



MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20241



Thomas S. Kleppe, Secretary

Thomas V. Falkie, Director

For information call Robert A. Clifton
Telephone: (202) 634-1206

Annual, Preliminary

ASBESTOS IN 1976

Production of asbestos in the United States during 1976 was 24% more than in 1975, according to the Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior. The total production of all asbestos in 1976 was 123,000 short tons. The total value, \$25,805,000, was 81% higher than in 1975. The average value per ton decreased slightly from \$197 in 1975 to \$194 in 1976. Production was derived from four States with California first and Vermont second in rank.

Apparent consumption totaled 725,000 tons, 20% above that of the previous year. This increase reflected settlement of the miners' strike in Quebec.

Canada continued to be the major supplier of asbestos consumed in the United States; imports increased from a total of 539,000 tons in 1975 to 652,000 tons in 1976. Based on imports for 9 months, the Republic of South Africa supplied 9,300 tons of crocidolite and 1,700 tons of amosite. These tonnages indicate a decrease of about 34% in crocidolite and 66% decrease in amosite uses over 1975.

The price of Quebec asbestos did not change during 1976 despite new contracts with the miners' unions and other economic forces. Canada's largest producer announced a 14% price hike effective January 1, 1977.

Prepared in the Division of Nonmetallic Minerals, January 4, 1977.

SPNY 003429