

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYP SUM IN AUGUST 2008

Producers mined 1.0 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum in August 2008 (table 1). Output was 42% less than that of July 2008 and 51% less than that of August 2007. Synthetic gypsum production was 627,000 metric tons (t) in August 2008 (table 1), which was 13% less than that of July 2008 and 19% less than that of August 2007. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During August 2008, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 26% of the 2.44-Mt total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in August 2008, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 502,000 t (table 2), 45% more than those of July 2008 and 10% more than those of August 2007.

Output of calcined gypsum for August 2008 (table 1) was 1.55 Mt, 6% less than that of July 2008 and 21% less than that of August 2007. Sales of board products (table 2) were approximately 2.05 billion square feet (190 million square meters), 6% less than those of July 2008 and 26% less than those of August 2007.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in August 2008 were 794,000 t (table 3), 4% more than

those of July 2008 and 4% more than those of August 2007. The United States imported crude gypsum from three countries in August 2008. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 61%, followed by Mexico with 31%, and Spain with 8%.

Gypsum wallboard imports for August 2008 were 30,100 t, equivalent to 3.35 million square meters (36.1 million square feet). These imports were 16% more than those of July 2008 and 20% less than those of August 2007. The United States imported wallboard products from five countries in August 2008. Mexico accounted for 49% of these imports, followed by Canada with 47%, and China with 3%. Imports from Costa Rica and Germany were negligible. Wallboard exports to 33 countries and territories in August 2008 were 8,300 t, equivalent to 0.923 million square meters (9.9 million square feet). These exports were about 11% less than those of July 2008 and 4% less than those of August 2007. Most wallboard exports were shipped to 24 western hemisphere countries, with Mexico accounting for 33%, followed by Canada with 19%.

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

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	2007	2008		
	January-August	July	August	January-August
Crude:				
Mined ³	15,900,000	1,760,000	1,020,000	13,200,000
Imported ⁴	6,340,000	762,000 ^r	794,000	5,210,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	5,410,000	720,000	627,000	5,290,000
Total supply	27,700,000	3,250,000	2,440,000	23,700,000
Crude, exported ⁴	110,000	12,600	12,000	105,000
Consumption	2,760,000	3,230,000	2,420,000	23,600,000
Calcined:				
Produced	14,700,000	1,650,000	1,550,000	12,500,000
Imported ⁶	9,360	1,020	1,040	9,130
Total supply	14,700,000	1,650,000	1,550,000	12,600,000
Exported ⁶	145,000	14,700	10,700	94,000
Consumption	14,600,000	1,630,000	1,540,000	12,500,000

^rRevised.

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-August	July	August	January-August
Uncalcined: ³				
Portland cement	2,340,000	131,000	164,000	1,280,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	1,140,000	214,000	338,000	1,690,000
Total	3,480,000	345,000	502,000	2,970,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁴	17,400,000	1,810,000	1,710,000	14,700,000
Plaster	88,300	9,770	8,760	75,500
Total	17,500,000	1,820,000	1,710,000	14,800,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) ⁵				
Regular board	1,270,000	1,150,000	1,070,000	9,300,000
Type X board	6,960,000	802,000	764,000	6,510,000
Other	1,990,000	226,000	209,000	1,850,000
Total supply	18,300,000	2,180,000	2,050,000	17,600,000

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-August	July	August	January-August
Brazil	5	--	--	396,000
Canada	4,240,000	449,000	486,000	2,940,000
China	61	--	--	55,300
Dominican Republic	61,500	13,200	--	39,700
Germany	5	--	--	--
India	--	--	--	1
Italy	1	--	--	6
Jamaica	--	--	--	12,800
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	2
Mexico	1,680,000	207,000	244,000	1,350,000
Netherlands	--	32	--	32
Spain	363,000	92,500	63,300	415,000
Turkey	2	--	--	--
United Kingdom	62	--	--	15
Total	6,340,000 ^r	762,000	794,000	5,210,000

^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:				
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
May	2,300	1,690	623	13
June	2,410	1,790	632	12
July	2,510	1,770	762	13
August	1,800	1,020	794	12
January-August	18,400	13,300	5,220	105

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 2008^{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
August:											
Veneer base	9,200	1,380	4,140	402	3,440	41	64	147	899	177	19,900
Sheathing	1,260	3,960	3,800	2,400	9,900	2,680	10,100	4,030	6,500	3,240	47,800
Regular gypsum board	22,500	103,000	125,000	75,600	253,000	89,900	169,000	91,500	97,900	46,700	1,070,000
Type X gypsum board	20,500	84,800	92,100	53,500	129,000	34,200	105,000	88,300	141,000	14,900	764,000
Predecorated board	286	713	1,170	431	1,430	397	1,120	476	713	56	6,790
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,290	2,080	--	2,700	8,870	2,190	327	222	39	17,700
Water/moisture resistant board	5,820	24,000	13,000	5,740	24,200	5,710	11,700	7,160	14,200	4,850	116,000
Total	59,500	219,000	241,000	138,000	424,000	142,000	299,000	192,000	262,000	69,900	2,050,000
January-August:											
Veneer base	108,000	13,500	37,900	2,920	31,500	190	460	1,840	9,080	533	206,000
Sheathing	8,430	30,500	29,800	21,000	94,800	24,500	93,300	38,900	57,700	21,400	420,000
Regular gypsum board	221,000	875,000	1,030,000	611,000	2,290,000	765,000	1,480,000	788,000	851,000	348,000	9,260,000
Type X gypsum board	196,000	693,000	762,000	437,000	1,160,000	290,000	915,000	748,000	1,200,000	117,000	6,510,000
Predecorated board	2,200	4,920	7,220	3,310	11,400	3,210	7,820	3,480	5,570	824	49,900
5/16 Mobile home board	--	7,200	15,800	--	24,600	78,400	23,900	3,300	1,800	206	155,000
Water/moisture resistant board	48,000	205,000	112,000	50,600	219,000	44,400	109,000	66,500	127,000	37,900	1,020,000
Total	584,000	1,830,000	1,990,000	1,130,000	3,830,000	1,210,000	2,630,000	1,650,000	2,250,000	525,000	17,600,000

-- 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.