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[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 12/31/99
Asbestos	2524.00.0000	Free.

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

Government Stockpile:

Stockpile Status—9-30-99[3]
(Metric tons)

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

Prepared by **Robert L. Virta [(703) 648-7726, rvirta@usgs.gov, fax: (703) 648-7722]**

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/10948/1

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:

	Mine production		Reserves[4]	Reserve base[4]
	1998	1999[e]		
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.

[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.

U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral Commodity Summaries, February 2000