

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN FEBRUARY 2008

Producers mined 1.66 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum in February 2008 (table 1). Output was 8% less than that of January 2008 and 8% less than that of February 2007. Synthetic gypsum production was 618,000 metric tons (t) in February 2008 (table 1), which was 6% less than that of January 2007 and 6% less than that of February 2007. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During February 2008, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 23% of the 2.69-Mt total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in February 2008, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 408,000 t (table 2), 7% more than those of January 2008 and 13% more than those of February 2007.

Output of calcined gypsum for February 2008 (table 1) was 1.52 Mt, 4% less than that of January 2008 and 13% less than that of February 2007. Sales of board products (table 2) were approximately 2.25 billion square feet (209 million square meters), 2% less than those of January 2008 and 6% less than those of February 2007.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in February 2008 were 414,000 t (table 3), 42% less than that of January 2008 and 40% less than that of February 2007. The United States imported crude gypsum from four countries in February 2008. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 74%, followed by Mexico with 23%, and the Dominican Republic with 3%. Imports from Spain were negligible.

Gypsum wallboard imports for February 2008 were 19,700 t, equivalent to 2.19 million square meters (23.6 million square feet). These imports were 5% more than those of January 2008 and 51% less than those of February 2007. Mexico accounted for 56% of wallboard imports, followed by Canada with 44%. Wallboard exports to 26 countries and territories in February 2008 were 7,100 t, equivalent to 789,000 square meters (8.5 million square feet). These exports were about 13% less than those of January 2008 and 36% more than those of February 2007. Most of these wallboard exports went to 21 western hemisphere countries, with Mexico accounting for 45%, followed by Canada with 19%.

All percentages in this report were computed based on unrounded data.

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	2007	2008		
	January-February	January	February	January-February
Crude:				
Mined ³	3,070,000	1,810,000	1,660,000	3,470,000
Imported ⁴	1,410,000	714,000	414,000	1,130,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	1,320,000	655,000	618,000	1,270,000
Total supply	5,790,000	3,170,000	2,690,000	5,870,000
Crude, exported ⁴	37,300	10,000	11,200	21,200
Consumption	5,750,000	3,160,000	2,680,000	5,840,000
Calcined:				
Produced	3,540,000	1,580,000	1,520,000	3,100,000
Imported ⁶	2,020	1,180	706	1,890
Total supply	3,540,000	1,580,000	1,520,000	3,100,000
Exported ⁶	12,000	9,140	10,600	19,800
Consumption	3,530,000	1,570,000	1,510,000	3,080,000

¹Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Some data were estimated from semiannual reports.

⁴Import and export data are for "Gypsum; anhydrite," Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2520.10.0000.

⁵Reported production only.

⁶Import and export data are for "Plaster," Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2520.20.0000.

TABLE 2
GYPSUM SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS, BY USE^{1,2}

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2007	2008		
	January-February	January	February	January-February
Uncalcined: ³				
Portland cement	507,000	226,000	222,000	448,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	267,000	154,000	186,000	340,000
Total	774,000	380,000	408,000	788,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁴	4,180,000	1,910,000	1,880,000	3,790,000
Plaster	21,500	10,000	9,640	19,700
Total	4,200,000	1,920,000	1,890,000	3,810,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) ⁵				
Regular board	2,910,000	1,240,000	1,210,000	2,450,000
Type X board	1,630,000	819,000	812,000	1,630,000
Other	468,000	237,000	235,000	473,000
Total supply	5,010,000	2,300,000	2,250,000	4,550,000

¹Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Does not include synthetic gypsum from electric power plants.

⁴Includes weight of paper and other materials.

