Asbestos

By G. W. Josephson and F. M. Barsigian

GENERAL SUMMARY

EARLY in 1949 there were some indications that supply and demand for asbestos were coming into balance. This situation, however, was changed by a long strike in the Canadian asbestos field. During the strike stocks in consumers' hands approached exhaustion, and after the settlement asbestos was generally in short supply as consumers attempted to catch up on backlog and accumulate working stocks.

In the United States a new asbestos production record was established, but only a small part (8 percent) of our total requirements were supplied from domestic mines.

Our domestic production comes principally from a single chrysotile mine in Vermont; relatively small quantities (including some chrysotile of spinning grade) were mined in Arizona. There was also a small output of amphibole asbestos in a number of other States.

Although demand in the United States was at a high level, imports from foreign sources were lower than in the record year 1948 because of the strike in Canada. Small quantities of chrysotile were imported from Southern Rhodesia and Russia. South Africa supplied all of the amosite and nearly all of the crocidolite consumed in the United States. Interest is developing in Bolivian crocidolite, which has been found to be a good raw material for filtering uses.

Industrial demand for asbestos absorbed most of the available supply, and consequently stockpiling was difficult, but some progress was made in substitution programs. After a price increase at the first of the year, prices of raw asbestos remained comparatively stable during 1949.

Salient statistics of the asbestos industry in the United States, 1948–49

	1948		1949	
	Short tons	Value	Short tons	Value
Domestic asbestos—				
Produced	37,237	(1)	42,918	(1)
Sold or used by producers	37,092	$1,806,261	43,387	$2,614,416
Imports (unmanufactured)	647,881	37,974,092	515,303	33,939,582
Exports (unmanufactured)	6,530	1,173,259	17,621	3,618,703
Apparent consumption [2]	678,443	38,607,094	541,069	32,935,295
Exports of asbestos products	(1)	10,471,059	(1)	10,898,017

[1] Figure not available.
[2] Quantity sold or used by producers, plus imports, minus exports.

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PRODUCTION

Production of asbestos in the United States reached a record of 42,918 short tons in 1949, 15 percent more than in 1948. Chrysotile was produced in Vermont and Arizona, and some development work was reported in California. Amphibole output was reported from California, Georgia, and Oregon.

Asbestos sold or used by producers in the United States, 1945–49, by varieties

Year	Chrysotile		Amphibole		Total	
	Short tons	Value	Short tons	Value	Short tons	Value
1945	11,986	$442,056	240	$3,989	12,226	$446,045
1946	13,645	499,260	430	5,504	14,075	504,764
1947	23,586	912,340	449	6,218	24,035	918,558
1948	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	37,092	1,806,261
1949	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	43,387	2,614,416

[1] Bureau of Mines not at liberty to publish figure separately.

Alaska.—There was no production of asbestos in 1949 from the Alaskan deposits in the Kobuk River district. A comprehensive report on these deposits was issued by the Bureau of Mines.[1]

Arizona.—In 1949 chrysotile production in Arizona was somewhat lower than in the previous year, but some high-quality material suitable for the National Stock Pile was recovered. The following firms and individuals were active: Apache Asbestos Mines, Inc., 3402 North Central Ave., Phoenix; Arthur Enders, P. O. Box 362, Globe; Charles Ireland, P. O. Box 374, Globe; Kyle Asbestos Mines of Arizona, P. O. Box 302, Globe; Phillips Asbestos Mines, P. O. Box 71, Globe; and R. G. Robertson (Bear Canyon mine).

California.—In Shasta County production of tremolite in the Sylvester mine was reported by the Powhatan Mining Co., Woodlawn, Baltimore, Md. Homer E. Fenn and associates did some development work at the Stock Asbestos mine. Huntley Industrial Minerals, Inc., P. O. Box 305, Bishop, Calif., has reported that it expects to start production of asbestos in Inyo County about May 1, 1950. The Blas Asbestos Corp., La Moine, Calif., continued development of its chrysotile asbestos deposit and mill in Shasta County but was not in commercial production.

Georgia.—Powhatan Mining Co. produced anthophyllite in Rabun County, Ga., near Dillard. Industrial Minerals Corp. reported development work on tremolite in Rabun County.

