

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN DECEMBER 2008

Producers mined 686,000 metric tons (t) of gypsum in December 2008 (table 1). Output decreased 10% from November 2008 and was 28% less than that of the revised data for December 2007. Synthetic gypsum production was 570,000 t in December 2008 (table 1), which was 14% more than that of November 2008 and slightly more than that of December 2007. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During December 2008, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 31% of the 1.8 million-metric-ton (Mt) total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in December 2008, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 420,000 t (table 2), 18% less than those of November 2008 and 4% more than those of December 2007.

Output of calcined gypsum for December 2008 (table 1) was 1.2 Mt, 8% more than November 2008 and 20% less than that of December 2007. Sales of board products (table 2) were approximately 153 million square meters (1.65 billion square feet), an increase of 9% from those of November 2008 and 13% less than those of December 2007.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in December 2008 were 571,000 t (table 3), 27% more than those of November 2008 and 21% less than those of

December 2007. The United States imported crude gypsum from four countries in December 2008. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 57%, followed by Mexico with 27%, Spain with 14%, and Jamaica with 1%.

Gypsum wallboard imports for December 2008 were 16,900 t, equivalent to 1.88 million square meters (20 million square feet). These imports were 24% less than those of November 2008 and 3% more than those of December 2007. The United States imported wallboard products from four countries in December 2008. Canada accounted for 49% of these imports, followed by Mexico with 47%, and China with 4%. Imports from the United Kingdom were negligible. Wallboard exports to 23 countries and territories in December 2008 were 5,400 t, equivalent to 606,000 square meters (6.5 million square feet). These exports were down slightly from those of November 2008 and 13% less than those of December 2007. Most wallboard exports were shipped to 18 western hemisphere countries, with Mexico accounting for 28%, followed by Canada with 25%, Singapore with 12%, the Dominican Republic with 10%, and 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-December	November	December	January-December ³
Crude:				
Mined ⁴	15,300,000 ^r	764,000	686,000	12,000,000
Imported ⁵	9,390,000	451,000	571,000	7,330,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁶	7,940,000 ^r	499,000	570,000	7,790,000
Total supply	32,700,000 ^r	1,710,000	1,830,000	27,100,000
Crude, exported ⁵	147,000	8,480	8,040	149,000
Consumption	32,500,000 ^r	1,710,000	1,820,000	27,000,000
Calcined:				
Produced	23,500,000 ^r	1,070,000 ^r	1,150,000	17,900,000
Imported ⁷	13,600 ^r	1,010	1,040	13,300
Total supply	23,500,000 ^r	1,070,000 ^r	1,160,000	18,000,000
Exported ⁷	201,000 ^r	12,300	7,950	135,000
Consumption	23,300,000 ^r	1,050,000	1,150,000	17,800,000

^rRevised.

¹Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes revisions to prior months' data.

⁴Some data were estimated from semiannual reports.

⁵Import and export data are for "Gypsum; anhydrite," Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2520.10.0000.

⁶Reported production only.

⁷Import 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-December	November	December	January-December
Uncalcined: ³				
Portland cement	3,320,000	201,000	158,000	2,100,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	1,740,000	310,000	262,000	2,960,000
Total	5,070,000	511,000	420,000	5,070,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁴	25,300,000	1,260,000	1,370,000	20,700,000
Plaster	125,000	6,180	6,490	105,000
Total	25,400,000	1,270,000	1,380,000	20,800,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) ⁵				
Regular board	17,400,000	791,000	833,000	13,000,000
Type X board	10,200,000	560,000	645,000	9,220,000
Other	2,920,000	160,000	171,000	2,610,000
Total supply	27,800,000	1,510,000	1,650,000	24,800,000

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-December	November	December	January-December ²
Argentina	2	--	--	--
Brazil	5	--	--	--
Canada	6,410,000	310,000	328,000	4,740,000
China	36,900	--	--	42,200
Dominican Republic	88,000	--	--	66,500
Germany	5	--	--	--
India	1	--	--	1
Italy	1	--	--	6
Jamaica	--	--	6,230	19,100
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	5
Mexico	2,280,000	114,000	156,000	1,930,000
Morocco	1	--	--	--
Netherlands	--	--	--	32
Spain	575,000	27,500	81,500	524,000
Turkey	2	--	--	--
United Kingdom	81	--	--	28
Total	9,390,000	451,000	571,000	7,330,000

-- Zero.

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

²May include 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:				
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	2,450 ^r	1,090 ^r	714	10
February	2,070 ^r	1,030 ^r	414	11
March	2,190 ^r	1,060 ^r	492	19
April	2,580 ^r	1,110 ^r	788	15
May	2,280 ^r	1,020 ^r	623	13
June	2,370 ^r	1,040 ^r	632	12
July	2,630 ^r	1,150 ^r	762	13
August	2,440 ^r	1,020	794	12
September	2,230 ^r	1,040	441	12
October	2,350 ^r	1,020	645	15
November	1,710 ^r	764	451	8
December	1,820	686	571	8
January-December	27,100	12,000	7,330	149

^rRevised.

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
December:											
Veneer base	7,850	1,420	4,450	653	2,930	--	44	189	793	119	18,400
Sheathing	1,010	2,500	2,680	2,080	7,680	1,760	8,850	2,810	5,140	1,970	36,500
Regular gypsum board	21,200	90,300	105,000	66,300	191,000	62,900	124,000	63,100	67,100	41,900	833,000
Type X gypsum board	17,000	73,600	80,200	45,800	118,000	33,500	93,700	70,100	101,000	12,400	645,000
Predecorated board	238	401	858	289	951	371	684	211	489	73	4,570
5/16 Mobile home board	--	568	3,850	--	1,050	3,120	1,000	77	63	--	9,720
Water/moisture resistant board	4,700	21,500	11,300	5,740	20,100	4,990	9,650	6,480	11,600	5,730	102,000
Total	52,000	190,000	208,000	121,000	342,000	107,000	238,000	143,000	186,000	62,200	1,650,000
January-December:⁴											
Veneer base	144,000	19,000	56,300	4,950	44,200	228	693	2,410	12,100	995	284,000
Sheathing	12,900	44,400	43,200	31,200	130,000	34,800	132,000	52,600	83,700	31,400	596,000
Regular gypsum board	310,000	1,260,000	1,480,000	882,000	3,150,000	1,050,000	2,070,000	1,070,000	1,170,000	535,000	13,000,000
Type X gypsum board	271,000	992,000	1,090,000	611,000	1,630,000	424,000	1,320,000	1,040,000	1,660,000	176,000	9,210,000
Predecorated board	3,200	7,030	10,500	4,650	16,200	4,670	11,200	4,810	8,050	1,120	71,400
5/16 Mobile home board	--	10,700	27,400	--	32,600	104,000	29,900	4,000	3,130	244	212,000
Water/moisture resistant board	69,000	295,000	162,000	73,000	306,000	65,200	153,000	93,300	178,000	57,800	1,450,000
Total	810,000	2,630,000	2,870,000	1,610,000	5,310,000	1,690,000	3,720,000	2,270,000	3,110,000	803,000	24,800,000

-- 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.

⁴May include revisions to previous months' data.

Source: Gypsum Association.