

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Robert D. Crangle, Jr., Gypsum Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-6410, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: rcrangle@usgs.gov

Mahbood Mahdavi (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7778
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: mmahdavi@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

GYPSUM IN SEPTEMBER 2008

Producers mined 1.0 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum in September 2008 (table 1). Output was the same for August 2008 and 51% less than that of September 2007. The significant decrease between 2007 and 2008 is likely the result of improved data analysis, not an actual decline in production, and should be interpreted within this context. Synthetic gypsum production was 721,000 metric tons (t) in September 2008 (table 1), which was 22% more than that of August 2008 and 2% more than that of September 2007. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During September 2008, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 33% of the 2.19 million-metric-ton (Mt) total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in September 2008, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 604,000 t (table 2), 20% more than those of August 2008 and 23% more than those of September 2007.

Output of calcined gypsum for September 2008 (table 1) was 1.51 Mt, 3% less than that of August 2008 and 17% less than that of September 2007. Sales of board products (table 2) were approximately 187 million square meters (2.01 billion square feet), 2% less than those of August 2008 and 15% less than those of September 2007.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in September 2008 were 441,000 t (table 3), 45% less

than those of August 2008 and 39% less than those of September 2007. The United States imported crude gypsum from three countries in September 2008. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 84%, followed by Mexico with 13%, and the Dominican Republic with 3%.

Gypsum wallboard imports for September 2008 were 27,600 t, equivalent to 3.07 million square meters (33 million square feet). These imports were 8% less than those of August 2008 and 4% more than those of September 2007. The United States imported wallboard products from four countries in September 2008. Canada accounted for 50% of these imports, followed by Mexico with 47%, and China with 3%. Imports from Indonesia were negligible. Wallboard exports to 28 countries and territories in September 2008 were 7,700 t, equivalent to 0.852 million square meters (9.2 million square feet). These exports were about 7% less than those of August 2008 and 9% more than those of September 2007. Most wallboard exports were shipped to 20 western hemisphere countries, with Mexico and Canada each accounting for 24%, followed by the Bahamas with 7%.

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

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	2007		2008	
	January-September	August	September	January-September
Crude:				
Mined ³	17,900,000	1,020,000	1,040,000	14,300,000
Imported ⁴	7,060,000	794,000	441,000	5,650,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	6,120,000	593,000 ^r	721,000	6,010,000
Total supply	27,700,000	2,440,000	2,200,000	25,900,000
Crude, exported ⁴	122,000	12,000	12,500	117,000
Consumption	30,900,000	2,420,000	2,190,000	25,800,000
Calcined:				
Produced	16,400,000	1,550,000	1,510,000	14,100,000
Imported ⁶	10,600	1,040	1,140	10,300
Total supply	16,500,000	1,550,000	1,510,000	14,200,000
Exported ⁶	156,000	10,700	10,200	104,000
Consumption	16,300,000	1,540,000	1,500,000	14,000,000

^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-September	August	September	January-September
Uncalcined: ³				
Portland cement	2,660,000	228,000 ^r	244,000	1,530,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	1,290,000 ^r	338,000	360,000	2,050,000
Total	3,950,000	502,000	604,000	3,580,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁴	19,300,000	1,710,000	1,680,000	16,400,000
Plaster	97,500	8,760	8,160	83,600
Total	19,400,000	1,710,000	1,690,000	16,500,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) ⁵				
Regular board	13,500,000 ^r	1,070,000	1,050,000	10,400,000
Type X board	7,730,000	764,000	750,000	7,260,000
Other	2,210,000	209,000	216,000	2,060,000
Total supply	20,700,000	2,050,000	2,010,000	19,700,000

^rRevised.

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-September	August	September	January-September
Brazil	5	--	--	396,000
Canada	4,680,000	486,000	370,000	3,310,000
China	61	--	--	55,300
Dominican Republic	74,500	--	13,400	53,100
Germany	5	--	--	--
India	--	--	--	1
Italy	1	--	--	6
Jamaica	--	--	--	12,800
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	2
Mexico	1,810,000	244,000	57,200	1,410,000
Netherlands	--	--	--	32
Spain	490,000	63,300	--	415,000
Turkey	2	--	--	--
United Kingdom	62	--	--	15
Total	7,060,000	794,000	441,000	5,650,000

-- 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
2007:				
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
September	1,470	1,040	441	12
January-September	19,800	14,300	5,660	118

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
September:											
Veneer base	9,870	1,490	5,250	520	3,580	27	91	147	688	187	21,900
Sheathing	1,130	3,450	4,000	2,530	10,400	2,920	10,900	3,380	7,540	3,420	49,600
Regular gypsum board	24,100	103,000	124,000	75,100	252,000	85,200	155,000	85,500	90,700	50,800	1,050,000
Type X gypsum board	21,400	80,900	86,500	50,600	132,000	36,200	108,000	83,400	134,000	17,600	750,000
Predecorated board	380	682	966	469	1,260	516	1,090	408	627	90	6,490
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,320	1,670	--	3,810	10,300	1,950	285	380	--	19,700
Water/moisture resistant board	5,800	24,000	14,000	6,080	24,700	5,370	11,500	7,890	14,100	5,100	118,000
Total	62,700	215,000	236,000	135,000	427,000	140,000	289,000	181,000	248,000	77,200	2,010,000
January-September:											
Veneer base	118,000	14,900	43,100	3,440	35,100	217	551	1,980	9,770	720	228,000
Sheathing	9,560	34,000	33,800	23,500	105,000	27,400	104,000	42,300	65,300	24,800	470,000
Regular gypsum board	245,000	978,000	1,150,000	686,000	2,540,000	850,000	1,640,000	873,000	941,000	398,000	10,300,000
Type X gypsum board	218,000	774,000	848,000	483,000	1,290,000	326,000	1,020,000	831,000	1,330,000	134,000	7,250,000
Predecorated board	2,580	5,600	8,180	3,770	12,700	3,720	8,910	3,880	6,200	914	56,400
5/16 Mobile home board	--	8,510	17,400	--	28,400	88,700	25,800	3,580	2,180	206	175,000
Water/moisture resistant board	53,800	229,000	126,000	56,600	550,000	49,800	121,000	74,400	141,000	43,000	1,440,000
Total	647,000	2,040,000	2,230,000	1,260,000	4,560,000	1,350,000	2,920,000	1,830,000	2,500,000	602,000	19,900,000

-- 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.