Montana.—Considerable development work was done by Interstate Products Co., Inc. (126 Ave. C, Billings, Mont.), in Gallatin County. Several deposits of amphibole asbestos have been opened.

North Carolina.—There was no commercial production reported in North Carolina in 1949, but Industrial Minerals Corp., Asheville, continued development work on amphibole deposits in Macon and Yancey Counties.

Oregon.—Philip S. Hoyt, P. O. Box 83, Aguila, Ariz., reported some production in Oregon of asbestos suitable for use as filter fiber.

[1] Heide, H. E., Wright, W. S., and Rutledge, F. A., Investigations of the Kobuk River Asbestos Deposits, Kobuk District, Northwestern Alaska: Bureau of Mines Rept. of Investigations 4414, 1949, 25 pp.

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Vermont.—The Vermont Asbestos Mines Division of the Ruberoid Co., 500 Fifth Ave., New York 18, N. Y., the largest producer of asbestos in the United States, increased the output of its mine and placed a new fiber-processing mill in operation at Lowell, Vt., in 1949. The company consumes this chrysotile asbestos in the manufacture of asbestos products.

CONSUMPTION AND USES

As shown in the accompanying table, the apparent consumption of raw asbestos in the United States was substantially lower in 1949 than it was in 1948. There were industry reports that demands for various asbestos products were declining, particularly in the early part of the year, but a substantial part of the drop in total consumption can be attributed to the shortage of asbestos caused by the Canadian strike. Whereas there were declines in demand for textiles and some additional asbestos products, sales of others, such as asbestos-cement products, were sustained by the high level of activity maintained by the building industry. The relationships between the consumption of asbestos and activity in its major markets—construction and industry in general—during the past 30 years, are shown graphically in figure 1.

A table showing output of asbestos products in the United States in 1939 and 1947, compiled from the Census of Manufacturers, was published in Minerals Yearbook, 1948, page 146.

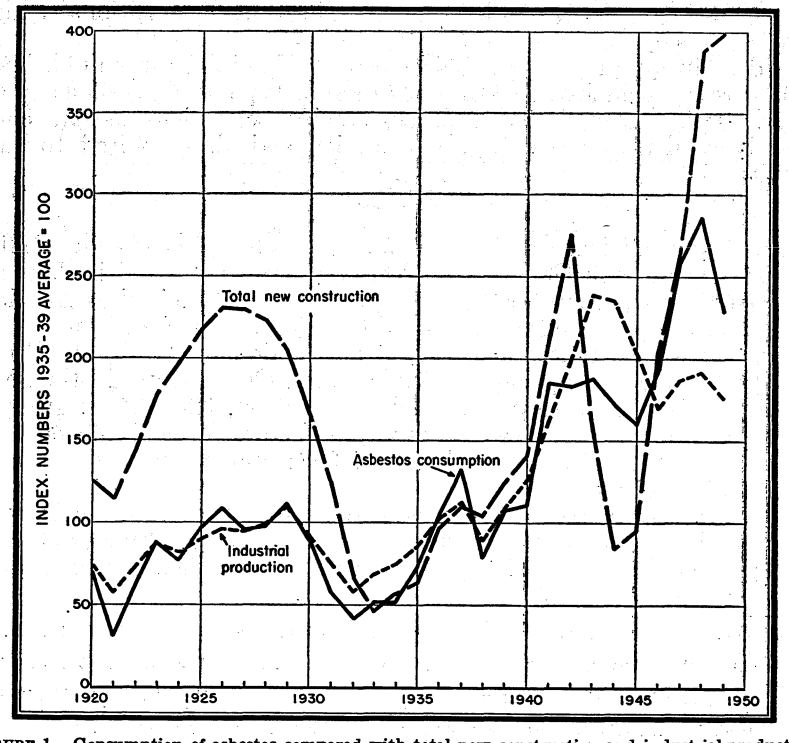


FIGURE 1.—Consumption of asbestos compared with total new construction and industrial production, 1920–49. Statistics on value of construction from Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and on industrial production from Federal Reserve Board.

