

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN FEBRUARY 2009

Producers mined 806,000 metric tons (t) of gypsum in February 2009 (table 1). Output decreased 3% from that of January 2009 and was 52% less than the revised output data for February 2008. Synthetic gypsum production was 630,000 t in February 2009 (table 1), which was 6% more than that of January 2009 and slightly less than that of February 2008. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During February 2009, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 38% of the 1.7-million-metric-ton (Mt) total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in February 2009, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 359,000 t (table 2), slightly more than those of January 2009 and 12% less than those of February 2008.

Output of calcined gypsum for February 2009 (table 1) was 1.2 Mt, 7% less than that of January 2009 and 24% less than that of February 2008. Sales of board products (table 2) were approximately 140 million square meters (1.51 billion square feet), a decrease of 3% from those of January 2009 and 33% less than those of February 2008.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in February 2009 were 233,000 t (table 3), 39% less than those of January 2009 and 44% less than those of February

2008. The United States imported crude gypsum from two countries in February 2009. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 72%, followed by Mexico with 28%.

Gypsum wallboard imports for February 2009 were 19,200 t, equivalent to 2.1 million square meters (23 million square feet). These imports were 28% less than those of January 2009 and 3% less than those of February 2008. The United States imported wallboard products from three countries in February 2009. Mexico accounted for 53% of these imports, followed by Canada with 46%. Imports from China were negligible. Wallboard exports to 29 countries and territories in February 2009 were 43,100 t, equivalent to 4.8 million square meters (52 million square feet). These exports were 13% less than those of January 2009 and 512% more than those of February 2008. An adjustment by the U.S. Census Bureau in the calculation of wallboard exports to Canada resulted in the large year-over-year increase. Consequently, the sizeable increase should not be interpreted as an actual rise in Canadian exports. Most wallboard exports were shipped to 23 western hemisphere countries, with Canada accounting for 93%, followed by Mexico with 2%.

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

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	2008		2009	
	January-February	January	February	January-February
Crude:				
Mined ³	2,130,000 ^r	832,000	806,000	1,640,000
Imported ⁴	1,130,000	381,000	233,000	614,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	1,280,000 ^r	592,000	630,000	1,220,000
Total supply	4,530,000 ^r	1,810,000	1,670,000	3,470,000
Crude, exported ⁴	21,200	7,090	14,100	21,200
Consumption	4,510,000 ^r	1,800,000	1,650,000	3,450,000
Calcined:				
Produced	3,180,000 ^r	1,250,000	1,160,000	2,410,000
Imported ⁶	1,890	1,040	1,090	2,120
Total supply	3,180,000 ^r	1,250,000	1,160,000	2,410,000
Exported ⁶	19,800	8,590	10,000	18,600
Consumption	3,160,000 ^r	1,240,000	1,150,000	2,400,000

^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-February	January	February	January-February
Uncalcined:³				
Portland cement	448,000	114,000	119,000	234,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	340,000	239,000	240,000	478,000
Total	788,000	353,000	359,000	712,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁴	3,790,000	1,300,000	1,260,000	2,550,000
Plaster	19,700	6,610	7,120	13,700
Total	3,810,000	1,300,000	1,260,000	2,570,000
Board products: (thousand square feet)⁵				
Regular board	2,450,000	758,000 ^r	742,000	1,500,000
Type X board	1,630,000	616,000 ^r	588,000	1,200,000
Other	473,000	183,000 ^r	179,000	362,000
Total supply	4,550,000	1,560,000 ^r	1,510,000	3,070,000

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-February	January	February	January-February
Brazil	--	1	--	1
Canada	682,000	243,000	167,000	410,000
China	41,900	--	--	--
Dominican Republic	13,500	--	--	--
Germany	--	40	--	40
Jamaica	--	--	--	--
Korea, Republic of	3	--	--	--
Mexico	184,000	88,400	66,000	154,000
Spain	113,000	49,900	--	49,900
Total	1,130,000	381,000	233,000	614,000

-- 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:				
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	1,210 ^r	832	381	7
February	1,020	806	233	14
January-February	2,230	1,640	614	21

^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 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
February:											
Veneer base	8,150	1,430	3,080	354	2,880	55	13	102	719	45	16,800
Sheathing	853	2,370	2,070	1,680	7,980	1,840	8,930	2,530	5,060	2,730	36,000
Regular gypsum board	19,100	84,000	96,900	62,500	163,000	55,800	120,000	54,800	63,900	21,300	742,000
Type X gypsum board	16,000	64,300	64,900	39,000	107,000	28,300	101,000	64,100	94,900	9,440	588,000
Liner Panel	499	1,640	662	385	3,650	297	1,310	722	1,010	212	10,400
Predecorated board	148	511	531	336	827	261	809	270	399	105	4,200
5/16 Mobile home board	--	272	417	--	1,370	4,120	1,100	39	77	--	7,400
Water/moisture resistant board	5,230	21,700	12,600	6,400	20,400	4,950	12,500	5,310	11,400	3,770	104,000
Total	49,900	176,000	181,000	111,000	307,000	95,600	246,000	128,000	177,000	37,600	1,510,000
January-February:											
Veneer base	15,500	2,700	6,360	711	5,840	55	62	188	1,560	115	33,100
Sheathing	1,770	4,870	4,010	3,470	16,000	3,860	19,300	5,640	10,900	4,860	74,600
Regular gypsum board	39,400	165,000	189,000	119,000	329,000	115,000	254,000	108,000	132,000	50,400	1,500,000
Type X gypsum board	33,400	132,000	133,000	75,500	214,000	55,800	200,000	134,000	207,000	20,200	1,200,000
Liner Panel	1,000	3,180	1,540	714	6,430	628	2,670	1,770	2,090	428	20,400
Predecorated board	442	942	1,160	618	2,030	530	1,760	653	844	146	9,120
5/16 Mobile home board	--	696	2,440	--	3,100	8,890	2,490	333	116	--	18,100
Water/moisture resistant board	10,500	42,200	23,600	11,500	42,100	9,930	24,200	11,200	24,000	7,260	207,000
Total	102,000	351,000	361,000	211,000	618,000	194,000	504,000	262,000	379,000	83,400	3,070,000

-- 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.