Moderate | Moderate |
| Other countries | 149 | 144 | Large | Large |
| World total | 1,840 | 1,790 | Large | Large |

World Resources: The world has 200 million tons of identified resources and an additional 45 million tons classified as hypothetical resources. The U.S. resources are large, but are composed mostly of short fibers.

Substitutes: Numerous materials substitute for asbestos in products. The substitutes include calcium silicate; carbon fiber; cellulose fiber; ceramic fiber; glass fiber; steel fiber; wollastonite; and several organic fibers, such as aramid, polyethylene, polypropylene, and polytetrafluoroethylene. Several nonfibrous minerals were considered as possible asbestos substitutes for products in which the reinforcement properties of fibers were not required. No single substitute was as versatile and as cost effective as asbestos.

[^0]
[^0]:    ${ }^{e}$ Estimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.
    ${ }^{1}$ May include nonasbestos materials and reexports.
    ${ }^{2}$ Defined as imports - exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes. Most domestic production is exported; imports account for almost all of domestic consumption.
    ${ }^{3}$ See Appendix B for definitions.
    ${ }^{4}$ See Appendix C for definitions.

