

(Table 12.17). All of the Canadian production consists of chrysotile and approximately 80% of it comes from Quebec, almost 6% from British Columbia, 6% from the Yukon Territory, 5% from Newfoundland and about 2% from Ontario.

Canada is the world's largest exporter of asbestos, shipping approximately 95% of its production to more than 70 countries. The United States is the largest market, followed by Japan, the Federal Republic of Germany, Britain and France. These five countries absorbed about 70% of Canadian exports, which totalled approximately 1.85 million tons in 1973 compared with almost 1.6 million tons in 1972.

The world demand for Canadian asbestos fibre strengthened in 1973. The Federal Republic of Germany showed the largest percentage increase, amounting to 46.2% greater volume of asbestos fibre in 1973 compared to 1972. Japan was next with an increase of 34.6% followed by Britain, France and the United States with 26.3%, 25.6% and 8.0% increases, respectively. However, the volume of consumption by the US amounts to more than five times that consumed by the Federal Republic of Germany, its closest rival.

Near Deception Bay in the Ungava region of Quebec, production rated at about 60% of capacity commenced at the new Asbestos Hill mine owned by Asbestos Corporation Limited. Full productive capacity of 300,000 tons of concentrate was anticipated by 1974. The final milling process in Germany will result in production of 100,000 tons of fibre (groups four and five) a year. Canadian Johns-Manville Company, Limited completed a plant expansion and relocation program as part of a \$75 million project at the Jeffrey mine and mill. A constant annual output of a minimum 600,000 tons of fibre is expected to be maintained. Bell Asbestos Mines, Ltd., continued work on a long-range modernization program which may result in increased production capacity. Underground work is proceeding in a 1,450-ft shaft preparatory to large-scale underground mining operation.

Evaluation of several potential producers in Quebec continued in 1973. McAdam Mining Corporation Limited's property about 20 miles east of Chibougamau, now under working option to Rio Tinto Canadian Exploration Limited, is being evaluated in an underground work program. Four zones drilled show indications of reserves of approximately 190 million tons grading between 3% and 4% fibre content. Abitibi Asbestos Mining Company Limited reported that underground bulk sampling and pilot plant studies proceeded under management and financing by Brinco Limited. This property is located in Maizerets Township 50 miles north of Amos. Proven ore reserves are reported at about 100 million tons; early plans indicated open-pit mining to recover approximately 155,000 tons of fibre a year. Pathfinder Resources Ltd. is continuing a feasibility study of the Lili asbestos property, 80 miles east of Montreal, near the Canadian Johns-Manville mine. Drilling has indicated the presence of 49 million tons of ore in three zones.

In British Columbia, Cassiar Asbestos Corporation Limited, Cassiar, shipped a record 108,981 tons of fibre following its 1971 mill expansion to an annual capacity of 120,000 tons of fibre. Mill expansion and general modernization continued in 1974 and 1975 at a cost of approximately \$9 million.

In the Yukon Territory over 100,000 tons of fibre was shipped from Cassiar's Clinton Creek mine. Drilling and ore reclassification resulted in a moderate net increase in probable ore reserves.

Advocate Mines Limited, Newfoundland's only asbestos producer, increased fibre shipments substantially above the 1972 level of 69,000 tons.

In Ontario total production by Hedman Mines Limited and Johns-Manville Mining and Trading Limited's Reeves mine remained approximately at the 1972 level, down 19% from the 1971 figure. The name of the Johns-Manville operation was changed to Canadian Johns-Manville Company, Limited. The Reeves mill was shut down in December to redesign and overhaul the crushing plant. Mining and milling will commence at a future date.

United Asbestos Inc. (resulting from the merger of United Asbestos Corporation Limited and Allied Mining Corporation) proposed to bring into production their Midlothian Township asbestos property. Drilling indicated 31 million tons of ore. Start-up is scheduled for mid-1975. The estimated cost of the project is \$26 million.

Potash. Canadian production in 1973, all from Saskatchewan, amounted to 4.9 million tons of potassium dioxide equivalent (Table 12.18). The installed annual capacity is 8.32 million tons