

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## GYPSUM IN MAY 2008

Producers mined 1.69 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum in May 2008 (table 1). Output was 8% less than that of April 2008 and 22% less than that of May 2007. Synthetic gypsum production was 640,000 metric tons (t) in May 2008 (table 1), which was 6% less than that of April 2008 and 3% less than that of May 2007. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During May 2008, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 22% of the 2.95-Mt total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in May 2008, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 328,000 t (table 2), slightly less than those of April 2008 and 32% less than those of May 2007.

Output of calcined gypsum for May 2008 (table 1) was 1.56 Mt, 5% less than that of April 2008 and 20% less than that of May 2007. Sales of board products (table 2) were approximately 2.15 billion square feet (199 million square meters), 6% less than those of April 2008 and 23% less than those of May 2007.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in May 2008 were 623,000 t (table 3), 21% less than those of April 2008 and 30% less than those of May 2007. The United States imported crude gypsum from seven countries in

May 2008. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 64%, followed by Mexico with 26%, Spain with 7%, the Dominican Republic with 2%, Jamaica with 1%, and negligible amounts from China and Korea.

Gypsum wallboard imports for May 2008 were 26,300 t, equivalent to 2.89 million square meters (26.8 million square feet). These imports were 6% less than those of April 2008 and 43% less than those of May 2007. The United States imported wallboard products from three countries in May 2008. Canada accounted for 53% of these imports, followed by Mexico with 46%, and China with 1%. Wallboard exports to 31 countries and territories in May 2008 were 11,200 t, equivalent to 1.24 million square meters (11.5 million square feet). These exports were about 16% more than those of April 2008 and 29% more than those of May 2007. Although most wallboard exports were shipped to 24 western hemisphere countries, the United Arab Emirates accounted for 32% of total exports, followed by Mexico with 23%, Canada with 14%, and Hong Kong with 8%.

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

TABLE 1  
GYPSUM SUPPLY<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

	2007	2008		
	January-May	April	May	January-May
Crude:				
Mined <sup>3</sup>	9,700,000	1,840,000	1,690,000	8,690,000
Imported <sup>4</sup>	3,870,000	788,000	623,000	3,030,000
Synthetic gypsum <sup>5</sup>	3,290,000	681,000	640,000	3,240,000
Total supply	16,900,000	3,310,000	2,950,000	15,000,000
Crude, exported <sup>4</sup>	69,200	15,100	12,500	68,200
Consumption	16,800,000	3,300,000	2,940,000	14,900,000
Calcined:				
Produced	8,940,000	1,650,000	1,560,000	7,870,000
Imported <sup>6</sup>	5,500	1,080	1,120	5,930
Total supply	8,940,000	1,650,000	1,560,000	7,880,000
Exported <sup>6</sup>	103,000	11,500	13,400	56,600
Consumption	8,840,000	1,640,000	1,550,000	7,820,000

<sup>1</sup>Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

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

<sup>3</sup>Some data were estimated from semiannual reports.

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

<sup>5</sup>Reported production only.

<sup>6</sup>Import and export data are for "Plaster," Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2520.20.0000.

TABLE 2  
GYPSUM SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS, BY USE<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2007	2008		
	January-May	April	May	January-May
Uncalcined: <sup>3</sup>				
Portland cement	1,300,000	133,000	132,000	841,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	701,000	196,000	196,000	923,000
Total	2,010,000	329,000	328,000	1,760,000
Calcined:				
Board products <sup>4</sup>	10,800,000	1,900,000	1,790,000	9,350,000
Plaster	56,200	9,200	10,200	48,200
Total	10,800,000	1,910,000	1,800,000	9,400,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) <sup>5</sup>				
Regular board	7,620,000	1,190,000	1,120,000	5,930,000
Type X board	4,300,000	839,000	805,000	4,110,000
Other	1,230,000	242,000	227,000	1,180,000
Total supply	13,200,000	2,280,000	2,150,000	11,200,000

<sup>1</sup>Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

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

<sup>3</sup>Does not include synthetic gypsum from electric power plants.

