

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## GYPSUM IN APRIL 2008

Producers mined 1.84 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum in April 2008 (table 1). Output was 9% more than that of March 2008 and 7% more than that of April 2007. Synthetic gypsum production was 681,000 metric tons (t) in April 2008 (table 1), which was 6% more than that of March 2008 and 9% more than that of April 2007. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During April 2008, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 21% of the 3.31-Mt total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in April 2008, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 329,000 t (table 2), 3% more than those of March 2008 and 33% less than those of April 2007.

Output of calcined gypsum for April 2008 (table 1) was 1.65 Mt, 5% more than that of March 2008 and 6% more than that of April 2007. Sales of board products (table 2) were approximately 2.28 billion square feet (212 million square meters), slightly more than those of March 2008 and 4% less than those of April 2007.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in April 2008 were 788,000 t (table 3), 60% more than those of March 2008 and 11% more than those of April 2007.

The United States imported crude gypsum from seven countries in April 2008. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 69%, followed by Mexico with 25%, Spain with 5%, Jamaica with 1%, and negligible amounts from China, the United Kingdom, and Italy.

Gypsum wallboard imports for April 2008 were 28,000 t, equivalent to 3.11 million square meters (33.5 million square feet). These imports were 2% less than those of March 2008 and 39% less than those of April 2007. The United States imported wallboard products from three countries in April 2008. Mexico accounted for 53% of these imports, followed by Canada with 47%. Imports from China were negligible. Wallboard exports to 30 countries and territories in April 2008 were 9,600 t, equivalent to 1.1 million square meters (11.8 million square feet). These exports were about 18% more than those of March 2008 and 19% more than those of April 2007. Most wallboard exports were shipped to 23 western hemisphere countries, with Mexico accounting for 26%, followed by Canada with 17%.

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

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

(Metric tons)

	2007	2008		
	January-April	March	April	January-April
Crude:				
Mined <sup>3</sup>	7,380,000	1,690,000	1,840,000	7,000,000
Imported <sup>4</sup>	2,960,000	492,000	788,000	2,410,000
Synthetic gypsum <sup>5</sup>	2,630,000	645,000	681,000	2,600,000
Total supply	13,000,000	2,830,000	3,310,000	12,000,000
Crude, exported <sup>4</sup>	47,600	19,400	15,100	55,700
Consumption	12,900,000	2,810,000	3,300,000	12,000,000
Calcined:				
Produced	6,990,000	1,570,000	1,650,000	6,310,000
Imported <sup>6</sup>	4,350	1,830	1,080	4,810
Total supply	7,000,000	1,570,000	1,650,000	6,320,000
Exported <sup>6</sup>	78,200	11,900	11,500	43,200
Consumption	6,920,000	1,560,000	1,640,000	6,270,000

<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-April	March	April	January-April
Uncalcined: <sup>3</sup>				
Portland cement	975,000	128,000	133,000	708,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	546,000	191,000	196,000	727,000
Total	1,520,000	318,000	329,000	1,440,000
Calcined:				
Board products <sup>4</sup>	8,440,000	1,870,000	1,900,000	7,560,000
Plaster	45,600	9,110	9,200	38,000
Total	8,480,000	1,880,000	1,910,000	7,600,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) <sup>5</sup>				
Regular board	5,870,000	1,170,000	1,190,000	4,810,000
Type X board	3,310,000	838,000	839,000	3,310,000
Other	945,000	238,000	242,000	954,000
Total supply	10,100,000	2,250,000	2,280,000	9,070,000

<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-April	March	April	January-April
Brazil	5	--	--	--
Canada	1,900,000	315,000	544,000	1,540,000
China	24	--	21	41,900
Dominican Republic	28,600	13,000	--	26,500
Germany	5	--	--	--
Italy	--	--	5	5
Jamaica	--	--	6,470	6,470
Mexico	810,000	125,000	201,000	603,000
Spain	242,000	39,000	36,000	188,000
Turkey	2	--	--	--
United Kingdom	41	--	15	15
Total	2,980,000	492,000	788,000	2,410,000

-- 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
February	2,060	1,660	414	11
March	2,170	1,690	492	19
April	2,620	1,840	788	15
January-April	9,350	7,000	2,410	56

<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:											
April:											
Veneer base	14,700	1,660	4,260	190	3,870	14	15	276	1,690	24	26,700
Sheathing	996	3,980	3,370	2,770	11,500	3,060	13,600	5,090	8,130	2,890	55,500
Regular gypsum board	30,200	118,000	134,000	73,000	297,000	94,700	184,000	101,000	114,000	48,400	1,190,000
Type X gypsum board	26,200	88,100	95,600	52,300	146,000	35,700	118,000	94,700	166,000	16,800	839,000
Predecorated board	296	527	983	468	1,400	365	936	543	811	41	6,370
5/16 Mobile home board	--	917	2,700	--	3,820	10,800	2,440	551	122	--	21,300
Water/moisture resistant board	6,300	25,900	14,600	6,220	28,900	5,220	13,900	9,050	17,300	5,080	133,000
Total	78,800	239,000	256,000	135,000	492,000	150,000	333,000	211,000	307,000	73,200	2,280,000
January-April:											
Veneer base	65,900	7,290	19,700	1,660	16,800	139	191	1,030	4,920	81	118,000
Sheathing	3,320	14,700	14,000	10,300	46,400	11,800	48,000	19,900	29,400	8,500	206,000
Regular gypsum board	127,000	467,000	543,000	321,000	1,200,000	390,000	747,000	406,000	437,000	168,000	4,800,000
Type X gypsum board	108,000	351,000	388,000	220,000	593,000	143,000	460,000	376,000	611,000	52,900	3,300,000
Predecorated board	1,110	2,410	3,520	1,590	5,470	1,360	3,620	1,860	2,720	323	24,000
5/16 Mobile home board	--	2,510	8,000	--	12,400	39,900	15,100	1,550	1,160	110	80,700
Water/moisture resistant board	25,300	105,000	58,300	26,800	114,000	22,000	56,600	33,800	66,600	18,200	527,000
Total	331,000	950,000	1,030,000	581,000	1,990,000	608,000	1,330,000	840,000	1,150,000	248,000	9,060,000

-- 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.

Source: Gypsum Association.