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Apparent consumption of raw asbestos in the United States, 1945–49

Year	Short tons	Value	Year	Short tons	Value
1945	378,030	$15,926,622	1948	678,443	$38,607,094
1946	459,752	17,840,775	1949	541,069	32,935,295
1947	616,787	30,423,663			

In general, the demand for raw asbestos was very active during 1949, both in the United States and elsewhere. New uses continued to appear, and a number of consumers continued their expansion programs, although probably not at the rate that would have been attained if an ample supply of asbestos had been available. The need for asbestos has become well known throughout the world, and consequently exploration projects have been very active in many areas. New mines have not yet made very large contributions to current supply, but several show promise.

The shortages of the higher grades of asbestos obtained from Africa continued throughout 1949, and consequently greater emphasis was put on beneficiation and substitution programs.

Several revealing publications on asbestos uses were issued in 1949. These included a manual on 85-percent-magnesia insulation [2] and a pamphlet on the properties and uses of shorts and floats.[3] A new type of high-quality asphalt roofing having a surface coating of asbestos fibers was introduced. This shingle is said to have exceptionally high fire resistance.[4]

A description of the use of asbestos in brake linings was published.[5] Asbestos is a principal constituent of a new type of high-efficiency air filter. It is reported that Bolivian crocidolite, which has had comparatively little market in the past, is particularly suited to that application.

PRICES

Trade-journal price quotations for all grades of crude and milled asbestos from both Canada and Vermont were increased in January and remained constant for the entire year. As quoted in the magazine, Asbestos, the prices per short ton of Canadian fiber, f. o. b. mines, in January were as follows, in United States dollars: Group 1 (Crude No. 1), $960–$1,050; group 2 (Crude No. 2, Crude Run-of-Mine, and Sundry), $400–$550; group 3 (Spinning Fiber), $232–$425; group 4 (Shingle Fiber), $95.50–$141; group 5 (Paper Fiber), $78.50–$88; group 6 (Waste, Stucco, or Plaster), $58; and group 7 (Refuse or Shorts), $28–$52.

The prices of Vermont asbestos in short tons f. o. b. Hyde Park or Morrisville, Vt., quoted in January 1949, were: Shingle Fiber, $111.50–$124; Paper Fiber, $79–$96.50; Waste, Stucco, or Plaster, $59; Refuse or Shorts, $28.50–$52.50.

[2] Magnesia Insulation Manufacturers Assoc., 85% Magnesia Insulation Manual: Washington, D. C., 1949, 90 pp.
[3] Canadian Johns-Manville Co., Ltd., Asbestos Fibre Shorts and Floats Their Uses in Industry: 1949, 11 pp.
[4] Asbestos (magazine), Asbestos Coating a Feature of New Carey Asphalt Shingle: Vol. 30, No. 12, June 1949, p. 24.
[5] Halstead, R. T., Brake Linings of Various Types and Their Manufacture: Asbestos, vol. 31, No. 2, August 1949, pp. 6–12; vol. 31, No. 3, September 1949, pp. 8–13.

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FOREIGN TRADE [6]

As the United States is the principal consumer of asbestos and produces only a small percentage (8 percent in 1949) of its requirements, large tonnages are imported. In 1949 imports of unmanufactured asbestos were 20 percent lower than in 1948. Of the total, 91 percent came from Canada, 4 from Southern Rhodesia, and 4 from the Union of South Africa. Smaller quantities were received from Russia and other countries.

Asbestos imported for consumption in the United States, and asbestos and asbestos products exported from the United States, 1945–49

[U. S. Department of Commerce]

Year	Asbestos (unmanufactured)				Manufactured asbestos products-exports (value)
	Imports		Exports		
	Short tons	Value	Short tons	Value	
1945	374,354	$16,317,752	8,550	$837,175	$7,264,288
1946	456,688	18,731,378	11,011	1,395,367	9,263,092
1947	594,839	29,821,519	2,087	316,414	12,823,480
1948	647,881	37,974,092	6,530	1,173,259	10,471,059
1949	515,303	33,939,582	17,621	3,618,703	10,898,017

Asbestos (unmanufactured) imported for consumption in the United States, by countries and classes, 1948–49

[U. S. Department of Commerce]