<sup>4</sup>Includes weight of paper and other materials.

<sup>5</sup>One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

TABLE 3  
CRUDE GYPSUM IMPORTED FOR CONSUMPTION<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country of origin	2007		2008	
	January-May	April	May	January-May
Brazil	5	--	--	396,000
Canada	2,590,000	544,000	396,000	1,540,000
China	24	21	342	55,300
Dominican Republic	48,500	--	13,400	26,500
Germany	5	--	--	--
Italy	1	5	--	5
Jamaica	--	6,470	6,360	12,800
Korea, Republic of	--	--	2	2
Mexico	983,000	201,000	161,000	763,000
Spain	242,000	36,000	45,800	234,000
Turkey	2	--	--	--
United Kingdom	41	15	--	15
Total	3,860,000 <sup>r</sup>	788,000	623,000	3,030,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data 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<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Consumption <sup>3</sup>	Production <sup>4</sup>	Imports <sup>5</sup>	Exports <sup>5</sup>
2007:				
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
March	2,170	1,690	492	19
April	2,620	1,840	788	15
May	2,300	1,690	623	13
January-May	11,700	8,690	3,030	68

<sup>1</sup>Excludes synthetic gypsum.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>3</sup>Consumption 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.

<sup>4</sup>Production 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.

<sup>5</sup>Data from U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
SALES OF GYPSUM BOARD PRODUCTS, BY SALES REGIONS IN 2008<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand square feet)<sup>3</sup>

	New England	Middle Atlantic	E. North Central	W. North Central	South Atlantic	E. South Central	W. South Central	Mountain	Pacific	Exports	Total
May:											
Veneer base	12,100	1,440	3,980	171	3,680	2	26	248	1,240	43	23,000
Sheathing	1,210	3,720	3,840	2,490	13,200	3,290	11,600	4,570	7,160	3,160	54,300
Regular gypsum board	24,500	102,000	120,000	66,100	279,000	90,300	188,000	95,500	106,000	47,000	1,120,000
Type X gypsum board	22,600	87,300	92,600	52,500	143,000	34,600	116,000	94,000	144,000	17,500	805,000
Predecorated board	257	603	765	353	1,390	444	970	436	719	197	6,140
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,040	1,980	--	3,330	10,100	2,660	624	116	57	19,900
Water/moisture resistant board	5,410	25,300	12,900	5,830	26,100	5,270	13,600	8,930	15,400	4,560	123,000
Total	66,200	221,000	236,000	127,000	470,000	144,000	333,000	204,000	275,000	72,500	2,150,000
January-May:											
Veneer base	78,000	8,730	23,700	1,830	20,500	141	217	1,280	6,160	124	141,000
Sheathing	4,530	18,400	17,900	12,800	59,600	15,100	59,700	24,400	36,500	11,700	261,000
Regular gypsum board	152,000	569,000	663,000	387,000	1,480,000	481,000	934,000	502,000	543,000	215,000	5,920,000
Type X gypsum board	131,000	438,000	480,000	272,000	736,000	177,000	576,000	470,000	754,000	70,400	4,110,000
Predecorated board	1,370	3,010	4,290	1,940	6,870	1,810	4,590	2,290	3,440	520	30,100
5/16 Mobile home board	--	3,550	9,980	--	15,700	50,000	17,700	2,170	1,280	167	101,000
Water/moisture resistant board	30,700	130,000	71,100	32,700	141,000	27,200	70,200	42,700	82,000	22,800	650,000
Total	397,000	1,170,000	1,270,000	708,000	2,460,000	752,000	1,660,000	1,040,000	1,430,000	320,000	11,200,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Sales 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).

<sup>3</sup>One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

Source: Gypsum Association.