

## GYPSUM

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless noted)

**Domestic Production and Use:** In 1995, output of crude gypsum was 17 million tons valued at \$116 million. Leading States were Oklahoma, Iowa, Texas, Michigan, Nevada, California, and Indiana, which together accounted for 75% of total output. Thirty-one companies mined crude gypsum at 58 mines in 19 States, and 14 companies calcined gypsum at 73 plants in 27 States. Of the total supply of crude gypsum (25.9 million tons, including 1.1 million tons of byproduct gypsum), 20.0 million tons was calcined for gypsum products, and 6.0 million tons was used mainly as cement retarder or as agricultural land plaster. Calcined gypsum was sold as prefabricated product or as industrial or building plaster. Sales of gypsum for use in cement were 3.5 million tons and for agriculture and other uses, 2.5 million tons.

Available capacity of operating gypsumboard plants in the United States at yearend 1995 was 24.6 billion square feet per year. Sales of gypsumboard products were 23.5 billion square feet, which represented a capacity utilization of 96%.

<b>Salient Statistics—United States:</b>	<b><u>1991</u></b>	<b><u>1992</u></b>	<b><u>1993</u></b>	<b><u>1994</u></b>	<b><u>1995<sup>e</sup></u></b>
Production: Crude	14,000	14,800	15,800	17,200	17,300
Byproduct	618	630	846	950	1,100
Calcined	13,900	15,100	15,200	16,700	17,000
Prefabricated products (million square feet)	17,600	19,200	21,400	23,200	23,500
Imports, crude, including anhydrite	6,930	7,180	7,390	8,470	8,000
Exports, crude, not ground or calcined	67	98	69	89	110
Consumption, crude, apparent <sup>1</sup>	21,100	22,300	24,000	26,200	25,900
Price: Average crude, f.o.b. mine, dollars per ton	6.72	6.82	6.74	6.70	6.80
Average calcined, f.o.b. plant, dollars per ton	17.27	16.58	17.88	17.23	18.00
Stocks, producer, crude, yearend	2,020	2,350	2,320	2,600	2,700
Employment, mine and calcining plant	6,800	6,700	6,700	6,700	6,700
Net import reliance <sup>2</sup> as a percent of apparent consumption	31	31	31	30	30

**Recycling:** A relatively small amount of byproduct gypsum generated in flue gas desulfurization, phosphate rock acidulation, and other chemical processes is used for agricultural and wallboard purposes.

**Import Sources (1991-94):** Canada, 69%; Mexico, 22%; Spain, 5%; and other, 4%.

<b>Tariff:</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Most favored nation (MFN)</b>	<b>Non-MFN<sup>3</sup></b>
			<b><u>12/31/95</u></b>	<b><u>12/31/95</u></b>
	Gypsum; anhydrite	2520.10.0000	Free	Free.

**Depletion Allowance:** 14% (Domestic), 14% (Foreign).

**Government Stockpile:** None.

## GYPSUM

**Events, Trends, and Issues:** Sales of gypsum products increased for the fourth consecutive year, but remained slightly below the record highs of 1989. Increased demand and rising wallboard prices improved the financial position of most of the companies.

In 1995, the gypsum wallboard industry shipped 23.5 billion square feet. Imports of wallboard, principally from Canada, were 570 million square feet. Wallboard exports to 60 different countries were 100 million square feet.

As long as the cost of land for solid waste disposal continues to be economical and solid waste pollution remains noncritical, only a small amount of the potentially useful byproduct gypsum scrubbed from powerplant stack gases and produced by chemical plants will be used. Several plants mix small amounts of byproduct gypsum into their wallboard products.

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

	Mine production		Reserves <sup>4</sup>	Reserve base <sup>4</sup>
	1994	1995 <sup>e</sup>		
United States	17,200	17,300	700,000	Large
Australia	2,000	2,100		
Canada	8,500	8,500	450,000	Large
China	10,500	11,000		
Egypt	1,200	1,200		
France	5,000	5,000		
India	1,900	1,900		
Iran	8,430	8,500		
Italy	1,200	1,200		
Japan	5,300	5,300		
Mexico	5,530	5,500		
Poland	830	800		
Spain	7,250	7,500		
Thailand	8,140	8,000		
United Kingdom	2,500	2,800		
Other countries	15,500	16,000		
World total (rounded)	101,000	103,000	Large	Large

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

**World Resources:** Domestic resources are adequate, but are unevenly distributed. There are no gypsum deposits on the eastern seaboard of the United States, and large imports from Canada augment the domestic supply of crude ore in these industrial areas. Large deposits occur in the Great Lakes region, midcontinent region, California, and other States. Foreign resources are adequate, but are not evenly distributed.

**Substitutes:** Other construction materials may be substituted for gypsum, especially cement, lime, lumber, masonry, and steel. There is no practical substitute for gypsum in portland cement. Byproduct gypsum now substitutes for crude gypsum in special agricultural applications, and it is beginning to be utilized in place of crude gypsum for cement set-retarding and manufacturing wallboard.

<sup>e</sup>Estimated.

<sup>1</sup>Defined as crude + byproduct + net import reliance.

<sup>2</sup>Defined as imports - exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes.

<sup>3</sup>See Appendix B.

<sup>4</sup>See Appendix C for definitions.