Country	Crude (including blue fiber)		Mill fibers		Short fibers		Total	
	Short tons	Value	Short tons	Value	Short tons	Value	Short tons	Value
1948								
Australia	3	$1,550					3	$1,550
Bolivia	68	11,445					68	11,445
Canada	676	361,316	168,690	$16,884,386	432,850	$14,512,547	602,216	31,758,249
China			2	238			2	238
India	(1)	68					(1)	68
Italy			[2] 9	[2] 7,284	[2] 1	[2] 3,838	10	11,122
Southern British Africa	692	87,741					692	87,741
Southern Rhodesia [3]	10,463	2,033,398	20	6,873	30	8,546	10,513	2,048,817
Turkey					4	400	4	400
Union of South Africa	18,859	2,073,371					18,859	2,073,371
U. S. S. R.	7,327	851,656	8,187	1,129,380			15,514	1,981,036
United Kingdom	(1)	55					(1)	55
Total	38,088	5,420,600	[2]176,908	[2]18,028,161	[2]432,885	[2]14,525,331	647,881	37,974,092
1949								
Australia	249	58,965					249	58,965
Bolivia	69	9,927					69	9,927
Canada	1,595	401,678	126,596	14,348,702	342,590	12,721,533	470,781	27,471,913
Italy	23	1,211	76	8,786			99	9,997
Portugal	(1)	65					(1)	65
Southern British Africa	647	97,580					647	97,580
Southern Rhodesia [3]	22,415	3,130,024	81	30,395			22,496	3,160,419
Spain	(1)	27					(1)	27
Union of South Africa	19,735	2,973,534					19,735	2,973,534
U. S. S. R.	1,221	156,850					1,221	156,850
United Kingdom	6	278					6	278
Venezuela			(1)	27			(1)	27
Total	45,960	6,830,139	126,753	14,387,910	342,590	12,721,533	515,303	33,939,582

[1] Less than 1 ton.
[2] Revised figure.
[3] Includes the following crude credited to Mozambique by the U. S. Department of Commerce: 1948—1,055 tons, $106,431; 1949—3,848 tons, $269,941.

[6] Figures on imports and exports compiled by M. B. Price and E. D. Page, of the Bureau of Mines, from records of the U. S. Department of Commerce.

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As compared with imports, United States exports of unmanufactured asbestos are comparatively small. However, in 1949 exports were almost three times as great as in 1948. The value of manufactured asbestos products shipped out of the country is substantial.

Manufactured asbestos products exported from the United States, 1948–49, by kinds

[U. S. Department of Commerce]

Products	1948		1949	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Brake blocks, short tons	132	$219,670	142	$275,293
Brake lining:				
Molded and semimolded, do	1,301	2,238,135	1,543	2,641,045
Not molded, linear feet	681,364	404,085	763,961	479,645
Clutch facing, number	1,134,146	550,937	934,820	523,756
Pipe covering and cement, short tons	1,599	298,781	4,336	963,599
Textiles, yarn, packing and sheets, do	5,293	2,758,200	1,209	1,891,831
Asbestos construction materials, and other manufactures, n. e. s., including roofing	(1)	[1] 2,851,543	(1)	[1] 2,891,391
Magnesia and manufactures	(2)	1,149,708	(2)	1,231,457
Total		10,471,059		10,898,017

[1] Classified by the U. S. Department of Commerce: 1948—Paper, millboard, and rollboard, 1,639 tons, $308,384; asbestos roofing, 210,238 squares, $1,392,071; other asbestos manufactures, except roofing, $1,151,088; 1949—Asbestos construction materials, 21,362 tons, $2,418,172; other asbestos manufactures, except roofing, $473,219.
[2] Quantity not recorded.

New classifications available on exports of unmanufactured asbestos in 1949 provided the following additional data: Crude and Spinning Fibers, 5,885 long tons (6,591 short tons) valued at $1,741,984; nonspinning, 4,947 long tons (5,541 short tons) valued at $1,327,876; Waste and Refuse, 4,901 long tons (5,489 short tons) valued at $548,843.

TECHNOLOGY

The industry is making real progress in the search for methods of removing magnetite from Canadian chrysotile to make it acceptable for the highest specification cable wrapping applications. The Johns-Manville Co. is producing Quinterra paper for this purpose, and the Raybestos Manhattan Co. has another wet-process beneficiation pilot plant in operation.

