

consumed about 70% of Canadian exports, which totalled over 1.18 million tons (1.07 million t) in 1975 compared with almost 1.79 million tons (1.62 million t) in 1974. The decrease in 1975 exports, as well as the reduced production, resulted from a seven-month labour strike affecting nearly all Quebec producers. Also in Quebec decreased production resulted from a fire in late 1974 that destroyed the King-Beaver mill, owned by Asbestos Corporation Limited, and a pit slide at the Jeffrey mine, owned by Canadian Johns-Manville Company, Limited.

World demand for asbestos fibre is expected to remain strong and may continue to outpace supply for several years. Most mining companies and asbestos products manufacturers are satisfactorily adapting to stricter environmental regulations.

Canadian Johns-Manville began operations in 1974 at its Bolduc mine near Barraute, Quebec. Ore is transported to the Jeffrey mine for processing where an expected 60,000 short tons (54 000 t) of product a year for a two-to-three year period will supplement output.

At Putuniqu (Asbestos Hill) Ungava, a new mine owned by Asbestos Corporation Limited reached full capacity operation in 1975. Approximately 300,000 tons (272 000 t) of concentrates a year are produced and shipped to the Federal Republic of Germany, where about 100,000 tons (91 000 t) of salable fibre results after final milling.

United Asbestos Inc. near Matachewan, Ont. commenced production in mid-1975. Annual fibre production is expected to be 100,000 tons (91 000 t) when full capacity operation is attained.

At Cassiar, BC, Cassiar Asbestos Corporation Limited placed a new tramline and concentrator in operation. Fibre production was approximately 97,000 tons (88 000 t) in 1975.

In Quebec, two prospective producers continued evaluation of their properties. Abitibi Asbestos Mining Company Limited, a subsidiary of Brinco Ltd., situated 52 miles (84 km) north of Amos, is potentially a large producer. Feasibility studies are well advanced and ore reserves are estimated at 100 million tons (91 million t) averaging 3.5% asbestos fibre. Production could take place in 1978 or 1979. Rio Algom Mines, Limited continued the investigation of a deposit owned by McAdam Mining Corporation Limited about 20 miles (32 km) east of Chibougamau.

In the Yukon Territory 112,000 tons (102 000 t) of fibre was shipped from Cassiar's Clinton Creek mine. Drilling results failed to confirm additional ore reserves and as a result production is expected to cease in mid-1978.

Advocate Mines Limited, Newfoundland's only asbestos producer, maintained an average annual production of 70,000 tons (64 000 t) in 1974 and 1975.

The Reeves mine near Timmins, Ont., owned by Canadian Johns-Manville Company, Limited closed in February 1975, reportedly because of difficulties related to compliance with new provincial regulations governing fibre emissions in the working atmosphere. Total asbestos production in Ontario, including that of Hedman Mines Limited, was approximately 16,000 tons (15 000 t) in 1974 and again in 1975.

Potash. Canadian shipments, all from Saskatchewan, amounted to 6.4 million tons (5.8 million t) of potassium dioxide equivalent in 1974 and 5.3 million tons (4.8 million t) in 1975 (Table 12.18). The installed annual capacity is 8.33 million tons (7.55 million t) of potassium dioxide equivalent. Production allowables set by the Saskatchewan government under the prorationing plan were raised to 100% of capacity in August 1974 because of strong demand and they were not reduced in 1975. Saskatchewan imposed a new tax called a "reserves tax" which will greatly increase returns to the province. Saskatchewan also introduced plans to participate in new projects, and adopted legislation allowing it to purchase or expropriate existing potash mines.

In New Brunswick, International Minerals and Chemical Corporation (Canada) Limited has been given rights to explore for potash and salt in a 77 sq