

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## GYPSUM IN JANUARY 2008

Producers mined 1.81 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum in January 2008 (table 1). Output was 11% more than that of December 2007 and 43% more than that of January 2007. Synthetic gypsum production was 655,000 metric tons (t) in January 2008 (table 1), which was 16% more than that of December 2007 and slightly less than that of January 2007. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During January 2008, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 21% of the 3.17-Mt total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in January 2008, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 380,000 t (table 2), 6% less than those of December 2007 and 8% less than those of January 2007.

Output of calcined gypsum for January 2008 (table 1) was 1.58 Mt, 9% more than that of December 2007 and 12% less than that of January 2007. Sales of board products (table 2) were approximately 2.3 billion square feet (214 million square meters), 21% more than those of December 2007 and 21% less than those of January 2007.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in January 2008 were 714,000 t (table 3), 1% less than that of December 2007 and the same as that of January 2007. The United States imported the majority of its crude gypsum from four countries in January 2008. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 52%, followed by Mexico with 26%, Spain with 16%, and China with 6%.

Gypsum wallboard imports for January 2008 were 18,800 t, equivalent to 2.09 million square meters (22.5 million square feet). These imports were 14% more than those of December 2007 and 66% less than those of January 2007. Mexico accounted for 61% of wallboard imports, followed by Canada with 38%. Wallboard exports to 29 countries and territories in January 2008 were 8,120 t, equivalent to 902,000 square meters (9.7 million square feet). These exports were about 29% more than those of December 2007 and 21% more than those of January 2007. Most of these wallboard exports went to 20 western hemisphere countries, with Mexico accounting for 50%, followed by Canada with 20%.

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

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

(Metric tons)

	2007		2008
	January	December	January
<b>Crude:</b>			
Mined <sup>3</sup>	1,270,000	1,630,000	1,810,000
Imported <sup>4</sup>	714,000	723,000	714,000
Synthetic gypsum <sup>5</sup>	663,000	563,000	655,000
Total supply	2,640,000	2,920,000	3,170,000
Crude, exported <sup>4</sup>	24,500	5,920	10,000
Consumption	2,620,000	2,910,000	3,160,000
<b>Calcined:</b>			
Produced	1,800,000	1,450,000	1,580,000
Imported <sup>6</sup>	945	683	1,180
Total supply	1,800,000	1,450,000	1,580,000
Exported <sup>6</sup>	14,000	9,860	9,140
Consumption	1,780,000	1,440,000	1,570,000

<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	December	January
<b>Uncalcined:<sup>3</sup></b>			
Portland cement	279,000	248,000	226,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	134,000	155,000	154,000
Total	413,000	403,000	380,000
<b>Calcined:</b>			
Board products <sup>4</sup>	2,430,000	1,580,000	1,910,000
Plaster	11,400	7,190	10,000
Total	2,440,000	1,590,000	1,920,000
<b>Board products: (thousand square feet)<sup>5</sup></b>			
Regular board	1,710,000	1,040,000	1,240,000
Type X board	944,000	664,000	819,000
Other	262,000	197,000	237,000
Total supply	2,920,000	1,900,000	2,300,000

<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	2006		2007		2008
	January-December	November	December	January-December	January
Argentina	--	2	--	2	--
Austria	27	--	--	--	--
Brazil	14,000	--	--	5	--
Canada	7,370,000	559,000	500,000	6,410,000	375,000
China	39,100	--	--	36,900	41,900
Dominican Republic	92,900	--	13,500	88,000	--
France	983	--	--	--	--
Germany	14,300	--	--	5	--
India	112	1	--	1	--
Italy	--	--	--	1	--
Jamaica	3,940	--	--	--	--
Jordan	50	--	--	--	--
Korea, Republic of	5	--	--	--	3
Mexico	2,930,000	136,000	209,000	2,280,000	184,000
Morocco	--	--	--	1	--
Spain	899,000	40,000	--	575,000	113,000
Sweden	20	--	--	--	--
Turkey	--	--	--	2	--
United Kingdom	41	19	--	81	--
Total	11,400,000	735,000	723,000	9,390,000	714,000

-- 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:				
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

<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<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
2008:											
January:											
Veneer base	16,800	1,980	6,040	474	4,480	51	41	238	1,190	24	31,300
Sheathing	750	3,860	4,670	2,880	11,700	3,170	11,500	4,950	7,100	2,010	52,600
Regular gypsum board	33,200	119,000	143,000	87,900	309,000	103,000	198,000	100,000	109,000	39,200	1,240,000
Type X gypsum board	28,100	89,200	103,000	58,600	148,000	34,600	116,000	92,000	139,000	11,600	819,000
Predecorated board	316	654	1,010	357	1,430	273	988	394	637	130	6,190
5/16 Mobile home board	--	407	1,830	--	3,070	9,450	4,340	307	220	74	19,700
Water/moisture resistant board	6,190	26,000	13,900	6,860	28,000	4,930	14,100	7,840	15,500	4,320	128,000
Total	85,300	241,000	273,000	157,000	505,000	155,000	344,000	206,000	272,000	57,300	2,300,000

-- 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.