FILE NAME: National Gypsum (NG)

DATE: 1962

DOC#: NG035

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Published Advertisement from Trade Journal

MARKET CONDITIONS

GENERAL BUSINESS

General business continues to improve, although at a rate slower than previously anticipated. Despite the continuing "profit squeeze" in many sectors of the economy, corporate earnings for the first quarter were generally quite good. Industrial production, employment and personal income all increased substantially during March. Housing starts which were lagging in February showed a better than 20% increase in March. On the gloomier side new orders for durable goods shrank from the February level and steel production slipped substantially as orders were cancelled and delivery dates pushed back by large users. On the whole the slow but steady improvement in the economy is possibly healthier for the long pull than a booming upsurge which is all too often followed by a resounding crash.

ASBESTOS RAW MATERIAL

March 1962 asbestos fibre shipments for the Industry were 67 860 tons, an increase of 4 100 tons or 6% over the same period last year.

First quarter shipments at 193 930 tons exceeded the same period last year by 21 500 tons or approximately 12%.

With the opening of the navigation, export fibre shipments have reached their normal level and are expected to surpass those of 1961 by slightly over 5%.

ASBESTOS MANUFACTURED GOODS

Asbestos Textiles. Although conditions softened somewhat during the first part of April 1962, sales and orders firmed up later in the month and paced the upward trend of the first quarter. New products and new applications of existing products are playing an important part in this general industry improvement. This upward trend is expected to continue during the next few months.

Asbestos Brake Lining. Both O.E.M. sales and Replacement Sales are running considerably ahead of this time last year and should remain at a record level for the rest of the year. There is a greater number of older cars at the present

ONE STANDARD



WORLD WIDE

Wherever you order *Gold Bond® asbestos fibres* you'll get the same top quality material we supply to our U. S. customers and plants. You'll also get prompt shipment and efficient service. For complete details, write National Asbestos Mines Ltd., Thetford Mines, P. Q., Canada. (Subsidiary of National Gypsum Company).

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