

# 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 NOVEMBER 2008

Producers mined 764,000 metric tons (t) of gypsum in November 2008 (table 1). Output decreased 25% from October 2008 and was 57% less than that of November 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 499,000 t in November 2008 (table 1), which was 27% less than that of October 2008 and 16% less than that of November 2007. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During November 2008, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 29% of the 1.7-million-metric-ton (Mt) total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in November 2008, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 511,000 t (table 2), 9% less than those of October 2008 and 33% more than those of November 2007.

Output of calcined gypsum for November 2008 (table 1) was 1.1 Mt, 30% less than October 2008 and 33% less than that of November 2007. Sales of board products (table 2) were approximately 140 million square meters (1.51 billion square feet), a decrease of 25% from those of October 2008 and 33% less than those of November 2007.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in November 2008 were 451,000 t (table 3), 30% less than those of October 2008 and 39% less than those of November 2007. The United States imported crude gypsum from three countries in November 2008. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 69%, followed by Mexico with 25%, and Spain with 6%.

Gypsum wallboard imports for November 2008 were 22,100 t, equivalent to 2.46 million square meters (26 million square feet). These imports were 34% less than those of October 2008, slightly down from those of November 2007. The United States imported wallboard products from five countries in November 2008. Mexico accounted for 57% of these imports, followed by Canada with 41%. Imports from China, Germany, and Denmark were negligible. Wallboard exports to 25 countries and territories in November 2008 were 5,500 t, equivalent to 611,000 square meters (6.6 million square feet). These exports were about 38% less than those of October 2008 and 38% less than those of November 2007. Most wallboard exports were shipped to 18 western hemisphere countries, with Canada and Mexico accounting for 27%, followed by Costa Rica with 8%, and Bermuda and the Bahamas, each with 6%.

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

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

(Metric tons)

	2007		2008	
	January-November	October	November	January-November
Crude:				
Mined <sup>3</sup>	13,200,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,020,000	764,000	16,100,000
Imported <sup>4</sup>	8,660,000	645,000	451,000	6,760,000
Synthetic gypsum <sup>5</sup>	7,410,000	687,000	499,000	7,190,000
Total supply	29,300,000 <sup>r</sup>	2,350,000	1,710,000	30,000,000
Crude, exported <sup>4</sup>	141,000	15,000	8,480	141,000
Consumption	29,200,000	2,340,000	1,710,000	29,900,000
Calcined:				
Produced	20,000,000	1,510,000	1,060,000	16,600,000
Imported <sup>6</sup>	13,000	963	1,010	12,200
Total supply	20,000,000	1,510,000	1,070,000	16,600,000
Exported <sup>6</sup>	179,000	10,500	12,300	127,000
Consumption	19,800,000	1,500,000	1,050,000	16,600,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<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-November	October	November	January-November
Uncalcined: <sup>3</sup>				
Portland cement	3,080,000	216,000	201,000	1,940,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	1,590,000	345,000	310,000	2,700,000
Total	4,660,000	561,000	511,000	4,650,000
Calcined:				
Board products <sup>4</sup>	23,700,000	1,670,000	1,260,000	19,300,000
Plaster	118,000	8,490	6,180	98,300
Total	23,800,000	1,680,000	1,270,000	19,400,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) <sup>5</sup>				
Regular board	16,400,000	1,040,000	791,000	12,200,000
Type X board	9,540,000	748,000	560,000	8,570,000
Other	2,730,000	217,000	160,000	2,440,000
Total supply	25,900,000	2,010,000	1,510,000	23,200,000

<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-November	October	November	January-November <sup>2</sup>
Argentina	2	--	--	--
Brazil	5	--	--	--
Canada	5,910,000	398,000	310,000	4,410,000
China	36,900	--	--	42,200
Dominican Republic	74,500	--	--	66,500
Germany	5	--	--	--
India	1	--	--	1
Italy	1	--	--	6
Jamaica	--	--	--	12,800
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	5
Mexico	2,070,000	247,000	114,000	1,780,000
Morocco	1	--	--	--
Netherlands	--	--	--	32
Spain	575,000	19	27,500	442,000
Turkey	2	--	--	--
United Kingdom	81	13	--	28
Total	8,660,000	645,000	451,000	6,760,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previous months' data.

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:				
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
November	1,210	764	451	8
January-November	22,700	16,100	6,760	141

<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 IN 2008<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
November:											
Veneer base	7,540	1,120	2,900	374	2,760	5	35	131	662	63	15,600
Sheathing	1,110	3,330	2,690	2,420	7,570	2,340	8,140	3,070	5,890	1,730	38,300
Regular gypsum board	18,800	84,100	97,500	56,100	173,000	59,600	132,000	57,600	69,000	42,700	791,000
Type X gypsum board	14,900	62,900	69,800	35,600	97,000	27,100	87,700	59,000	93,900	12,500	560,000
Predecorated board	177	433	599	172	861	258	682	315	639	72	4,210
5/16 Mobile home board	--	563	2,660	--	800	4,340	1,240	169	501	--	10,300
Water/moisture resistant board	4,360	19,800	10,800	4,310	18,000	4,380	10,100	5,260	10,500	4,430	92,000
Total	46,800	172,000	187,000	98,900	300,000	98,000	240,000	126,000	181,000	61,400	1,510,000
January-November: <sup>4</sup>											
Veneer base	136,000	17,500	51,900	4,290	41,200	228	649	2,220	11,300	876	266,000
Sheathing	11,900	41,900	40,500	29,100	123,000	33,100	123,000	49,800	78,500	29,400	560,000
Regular gypsum board	288,000	1,170,000	1,370,000	816,000	2,950,000	992,000	1,950,000	1,010,000	1,100,000	493,000	12,100,000
Type X gypsum board	254,000	919,000	1,010,000	565,000	1,510,000	390,000	1,220,000	966,000	1,560,000	164,000	8,560,000
Predecorated board	2,960	6,620	9,660	4,360	15,200	4,300	10,500	4,600	7,560	1,050	66,800
5/16 Mobile home board	--	10,100	23,600	--	31,600	101,000	28,900	3,930	3,070	244	202,000
Water/moisture resistant board	64,300	273,000	150,000	67,300	286,000	60,200	144,000	86,800	166,000	52,100	1,350,000
Total	758,000	2,440,000	2,660,000	1,490,000	4,970,000	1,580,000	3,480,000	2,120,000	2,920,000	740,000	23,100,000

-- 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.

<sup>4</sup>May include revisions to previous months' data.

Source: Gypsum Association.