ASBESTOS

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

<u>Domestic Production and Use</u>: 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:	<u> 1995</u>	1996	<u> 1997</u>	1998	1999 ^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%.

<u>Tariff</u>: Item Number Normal Trade Relations 12/31/99

Asbestos 2524.00.0000 Free.

Depletion Allowance: 23% (Domestic), 10% (Foreign).

Government Stockpile:

Stockpile Status—9-30-99³ (Metric tons)

	Uncommitted	Committed	Authorized	Disposal plan	Disposals
Material	inventory	inventory	for disposal	FY 1999	FY 1999
Amosite	29,229		29,229	_	_
Chrysotile	197	_	197	18,144	5,220
Crocidolite	33	2,161	33	_	_

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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:

	Mine production		Reserves⁴	Reserve base ⁴	
	1998	1999°			
United States		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	

<u>World Resources</u>: 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.

<u>Substitutes</u>: 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.

^eEstimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

¹May include nonasbestos materials and reexports.

²Defined as imports - exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes. Most domestic production is exported; imports account for almost all of domestic consumption.

³See Appendix B for definitions.

⁴See Appendix C for definitions.