

## GYPSUM

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

**Domestic Production and Use:** In 2000, crude gypsum output exceeded 25 million tons and was valued at \$175 million. The top producing States were, in descending order, Oklahoma, California, Iowa, Texas, Nevada, Michigan, and New Mexico, which together accounted for 75% of total output. Overall, 35 companies produced gypsum at 61 mines in 20 States, and 10 companies calcined gypsum at 64 plants in 28 States. Most of domestic consumption, which totaled about 39.9 million tons, was accounted for by manufacturers of wallboard and plaster products. More than 5.5 million tons for cement production, about 4 million tons for agricultural applications, and small amounts of high-purity gypsum for a wide range of industrial processes, such as smelting and glassmaking, accounted for the remaining uses. Capacity at operating wallboard plants in the United States was 31.6 billion square feet per year, and sales were more than 31 billion square feet, representing capacity utilization of about 98%.

<b>Salient Statistics—United States:</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000<sup>e</sup></b>
Production: Crude	17,500	18,600	19,000	22,400	25,000
Synthetic <sup>1</sup>	2,500	2,700	3,000	5,200	6,300
Calcined <sup>2</sup>	17,000	17,200	19,400	22,300	24,500
Wallboard products (million square feet)	23,700	24,400	26,900	31,600	35,000
Imports, crude, including anhydrite	8,050	8,420	8,680	9,340	8,750
Exports, crude, not ground or calcined	136	174	166	112	156
Consumption, apparent <sup>3</sup>	27,900	29,500	30,500	36,800	39,900
Price: Average crude, f.o.b. mine, dollars per ton	7.10	7.11	6.92	6.99	7.00
Average calcined, f.o.b. plant, dollars per ton	16.88	17.58	17.02	17.07	17.10
Stocks, producer, crude, yearend	1,200	1,200	1,500	1,500	1,500
Employment, mine and calcining plant, number <sup>e</sup>	6,300	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Net import reliance <sup>4</sup> as a percent of apparent consumption	29	28	28	25	22

**Recycling:** Only a small amount of gypsum wallboard is recycled.

**Import Sources (1996-99):** Canada, 67%; Mexico, 24%; Spain, 8%; and other, 1%.

<b>Tariff:</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Normal Trade Relations</b>
			<b><u>12/31/00</u></b>
	Gypsum; anhydrite	2520.10.0000	Free.

**Depletion Allowance:** 14% (Domestic and foreign).

**Government Stockpile:** None.

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**Events, Trends, and Issues:** Construction of new homes, commercial buildings, and office space continued to stimulate wallboard demand and boosted domestic consumption of gypsum. Some forecasts indicate that gypsum demand in North American markets will remain high for the next few years. This demand, however, will depend principally on the strength of the construction industry, particularly in the United States, where more than 95% of the gypsum consumed is used for wallboard products, building plasters, and the manufacture of portland cement. Federal funding that was authorized in 1998 for road building and repair through 2003 will continue to spur gypsum consumption in the cement industry. Several large wallboard plants under construction and designed to use only synthetic gypsum will accelerate substitution significantly as they become operational within the next 2 years.

### **World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:**

	Mine production		Reserves <sup>5</sup>	Reserve base <sup>5</sup>
	1999	2000 <sup>e</sup>		
United States	22,400	25,000	700,000	Large
Australia	2,100	2,100		
Canada	9,470	9,500	450,000	Large
China	9,000	9,000		
Egypt	1,500	1,500		
France	4,500	4,500		
India	2,200	2,200		
Iran	9,750	9,750		
Italy	1,300	1,300		
Japan	5,500	5,500		
Mexico	7,000	7,100		
Poland	1,000	1,000		
Spain	7,500	7,500		
Thailand	5,000	5,000		
United Kingdom	1,800	1,800		
Other countries	<u>16,980</u>	<u>17,000</u>		
World total (rounded)	107,000	110,000	Large	Large

Reserves and reserve base are large in major producing countries, but data are not available.

**World Resources:** Domestic resources are adequate but unevenly distributed. Large imports from Canada augment domestic supplies for wallboard manufacturing on the eastern seaboard of the United States, where there are no significant gypsum deposits. Large deposits occur in the Great Lakes region, midcontinental region, and California. Foreign resources are large and widely distributed; more than 90 countries produce gypsum.

**Substitutes:** Other construction materials may be substituted for gypsum, especially cement, lime, lumber, masonry, and steel. Gypsum has no practical substitute in the manufacturing of portland cement. Synthetic gypsum generated by various industrial processes is becoming more important as a substitute for mined gypsum in wallboard manufacturing, cement production, and agricultural applications.

<sup>e</sup>Estimated.

<sup>1</sup>Only synthetic reported as sold or used.

<sup>2</sup>From domestic crude.

<sup>3</sup>Defined as crude + total reported synthetic use + net import reliance.

<sup>4</sup>Defined as imports - exports + adjustments for industry stock changes.

<sup>5</sup>See Appendix C for definitions.