ASBESTOS

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless noted)

Domestic Production and Use: One firm in California accounted for 100% of domestic production. Asbestos was consumed in roofing products, 47%; friction products, 35%; gaskets 10%; and other, 8%.

Salient Statistics—United States:	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995[e]
Production (sales), mine	20	16	14	10	9
Imports for consumption	35	32	31	26	24
Exports	26	25	28	18	13
Shipments from Government stockpile excesses	—	—	—	—	—
Consumption, apparent	35	33	32	27	24
Price: average value, dollars per ton, f.o.b.	383	394	435	506	W
Stocks, producer, yearend	W	W	W	W	W
Employment, mine and mill	70	70	70	30	30
Net import reliance[1] as a percent of apparent consumption	26	21	9	30	46

Recycling: Insignificant.

Import Sources (1991-94): Canada, 99%; and other, 1%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Most favored nation (MFN) 12/31/95	Non-MFN[2] 12/31/95
Asbestos	2524.00.0000	Free	Free.

Depletion Allowance: 22% (Domestic), 10% (Foreign).

Government Stockpile:

Stockpile Status—9-30-95
(Metric tons)

Material	Uncommitted inventory	Committed inventory	Authorized for disposal	Disposals Jan.-Sept. 95
Amosite	30,849	—	30,849	—
Chrysotile	9,768	—	9,768	—
Crocidolite	33	—	33	—

Prepared by **Robert L. Virta, (703) 648-7726.**

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/10944/1

ASBESTOS

Events, Trends, and Issues: Domestic sales of asbestos declined 10% from that of 1994. Imports and exports decreased 8% and 28% respectively, according to the Bureau of the Census. It is likely that a large percentage of the exports were either reexports, asbestos-containing products, or nonasbestos products. Exports of asbestos fiber are estimated to be less than 9,000 tons. Apparent consumption declined 11%. All of the asbestos consumed in the United States was chrysotile. Canada remained the largest supplier of asbestos for domestic consumption.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed to remove asbestos processing (asbestos milling, manufacturing and fabrication) from the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act. The action was taken because measured emissions at several facilities were lower than previously estimated.

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration amended its asbestos standard for general industry, construction, and the shipyard industry. The changes included less stringent requirements for removal of roof cements, coating, mastics, and flashings; clarification of the definition of friable materials; and modified training and health screening requirements.

World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:

	Mine production		Reserves[3]	Reserve base[3]
	1994	1995[e]		
United States	10	9	Moderate	Large
Brazil	175	170	Moderate	Moderate
Canada	518	510	Large	Large
China	240	240	Large	Large
Kazakstan	300	300	Large	Large
Russia	800	800	Large	Large
South Africa	95	95	Moderate	Moderate
Zimbabwe	150	145	Moderate	Moderate
Other countries	122	120	Large	Large
World total (may be rounded)	2,410	2,390	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.

[e]Estimated. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

[1]Defined as imports - exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes.

[2]See Appendix B.

[3]See Appendix C for definitions.

Mineral Commodity Summaries, January 1996