

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN JANUARY 2009

Producers mined 832,000 metric tons (t) of gypsum in January 2009 (table 1). Output increased 21% from that of December 2008 and was 24% less than the revised output data for January 2008. Synthetic gypsum production was 592,000 t in January 2009 (table 1), which was 4% more than that of December 2008 and 10% less than that of January 2008. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During January 2009, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 33% of the 1.8 million-metric-ton (Mt) total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in January 2009, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 353,000 t (table 2), 16% less than those of December 2008 and 14% less than those of January 2008.

Output of calcined gypsum for January 2009 (table 1) was 1.3 Mt, 8% more than that of December 2008 and 23% less than that of January 2008. Sales of board products (table 2) were approximately 145 million square meters (1.56 billion square feet), a decrease of 6% from those of December 2008 and 47% less than those of January 2008.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in January 2009 were 381,000 t (table 3), 33% less than those of December 2008 and 47% less than those of January 2008. The United States imported crude gypsum from five

countries in January 2009. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 64%, followed by Mexico with 23%, and Spain with 13%. Imports from Germany and Brazil were negligible.

Gypsum wallboard imports for January 2009 were 26,600 t, equivalent to 3.0 million square meters (32 million square feet). These imports were 57% more than those of December 2008 and 41% more than those of January 2008. The United States imported wallboard products from four countries in January 2009. Mexico accounted for 52% of these imports, followed by Canada with 48%. Imports from Indonesia and China were negligible. Wallboard exports to 27 countries and territories in January 2009 were 49,300 t, equivalent to 5.5 million square meters (59 million square feet). These exports were 799% more than those of December 2008 and 508% more than those of January 2008. The sharp rise in January 2009 wallboard exports was attributed to a large increase in Canadian orders, from 1,400 t in December 2008 to nearly 45,000 t in January 2009. Most wallboard exports were shipped to 19 western hemisphere countries, with Canada accounting for 91%, followed by Mexico with 3%, and the Dominican Republic with 2%.

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

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	2008		2009
	January	December	January
Crude:			
Mined ³	1,090,000 ^r	686,000	832,000
Imported ⁴	714,000	571,000	381,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	657,000 ^r	570,000	592,000
Total supply	2,460,000 ^r	1,830,000	1,810,000
Crude, exported ⁴	10,000	8,040	7,090
Consumption	2,450,000 ^r	1,820,000	1,800,000
Calcined:			
Produced	1,620,000 ^r	1,150,000	1,250,000
Imported ⁶	1,180	1,040	1,040
Total supply	1,620,000 ^r	1,160,000	1,250,000
Exported ⁶	9,140	7,950	8,590
Consumption	1,610,000 ^r	1,150,000	1,240,000

^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)

	2008		2009
	January	December	January
Uncalcined:³			
Portland cement	279,000	158,000	114,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	134,000	262,000	239,000
Total	413,000	420,000	353,000
Calcined:			
Board products ⁴	2,430,000	1,370,000	1,300,000
Plaster	11,400	6,490	6,610
Total	2,440,000	1,380,000	1,300,000
Board products: (thousand square feet)⁵			
Regular board	1,710,000	833,000	758,000
Type X board	944,000	645,000	615,000
Other	262,000	171,000	183,000
Total supply	2,920,000	1,650,000	1,560,000

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	2008		2009
	January	December	January
Brazil	--	--	1
Canada	375,000	328,000	243,000
China	41,900	--	--
Germany	--	--	40
Jamaica	--	6,230	--
Mexico	184,000	156,000	88,400
Spain	113,000	81,500	49,900
Total	714,000	571,000	381,000

-- 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
2008:				
January	2,450	1,090	714	10
February	2,070	1,030	414	11
March	2,190	1,060	492	19
April	2,580	1,110	788	15
May	2,280	1,020	623	13
June	2,370	1,040	632	12
July	2,630	1,150	762	13
August	2,440	1,020	794	12
September	2,230	1,040	441	12
October	2,350	1,020	645	15
November	1,710	764	451	8
December	1,820	686	571	8
January-December	27,100	12,000	7,330	149
2009, January	1,790	832	381	7

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 2009^{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
January:											
Veneer base	7,310	1,280	3,290	358	2,970	--	49	86	838	70	16,200
Sheathing	920	2,500	1,940	1,790	7,980	2,030	10,300	3,110	5,850	2,130	38,600
Regular gypsum board	20,400	80,800	92,400	56,100	166,000	58,700	133,000	53,600	67,700	29,100	758,000
Type X gypsum board	17,400	67,500	67,800	36,500	107,000	26,500	99,200	69,900	113,000	10,700	615,000
Liner Panel	501	1,540	2,780	880	331	330	1,360	1,050	1,080	215	10,100
Predecorated board	294	430	627	282	1,210	268	947	383	445	41	4,920
5/16 Mobile home board	--	425	2,030	--	1,730	4,760	1,400	294	39	--	10,700
Water/moisture resistant board	5,280	20,500	11,000	5,130	21,700	4,980	11,700	5,890	12,600	3,490	102,000
Total	52,000	175,000	182,000	101,000	309,000	97,600	258,000	134,000	201,000	45,700	1,560,000

-- 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.