

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN OCTOBER 2008

Producers mined 1.0 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum in October 2008 (table 1). Output was down slightly from September 2008 and 50% less than that of October 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 687,000 metric tons (t) in October 2008 (table 1), which was 5% less than that of September 2008 and 3% less than that of October 2007. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During October 2008, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 29% of the 2.4-Mt total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in October 2008, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 561,000 t (table 2), 7% less than those of September 2008 and 41% more than those of October 2007.

Output of calcined gypsum for October 2008 (table 1) was 1.51 Mt, unchanged from September 2008 and 18% less than that of October 2007. Sales of board products (table 2) were approximately 186 million square meters (2.01 billion square feet), slightly less than those of September 2008 and 24% less than those of October 2007.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in October 2008 were 645,000 t (table 3), 46% more than those of September 2008 and 26% less than those of October 2007. The United States imported crude gypsum from four countries in October 2008. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 62%, followed by Mexico with 38%. Imports from Spain and the United Kingdom were negligible.

Gypsum wallboard imports for October 2008 were 33,300 t, equivalent to 3.70 million square meters (40 million square feet). These imports were 21% more than those of September 2008 and 17% more than those of October 2007. The United States imported wallboard products from two countries in October 2008. Canada accounted for 55% of these imports, followed by Mexico with 45%. Wallboard exports to 33 countries and territories in October 2008 were 8,900 t, equivalent to 984,000 square meters (10.6 million square feet). These exports were about 15% more than those of September 2008 and 5% more than those of October 2007. Most wallboard exports were shipped to 22 western hemisphere countries, with Mexico accounting for 25%, followed by Canada with 21%, and the United Arab Emirates with 10%.

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

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	2007		2008	
	January-October	September	October	January-October
Crude:				
Mined ³	12,100,000 ^r	1,040,000	1,020,000	15,300,000
Imported ⁴	7,930,000	441,000	645,000	6,300,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	6,820,000	721,000	687,000	6,690,000
Total supply	26,900,000 ^r	2,200,000	2,350,000	28,300,000
Crude, exported ⁴	132,000	12,500	15,000	132,000
Consumption	34,600,000	2,190,000	2,340,000	28,100,000
Calcined:				
Produced	18,400,000	1,510,000	1,510,000	15,600,000
Imported ⁶	11,900	1,140	963	11,200
Total supply	18,400,000	1,510,000	1,510,000	15,600,000
Exported ⁶	167,000	10,200	10,500	115,000
Consumption	18,200,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	15,500,000

^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-October	September	October	January-October
Uncalcined:³				
Portland cement	2,840,000	244,000	216,000	1,740,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	1,440,000	360,000	345,000	2,390,000
Total	4,280,000	604,000	561,000	4,140,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁴	21,800,000	1,680,000	1,670,000	18,100,000
Plaster	109,000	8,160	8,490	92,100
Total	21,900,000	1,690,000	1,680,000	18,100,000
Board products: (thousand square feet)⁵				
Regular board	15,100,000	1,050,000	1,040,000	11,400,000
Type X board	8,770,000	750,000	748,000	8,010,000
Other	2,500,000	216,000	217,000	2,280,000
Total supply	26,400,000	2,010,000	2,010,000	21,700,000

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-October	September	October	January-October ²
Brazil	5	--	--	--
Canada	5,350,000	370,000	398,000	4,100,000
China	36,900	--	--	42,200
Dominican Republic	74,500	13,400	--	66,500
Germany	5	--	--	--
India	--	--	--	1
Italy	1	--	--	6
Jamaica	--	--	--	12,800
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	5
Mexico	1,940,000	57,200	247,000	1,660,000
Netherlands	--	--	--	32
Spain	535,000	--	19	415,000
Turkey	2	--	--	--
United Kingdom	62	--	13	28
Total	7,930,000	441,000	645,000	6,300,000

-- Zero.

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

²Includes revisions to previous months' data.

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:				
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
October	1,650	1,020	645	15
January-October	21,500	15,300	6,300	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 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
October:											
Veneer base	9,810	1,480	5,860	482	3,410	7	63	107	904	92	22,200
Sheathing	1,260	4,590	4,000	3,200	9,960	3,320	10,500	4,430	7,370	2,850	51,500
Regular gypsum board	24,600	106,000	123,000	73,700	238,000	81,800	177,000	79,000	87,800	52,000	1,040,000
Type X gypsum board	21,800	81,500	89,600	46,000	132,000	37,300	114,000	75,400	134,000	16,800	748,000
Predecorated board	209	593	872	416	1,710	323	919	399	724	65	6,230
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,020	3,490	--	2,380	7,730	1,870	176	384	38	17,100
Water/moisture resistant board	6,190	24,800	13,800	6,340	23,700	6,020	12,700	7,140	14,400	4,640	120,000
Total	63,900	220,000	240,000	130,000	411,000	137,000	317,000	167,000	245,000	76,500	2,010,000
January-October:⁴											
Veneer base	128,000	16,400	49,000	3,920	38,500	223	614	2,090	10,700	813	250,000
Sheathing	10,800	38,600	37,800	26,700	115,000	30,700	115,000	46,700	72,600	27,700	521,000
Regular gypsum board	270,000	1,080,000	1,280,000	760,000	2,780,000	932,000	1,820,000	952,000	1,030,000	450,000	11,400,000
Type X gypsum board	240,000	856,000	938,000	529,000	1,420,000	363,000	1,140,000	907,000	1,460,000	151,000	8,000,000
Predecorated board	2,790	6,190	9,060	4,190	14,400	4,050	9,830	4,280	6,920	979	62,600
5/16 Mobile home board	--	9,530	20,900	--	30,800	96,500	27,700	3,760	2,570	244	192,000
Water/moisture resistant board	60,000	254,000	139,000	63,000	267,000	55,800	133,000	81,500	156,000	47,700	1,260,000
Total	711,000	2,260,000	2,470,000	1,390,000	4,660,000	1,480,000	3,240,000	2,000,000	2,740,000	679,000	21,600,000

-- 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.

⁴Includes revisions to previous months' data.

Source: Gypsum Association.