

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN MARCH 2008

Producers mined 1.69 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum in March 2008 (table 1). Output was 2% more than that of February 2008 and 18% less than that of March 2007. Synthetic gypsum production was 645,000 metric tons (t) in March 2008 (table 1), which was 4% more than that of February 2008 and 8% less than that of March 2007. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During March 2008, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 23% of the 2.83-Mt total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in March 2008, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 318,000 t (table 2), 22% less than those of February 2008 and 18% less than those of March 2007.

Output of calcined gypsum for March 2008 (table 1) was 1.57 Mt, 3% more than that of February 2008 and 19% less than that of March 2007. Sales of board products (table 2) were approximately 2.25 billion square feet (209 million square meters), unchanged from February 2008 and 18% less than those of March 2007.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in March 2008 were 492,000 t (table 3), 19% more than

that of February 2008 and 43% less than that of March 2007. The United States imported crude gypsum from four countries in March 2008. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 64%, followed by Mexico with 25%, Spain with 8%, and the Dominican Republic with 3%.

Gypsum wallboard imports for March 2008 were 28,500 t, equivalent to 3.17 million square meters (34.1 million square feet). These imports were 45% more than those of February 2008 and 37% less than those of March 2007. The United States imported wallboard products from five countries in March 2008. Canada accounted for 54% of these imports, followed by Mexico with 46%. Imports from Italy, Costa Rica, and China were negligible. Wallboard exports to 31 countries and territories in March 2008 were 9,900 t, equivalent to 1.1 million square meters (11.8 million square feet). These exports were about 39% more than those of February 2008 and 15% more than those of March 2007. Most wallboard exports were shipped to 23 western hemisphere countries, with Mexico accounting for 35%, followed by Canada with 17%.

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

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	2007		2008	
	January-March	February	March	January-March
Crude:				
Mined ³	5,650,000	1,660,000	1,690,000	5,160,000
Imported ⁴	2,260,000	414,000	492,000	1,620,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	2,010,000	618,000	645,000	1,920,000
Total supply	9,920,000	2,690,000	2,830,000	8,700,000
Crude, exported ⁴	37,000	11,200	19,400	40,600
Consumption	9,880,000	2,680,000	2,810,000	8,660,000
Calcined:				
Produced	5,430,000	1,520,000	1,570,000	4,660,000
Imported ⁶	3,220	706	1,830	3,720
Total supply	5,440,000	1,520,000	1,570,000	4,670,000
Exported ⁶	46,800	10,600	11,900	31,600
Consumption	5,390,000	1,510,000	1,560,000	4,640,000

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		2008	
	January-March	February	March	January-March
Uncalcined: ³				
Portland cement	757,000	222,000	128,000	576,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	407,000	186,000	191,000	531,000
Total	1,160,000	408,000	318,000	1,110,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁴	6,470,000	1,880,000	1,870,000	5,660,000
Plaster	33,600	9,640	9,110	28,800
Total	6,510,000	1,890,000	1,880,000	5,690,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) ⁵				
Regular board	4,510,000	1,210,000	1,170,000	3,620,000
Type X board	2,530,000	812,000	838,000	2,470,000
Other	723,000	235,000	238,000	711,000
Total supply	7,770,000	2,250,000	2,250,000	6,800,000

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 power plants.

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	2008		
	January-March	February	March	January-March
Brazil	5	--	--	--
Canada	1,360,000	307,000	315,000	997,000
China	24	--	--	41,900
Dominican Republic	28,600	13,500	13,000	26,500
Germany	5	--	--	--
Mexico	640,000	93,200	125,000	402,000
Spain	242,000	18	39,000	152,000
United Kingdom	21	--	--	--
Total	2,270,000 ^r	414,000	492,000	1,620,000

^rRevised. -- 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
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
January-March	6,740	5,160	1,620	41

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^{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
2008:											
March:											
Veneer base	16,400	1,890	4,480	383	4,140	41	97	358	1,180	16	29,000
Sheathing	821	3,860	3,310	2,400	12,000	3,080	11,900	5,230	7,350	2,120	52,000
Regular gypsum board	31,800	114,000	132,000	78,700	281,000	93,800	181,000	105,000	111,000	41,100	1,170,000
Type X gypsum board	27,600	86,200	94,900	53,400	147,000	35,400	118,000	102,000	160,000	13,500	838,000
Predecorated board	263	696	782	419	1,520	388	904	417	649	53	6,090
5/16 Mobile home board	--	550	1,860	--	2,620	8,440	3,400	314	330	36	17,500
Water/moisture resistant board	6,650	27,100	14,900	6,760	28,000	5,580	13,700	9,250	17,500	4,240	134,000
Total	83,500	234,000	252,000	142,000	476,000	147,000	329,000	223,000	298,000	61,100	2,250,000
January-March:											
Veneer base	51,200	5,630	15,500	1,470	12,900	125	176	754	3,220	57	91,000
Sheathing	2,330	10,700	10,700	7,580	34,900	8,700	34,400	14,800	21,300	5,610	151,000
Regular gypsum board	97,100	349,000	409,000	248,000	900,000	296,000	563,000	306,000	323,000	119,000	3,610,000
Type X gypsum board	81,900	263,000	292,000	167,000	447,000	107,000	341,000	282,000	445,000	36,100	2,460,000
Predecorated board	815	1,880	2,540	1,120	4,070	996	2,680	1,310	1,910	282	17,600
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,590	5,310	--	8,530	29,200	12,600	997	1,040	110	59,400
Water/moisture resistant board	19,000	79,200	43,600	20,600	85,500	16,700	42,700	24,800	49,300	13,100	395,000
Total	252,000	711,000	778,000	446,000	1,490,000	459,000	997,000	630,000	845,000	175,000	6,780,000

-- 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.