

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## GYPSUM IN JULY 2008

Producers mined 1.76 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum in July 2008 (table 1). Output was 2% less than that of June 2008 and 15% less than that of July 2007. Synthetic gypsum production was 720,000 metric tons (t) in July 2008 (table 1), which was 3% more than that of June 2008 and 8% more than that of July 2007. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During July 2008, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 22% of the 3.25-Mt total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in July 2008, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 345,000 t (table 2), 5% less than those of June 2008 and 31% less than those of July 2007.

Output of calcined gypsum for July 2008 (table 1) was 1.65 Mt, 7% more than that of June 2008 and 12% less than that of July 2007. Sales of board products (table 2) were approximately 2.18 billion square feet (202 million square meters), 2% less than those of June 2008 and 15% less than those of July 2007.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in July 2008 were 762,000 t (table 3), 17% more than those of June 2008 and 10% less than those of July 2007. The United States imported crude gypsum from five countries in

July 2008. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 59%, followed by Mexico with 27%, Spain with 12%, the Dominican Republic with 2%, and a negligible amount from the Netherlands.

Gypsum wallboard imports for July 2008 were 26,000 t, equivalent to 2.89 million square meters (31.1 million square feet). These imports were 9% less than those of June 2008 and 28% less than those of July 2007. The United States imported wallboard products from five countries in July 2008. Mexico accounted for 50% of these imports, followed by Canada with 48%, and China with 2%. Imports from Hong Kong and Germany were negligible. Wallboard exports to 35 countries and territories in July 2008 were 9,500 t, equivalent to 1.1 million square meters (11.3 million square feet). These exports were about 2% more than those of June 2008 and 37% less than those of July 2007. Most wallboard exports were shipped to 24 western hemisphere countries, with Mexico accounting for 35%, followed by Canada with 18%.

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

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

(Metric tons)

	2007	2008		
	January-July	June	July	January-July
Crude:				
Mined <sup>3</sup>	13,900,000	1,790,000	1,760,000	12,200,000
Imported <sup>4</sup>	5,570,000 <sup>r</sup>	632,000	762,000	4,420,000
Synthetic gypsum <sup>5</sup>	4,640,000	701,000	720,000	4,660,000
Total supply	24,100,000	3,130,000	3,250,000	21,300,000
Crude, exported <sup>4</sup>	95,500	12,000	12,600	92,800
Consumption	24,000,000	3,110,000	3,230,000	21,200,000
Calcined:				
Produced	12,700,000	1,530,000	1,650,000	11,000,000
Imported <sup>6</sup>	7,590	1,140	1,020	8,090
Total supply	12,700,000	1,530,000	1,650,000	11,100,000
Exported <sup>6</sup>	127,000	12,000	14,700	83,300
Consumption	12,600,000	1,520,000	1,630,000	11,000,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<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-July	June	July	January-July
Uncalcined: <sup>3</sup>				
Portland cement	2,020,000	150,000	131,000	1,120,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	1,000,000	213,000	214,000	1,350,000
Total	3,030,000	363,000	345,000	2,470,000
Calcined:				
Board products <sup>4</sup>	15,100,000	1,850,000	1,810,000	13,000,000
Plaster	77,500	8,740	9,770	66,700
Total	15,200,000	1,860,000	1,820,000	13,100,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) <sup>5</sup>				
Regular board	10,600,000	1,150,000	1,150,000	8,230,000
Type X board	6,040,000	834,000	802,000	5,750,000
Other	1,720,000	234,000	226,000	1,640,000
Total supply	18,300,000	2,220,000	2,180,000	15,600,000

<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-July	June	July	January-July
Brazil	5	--	--	396,000
Canada	3,700,000	463,000	449,000	2,450,000
China	61	--	--	55,300
Dominican Republic	61,500	--	13,200	39,700
Germany	5	--	--	--
India	--	1	--	1
Italy	1	1	--	6
Jamaica	--	--	--	12,800
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	2
Mexico	1,450,000	144,000	207,000	1,110,000
Netherlands	--	--	32	32
Spain	363,000	25,700	92,500	352,000
Turkey	2	--	--	--
United Kingdom	62	--	--	15
Total	5,570,000 <sup>r</sup>	632,000	762,000	4,420,000

<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:				
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
June	2,410	1,790	632	12
July	2,510	1,770	762	13
January-July	14,100	10,500	3,660	80

<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
<b>July:</b>											
Veneer base	10,400	1,650	4,850	467	3,360	--	3	165	1,140	196	22,200
Sheathing	1,400	4,290	4,100	3,160	12,800	3,030	10,900	5,280	7,350	3,420	55,600
Regular gypsum board	23,600	101,000	126,000	79,600	286,000	101,000	192,000	92,300	106,000	42,200	1,150,000
Type X gypsum board	21,100	83,400	94,700	53,900	138,000	37,100	119,000	91,300	149,000	14,400	802,000
Predecorated board	315	565	1,010	474	1,450	498	1,020	403	659	117	6,510
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,460	2,020	--	2,020	9,080	2,200	310	113	0	17,200
Water/moisture resistant board	5,580	25,000	13,700	6,090	25,900	5,590	13,900	7,880	15,500	5,090	124,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,400</b>	<b>217,000</b>	<b>246,000</b>	<b>144,000</b>	<b>469,000</b>	<b>156,000</b>	<b>339,000</b>	<b>198,000</b>	<b>280,000</b>	<b>65,400</b>	<b>2,180,000</b>
<b>January-July:</b>											
Veneer base	99,300	12,100	33,700	2,520	28,100	149	396	1,690	8,180	356	186,000
Sheathing	7,170	26,500	26,100	18,500	84,900	21,800	82,400	34,800	50,900	18,200	371,000
Regular gypsum board	198,000	772,000	908,000	537,000	2,050,000	680,000	1,320,000	696,000	753,000	301,000	8,220,000
Type X gypsum board	176,000	609,000	670,000	380,000	1,030,000	254,000	812,000	659,000	1,050,000	102,000	5,740,000
Predecorated board	1,910	4,200	6,050	2,870	9,960	2,810	6,700	3,000	4,860	768	43,100
5/16 Mobile home board	--	5,910	13,700	--	21,900	69,600	21,700	2,970	1,580	167	137,000
Water/moisture resistant board	42,200	181,000	98,600	44,800	195,000	38,500	97,900	59,300	113,000	33,100	903,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>525,000</b>	<b>1,610,000</b>	<b>1,760,000</b>	<b>985,000</b>	<b>3,420,000</b>	<b>1,070,000</b>	<b>2,340,000</b>	<b>1,460,000</b>	<b>1,990,000</b>	<b>455,000</b>	<b>15,600,000</b>

-- 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.