⁵One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

TABLE 3
CRUDE GYPSUM IMPORTED FOR CONSUMPTION¹

(Metric tons)

Country of origin	2007	2008		
	January-February	January	February	January-February
Brazil	5	--	--	--
Canada	866,000	375,000	307,000	682,000
China	24	41,900	--	41,900
Dominican Republic	13,200	--	13,500	13,500
Korea, Republic of	--	3	--	3
Mexico	416,000	184,000	93,200	277,000
Spain	111,000	113,000	18	113,000
United Kingdom	21	--	--	--
Total	1,410,000	714,000	414,000	1,130,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
CRUDE GYPSUM IN THE UNITED STATES^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Consumption ³	Production ⁴	Imports ⁵	Exports ⁵
2007:				
January	2,640	1,950	714	25
February	2,480	1,800	694	13
March	2,910	2,050	869	11
April	2,420	1,720	706	11
May	3,050	2,170	885	10
June	2,920	2,070	867	13
July	2,920	2,080	844	13
August	2,810	2,060	761	15
September	2,690	1,970	726	12
October	2,890	2,040	866	10
November	2,490	1,770	735	9
December	2,350	1,630	723	6
January-December	32,600	23,300	9,390	146
2008:				
January	2,510	1,810	714	10
February	2,060	1,660	414	11
January-February	4,570	3,470	1,130	21

¹Excludes synthetic gypsum.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

³Consumption calculated by adding the production and imports shown in this table and subtracting the exports shown in this table. Monthly inventory changes are not included.

⁴Production data are from the semiannual gypsum canvasses of the non-wallboard producers, annual canvass of all producers, and from monthly data furnished by the Gypsum Association from the wallboard producers.

⁵Data from U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
SALES OF GYPSUM BOARD PRODUCTS, BY SALES REGIONS^{1, 2}

(Thousand square feet)³

	New England	Middle Atlantic	E. North Central	W. North Central	South Atlantic	E. South Central	W. South Central	Mountain	Pacific	Exports	Total
2008:											
February:											
Veneer base	18,600	1,900	5,550	464	4,400	25	15	158	1,060	17	32,200
Sheathing	772	3,030	2,740	2,310	11,100	2,580	11,100	4,590	6,800	1,490	46,500
Regular gypsum board	31,500	116,000	134,000	83,300	313,000	100,000	185,000	98,900	105,000	38,800	1,210,000
Type X gypsum board	27,100	85,800	97,500	56,400	152,000	38,000	110,000	88,500	146,000	10,900	812,000
Predecorated board	307	517	950	398	1,240	272	831	410	736	118	5,780
5/16 Mobile home board	--	581	1,790	--	2,460	8,800	3,670	376	492	74	18,200
Water/moisture resistant board	6,090	26,100	14,900	7,070	30,000	6,260	14,700	7,880	15,500	4,280	133,000
Total	84,400	234,000	257,000	150,000	515,000	156,000	326,000	201,000	275,000	55,800	2,250,000
January-February:											
Veneer base	35,400	3,890	11,600	938	8,880	76	56	396	2,250	41	63,500
Sheathing	1,520	6,890	7,410	5,200	22,800	5,740	22,600	9,540	13,900	3,490	99,100
Regular gypsum board	64,700	235,000	277,000	171,000	622,000	203,000	383,000	199,000	213,000	78,100	2,450,000
Type X gypsum board	55,200	175,000	201,000	115,000	300,000	72,600	226,000	181,000	285,000	22,500	1,630,000
Predecorated board	622	1,170	1,960	755	2,670	545	1,820	803	1,370	248	12,000
5/16 Mobile home board	--	989	3,620	--	5,530	18,200	8,010	683	712	148	37,900
Water/moisture resistant board	12,300	52,100	28,800	13,900	57,900	11,200	28,800	15,700	31,000	8,590	260,000
Total	170,000	475,000	531,000	307,000	1,020,000	311,000	670,000	407,000	547,000	113,000	4,550,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Sales region equivalent to U.S. Census Bureau Geographic Division as follows: New England (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT); Middle Atlantic (NJ, NY, PA); East North Central (IL, IN, MI, OH, WI); West North Central (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD); South Atlantic (DC, DE, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV); East South Central (AL, KY, MS, TN); West South Central (AR, LA, OK, TX); Mountain (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY); Pacific (AK, CA, HI, OR, WA).

³One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

Source: Gypsum Association.