

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN OCTOBER 2007

Producers mined 2.04 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum in October 2007 (table 1). Output was 4% more than that of September 2007 and 37% more than that of October 2006. Synthetic gypsum production was 705,000 metric tons (t) in October 2007 (table 1), which was slightly more than that of September 2007 and 5% more than that of October 2006. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During January through October 2007, synthetic gypsum accounted for 6.82 Mt, or about 20%, of the 34.7-Mt total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in October 2007, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 398,000 t (table 2), 14% less than those of September 2007 and 28% less than those of October 2006.

Output of calcined gypsum for October 2007 (table 1) was 1.85 Mt, 5% more than that of September 2007 and slightly less than that of October 2006. Sales of board products were about 2.65 billion square feet (246 million square meters), 15% more than those of September 2007 and 6% less than those of October 2006.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in October 2007 were 866,000 t (table 3), 19% more than that of September 2007 and 15% more than that of October 2006. Canada accounted for 77% of crude gypsum imports, followed by Mexico with 14%, Spain with 5%, and China with 4%. Gypsum wallboard imports for October 2007 were 28,500 t, equivalent to 3.17 million square meters (34.1 million square feet). These imports were 8% more than those of September 2007 and 47% less than those of October 2006. Mexico accounted for 55% of wallboard imports, followed by Canada with 42% and China with 3%. Wallboard exports to 34 countries and territories in October 2007 were 8,420 t, equivalent to 937,000 square meters (10.1 million square feet). These exports were about 20% more than those of September 2007 and 15% less than those of October 2006. Most of these wallboard exports went to 23 western hemisphere countries, with Mexico accounting for 47% of total exports, followed by Canada with 16%.

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

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	2007			2006
	October	September	January-October	January-October
Crude:				
Mined ³	2,040,000	1,960,000	20,000,000	15,800,000
Imported ⁴	866,000	726,000	7,930,000	9,700,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	705,000	704,000	6,820,000	7,220,000
Total supply	3,610,000	3,390,000	34,700,000	32,700,000
Crude, exported ⁴	10,100	12,200	132,000	118,000
Consumption	3,600,000	3,380,000	34,600,000	32,600,000
Calcined:				
Produced	1,850,000	1,760,000	18,400,000	20,600,000
Imported ⁶	1,240	1,290	11,900	8,800
Total supply	1,850,000	1,760,000	18,400,000	20,600,000
Exported ⁶	11,400	11,400	167,000	184,000
Consumption	1,840,000	1,750,000	18,200,000	20,400,000

¹Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

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

³Some data were estimated from semiannual reports.

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

⁵Reported production only.

⁶Import and export data are for "Plaster," Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2520.20.0000.

TABLE 2
GYPSUM SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS, BY USE^{1,2}

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2007			2006
	October	September	January-October	January-October
Uncalcined: ³				
Portland cement	250,000	322,000	2,840,000	3,140,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	147,000	142,000	1,440,000	2,100,000
Total	398,000	464,000	4,280,000	5,250,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁴	2,210,000	1,930,000	21,800,000	25,200,000
Plaster	10,400	9,180	109,000	123,000
Total	2,220,000	1,940,000	21,900,000	25,300,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) ⁵				
Regular board	1,480,000	1,310,000	15,100,000	18,400,000
Type X board	908,000	769,000	8,770,000	9,130,000
Other	255,000	227,000	2,500,000	2,720,000
Total supply	2,650,000	2,310,000	26,400,000	30,200,000

¹Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

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

³Does not include synthetic gypsum from electric powerplants.

⁴Includes weight of paper and other materials.

⁵One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

TABLE 3
CRUDE GYPSUM IMPORTED FOR CONSUMPTION¹

(Metric tons)

Country of origin	2007				2006
	October	September	August	January-October	January-October
Austria	--	--	--	--	27
Brazil	--	--	--	5	14,000
Canada	663,000	446,000	536,000	5,350,000	5,660,000
China	36,800	--	--	36,900	26,200
Dominican Republic	--	13,000	--	74,500	66,700
France	--	--	--	--	983
Germany	--	--	--	5	14,100
India	--	--	--	--	1
Italy	--	--	--	1	--
Jamaica	--	--	--	--	3,940
Jordan	--	--	--	--	50
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	5
Mexico	121,000	139,000	225,000	1,940,000	2,400,000
Morocco	1	--	--	--	--
Spain	45,300	127,000	--	535,000	765,000
Sweden	--	--	--	--	20
Turkey	--	--	--	2	--
United Kingdom	--	--	--	62	41
Total	866,000	726,000	761,000	7,930,000	8,950,000

-- Zero.

¹Data 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^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Consumption ³	Production ⁴	Imports ⁵	Exports ⁵
2006:				
October	2,230	1,490	752	13
November	2,120	1,370	759	12
December	2,270	1,370	910	11
January-December	29,800	18,600	11,400	139
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	2,680	1,970	726	12
October	2,890	2,040	866	10
January-October	27,700	19,900	7,930	132

¹Excludes synthetic gypsum.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

³Consumption 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.

⁴Production 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.

⁵Data from U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
SALES OF GYPSUM BOARD PRODUCTS, BY SALES REGIONS IN 2007^{1,2}

(Thousand square feet)³

	New England	Middle Atlantic	E. North Central	W. North Central	South Atlantic	E. South Central	W. South Central	Mountain	Pacific	Exports	Total
October:											
Veneer base	19,400	2,490	6,660	472	5,750	34	12	266	1,080	24	36,200
Sheathing	1,920	4,870	5,730	3,760	17,000	2,820	11,900	6,730	10,200	3,110	68,100
Regular gypsum board	36,300	132,000	164,000	95,200	393,000	120,000	234,000	139,000	132,000	39,000	1,480,000
Type X gypsum board	29,600	103,000	117,000	62,500	165,000	36,700	109,000	104,000	168,000	13,000	908,000
Predecorated board	322	787	1,100	528	1,470	425	922	361	840	66	6,810
5/16 Mobile home board	--	811	3,420	--	4,140	12,400	6,320	228	243	--	27,600
Water/moisture resistant board	5,070	21,500	13,900	5,340	24,500	5,140	12,200	8,840	14,700	4,610	116,000
Total	92,500	266,000	311,000	168,000	610,000	178,000	375,000	260,000	327,000	59,800	2,650,000
January-October:											
Veneer base	191,000	19,400	53,300	5,020	59,500	190	241	2,690	12,400	478	345,000
Sheathing	16,500	39,100	47,500	26,800	142,000	22,500	69,100	50,000	67,200	24,300	505,000
Regular gypsum board	337,000	1,150,000	1,280,000	753,000	3,420,000	826,000	1,600,000	1,220,000	1,280,000	379,000	12,200,000
Type X gypsum board	280,000	944,000	1,180,000	615,000	2,140,000	713,000	1,370,000	1,110,000	1,730,000	97,100	10,200,000
Predecorated board	3,140	47,200	222,000	114,000	158,000	76,200	259,000	168,000	297,000	1,070	1,350,000
5/16 Mobile home board	--	6,580	30,100	--	38,400	107,000	54,000	1,270	2,630	613	241,000
Water/moisture resistant board	55,800	215,000	119,000	49,800	249,000	38,900	86,200	85,000	142,000	46,500	1,090,000
Total	884,000	2,420,000	2,940,000	1,560,000	6,210,000	1,780,000	3,440,000	2,630,000	3,530,000	549,000	26,000,000

-- Zero.

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

²Sales 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).

³One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

Source: Gypsum Association.