Much work has been done in recent years on crystal-growth problems, and the body of information is reaching a point where technologists feel that there is prospect of discovering methods of synthesizing asbestos in quantity. It is anticipated that these products may not have exactly the same chemical compositions as the natural forms of asbestos but will have similar physical properties. Such investigations are being continued both in the laboratories of private firms and the Government. A project on asbestos synthesis was established at the Norris, Tenn., station of the Bureau of Mines in 1949.

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A paper on filterability of asbestos fibers used in wet process [7] and a review of current methods of mining and milling asbestos [8] were published.

WORLD REVIEW

Although official statistics are too incomplete to make a highly accurate estimate possible at this time, it is believed that world output of asbestos in 1949 was of the order of 100,000 tons lower than in 1948, owing to interruption of production in Canada, which was only partly compensated by moderate increases in other countries.

World production of asbestos by countries, 1944–49, in metric tons [1]

[Compiled by Helen L. Hunt]

Country [1]	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Argentina	292	153	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Australia:						
New South Wales	2,598	2,674	241	290	330	(2)
South Australia	6	7	8	40	41	[3] 13
Tasmania	105	281				(2)
Western Australia	313	1,109	380	1.069	977	[4] 433
Bolivia (exports)	13	61		141	147	(2)
Brazil	(2)	(2)	(2)	3,471	(2)	(2)
Canada (sales) [5]	380,349	423,559	506,371	600,391	650,239	521,543
Chile	(2)	313	280	(2)	150	(2)
Cyprus	2,568	3,182	4,142	6,795	8,106	[6] 11,276
Egypt	240	85	65	1,015	1,625	120
Finland [7]	7,733	4,197	5,781	6,351	10,818	(2)
France	31	400	575	934	(2)	(2)
French Indochina	242					(2)
French Morocco	506	480	446	825	399	402
India	592	833	312	123	28	(2)
Italy	7,238	5,222	8,814	10,719	13,044	[8] 15,000
Japan	12,900	8,044	3,997	4,249	4,809	5,456
Kenya	341	389	165	582	510	716
Korea:						
Northern	415	1,303	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Southern	4,117					
Madagascar	3	1	1	[9]	[9]	(2)
New Zealand	17	2				(2)
Portugal	33	20	12	91	(2)	(2)
Southern Rhodesia	52,882	51,068	50,686	49,073	62,502	72,246
Spain					35	(2)
Swaziland	29,628	21,243	29,155	25,360	29,421	30,814
Switzerland	7	35	40			(2)
Turkey	234	138	55	36	203	170
Union of South Africa	31,372	25,597	18,348	27,344	41,490	[4] 46,028
United States (sold or used by producers)	6,048	11,091	12,769	21,804	33,649	39,360
Venezuela	(2)	(2)	65	293	192	[8] 200
Total (estimate)	602,000	632,000	724,000	872,000	995,000	895,000

[1] In addition to countries listed asbestos is produced in Algeria, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, Uganda, and U. S. S. R. Estimates by authors of the chapter are included in total.
[2] Data not available; estimate by authors of the chapter included in total.
[3] January to June, inclusive.
[4] January to September, inclusive.
[5] Exclusive of sand, gravel, and stone (waste rock only), production of which is reported as follows: 1944, 4.101 tons; 1945, 4,635 tons; 1946, 5,749 tons; 1947–49 data not available.
[6] Exports.
[7] Includes asbestos flour.
[8] Estimate.
[9] Less than 1 ton.

CANADA

In 1949 asbestos production in Canada dropped to 574,906 short tons valued at $39,746,072. This 20-percent decrease in tonnage from the output record established in 1948 was due to the strike in the Thetford mines district that lasted from February 13 to July 5.[9]

[7] Badollet, M. S., Filterability of Asbestos Fibers Used in Wet Processes: Canadian Min. and Met. Bull.-vol. 42, No. 451, November 1949, pp. 594–598.
[8] Messel, M. J., Recent Trends in Asbestos Mining and Milling Practice: Min. Eng., vol. 1, No. 2, Febru ary 1949, pp. 52–55.
[9] Engineering and Mining Journal, Quebec: Vol. 150, No. 8, August 1949, p. 122.

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Partly as a result of the strike and partly because of the high world-wide demand for asbestos, exploration and development activities were at a high level in Canada during 1949. Outstanding was the announcement by the Johns-Manville Co. of the discovery and projected development of a rich asbestos deposit 9 miles east of Matheson, Ontario, in the Larder Lake district, Munro Township. A new mill having an hourly capacity of 50 tons of mill rock is to be built, and mine production was expected in mid-1950.[10]

Sales of asbestos in Canada, 1948–49, by grades

[Quebec Department of Mines]

	1948			1949		
	Short tons	Value		Short tons	Value	
		Total	Average per ton		Total	Average per ton
Grade:						
Crudes	977	$594,594	$608.59	652	$420,188	$644.46
Fibers	241,953	25,943,710	107.23	194,583	24,463,703	125.72
Shorts	473,839	15,693,171	33.12	379,671	14,862,181	39.14
Total	716,769	42,231,475	58.92	574,906	39,746,072	69.13
Rock mined	10,759,016			(1)		
Rock milled	7,894,461			(1)		

[1] Data not available.

Prospecting and development work on many other properties were also reported. It was said that a claim in Deloro Township, Porcupine area, northern Ontario, which had been idle since World War I, is to be opened by the Teegana Mines, Ltd.[11] Calabogie Asbestos Mining Co., Ltd., planned development of a 200-acre property in Blythfield Township, Renfrew County, Ontario.[12] Three groups of claims in Joannes, Dasserat, and Rigaud-Vadreuil Townships, Quebec, were to be extensively explored by Arnora Gold Mines, Ltd.[13] The United Asbestos Corp. announced that it had obtained surface rights on the shores of Black Lake, under which its deposit lies, suitable for a mill site.[14] The Acme Asbestos Co., Ltd., Vancouver, B. C., optioned a group of chrysotile asbestos claims on Sproat Mountain, 4 miles north of Arrowhead, B. C. The asbestos is said to be of good quality, but the extent of the deposit is not known.[15] Bar-Lan Gold Mines has commenced surface work on its newly acquired asbestos property in Coleraine Township, Quebec.[16]

AFRICA

Southern Rhodesia.—As shown in the accompanying table, chrysotile asbestos production in Southern Rhodesia increased considerably in 1949. The bulk of this output comes from mines operated by Rhodesian & General Asbestos Corp., a subsidiary of Turner & Newall,

[10] Johns-Manville Stockholders' News, J-M Discovers New Asbestos Deposits: July 1949.
[11] Northern Miner, Teegana Seeks Asbestos on Deloro Property: Vol. 35, No. 33, Nov. 10, 1949, p. 7.
[12] Northern Miner, Calabogie Asbestos Plans Development Program: Vol. 35, No. 18, July 28, 1949, p. 7.
[13] Northern Miner, Arnora Looks for Asbestos: Vol. 35, No. 11, June 9, 1949, p. 9.
[14] Northern Miner, United Asbestos Plans Shaft Sinking: Vol. 35, No. 34, Nov. 17, 1949, p. 3.
[15] Northern Miner, Asbestos Properties in B. C. Optioned: Vol. 35, No. 17, July 21, 1949, p. 11.
[16] Northern Miner, Bar-Lan Starts Work on Asbestos Group: Vol. 34, No. 48, Feb. 17, 1949, p. 23.

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Ltd. They include the Nil Desperandum, Sphinx, Birthday, 170, and 177 lodes in the Shabani district; the King and Gath mines in the Mashaba district; and the Croft mine in the Filabusi district. In the past few years many asbestos properties in Southern Rhodesia have been opened, but they are contributing a relatively small tonnage to the total. Shipments were started from the new Vanguard Asbestos Mines operation at Belingwe.[17]

Asbestos produced in Southern Rhodesia, 1944–49

Year	Short tons	Value	Year	Short tons	Value
1944	58, 293	£1, 674, 467	1947	54, 094	£1, 738, 484
1945	[1] 56, 293	1, 788, 386	1948	68, 897	2, 604, 623
1946	55, 872	1, 676, 503	1949	79, 638	3, 986, 703

[1] Revised figure.

Swaziland.—The increase in chrysotile production at the Havelock mine in Swaziland was not very great tonnagewise, but it was enough to raise the total to a new record of 30,814 metric tons in 1949.

Union of South Africa.—Results of the amosite expansion program are beginning to show in the production figures, which reached a record total of 31,392 short tons in 1949. As shown in the accompanying table, there was also an increase in output of Transvaal Blue. A trade-journal report in October indicated that the number of asbestos mills in the Transvaal had increased since July 1948 from 6 to 27, with several more in construction.[18]

Expansion of the Benoni asbestos products factory operated by Cape Asbestos Insulation (Pty.) is expected to double its current rate of asbestos consumption, 300 tons per month.[19]

Asbestos produced in and exported from the Union of South Africa, 1945–49 [1]

Year	Production (short tons)			Exports	
	Transvaal	Cape Province	Total	Short tons	Value
1945	20, 016	8, 200	28, 216	22, 005	£591, 124
1946	12, 636	7, 589	20, 225	21, 481	557, 008
1947	21, 959	8, 183	30, 142	33, 237	927, 371
1948	37, 434	8, 301	45, 735	38, 550	1, 138, 792
1949 [2]	42, 326	8, 412	50, 738	42, 800	1, 632, 515

[1] Data from Union of South Africa, Department of Mines, Quarterly Report.
[2] January to September, inclusive.

[17] South African Mining and Engineering Journal, New Rhodesian Asbestos Mine: Vol. 60, No. 2940, June 18, 1949, p. 527.
[18] South African Mining and Engineering Journal, Mining in N. Transvaal: Vol. 60, No. 2956, Oct. 8, 1949, p. 153.
[19] South African Mining and Engineering Journal, Asbestos Plant to Double Output: Vol. 60, No. 2936, May 21, 1949, p. 387.

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Asbestos produced in the Union of South Africa, 1944–49, by varieties and sources, in short tons [1]

Variety and source	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949 [2]
Amosite (Transvaal)	22,848	16,737	9,838	18,780	30,372	31,392
Chrysotile (Transvaal)	2,014	1,765	1,666	2,253	4,441	5,224
Blue (Transvaal)	1,831	1,471	1,102	896	2,608	5,710
Blue (Cape)	7,835	8,200	7,589	8,183	8,301	8,412
Anthophyllite (Transvaal)	54	43	30	30	13	----
Total	34,582	28,216	20,225	30,142	45,735	50,738

[1] Data from Union of South Africa, Department of Mines, Quarterly Report.
[2] January to September, inclusive.

OTHER COUNTRIES

Inasmuch as such information is scattered and difficult to obtain, a series of short articles published in the magazine Asbestos, outlining asbestos production and occurrences in a number of countries, is of interest. In 1949 information was published on Albania, Australia, Bulgaria, China, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Eritrea, Finland, France, French Morocco, Germany, Greece, India, Indochina, Italy, Japan, and South America.

Australia.—A small tonnage of asbestos was produced in Australia in 1949. The bulk was blue asbestos produced in Western Australia. It was reported that surveys made by the State Mines Department were expected to lead to the opening of new white asbestos deposits in Tasmania.[20]

Austria.—A discovery of a deposit of asbestos was reported from Rottenmann, Styria. [21]

Bolivia.—Output of Bolivian crocidolite was small in 1949, but it may increase in future if the use of dry filters, for which it appears to be particularly suitable, reaches a substantial magnitude.

Colombia.—Exploration of two deposits, near the towns of Yarumal and Antioquia, in Antioquia, was reported.[22]

India.—Deposits of good asbestos are reported to be mined by primitive methods and shipped in raw form from Brahmanapalli, Cuddapah, and Lopatantulu districts.[23]

Italy.—Italian asbestos production is small but a record rate was attained.[24]

Venezuela.—Asbestos production in Venezuela continued at a low rate. The only producer, C. A. Minas de Amianto de Tinaquillo, which operates the El Tigre mine near Tinaquillo, is attempting to expand.

[20] Mining World, vol. 11, No. 2, February 1949, p. 61.
[21] Mining World, vol. 11, No. 8, July 1949, p. 52.
[22] Engineering and Mining Journal, vol. 150, No. 12, December 1949, p. 130.
[23] Mining World and Engineering Record, vol. 157, No. 4091, Aug. 27, 1949, p. 131.
[24] Chemical Age (London), Rising Asbestos Output: Vol. 61, No. 1579, Oct. 15, 1949, p. 541.

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