

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

Paula R. Neely (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7949
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: sosborne@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

GYPSUM IN MARCH 2009

Producers mined 806,000 metric tons (t) of gypsum in March 2009 (table 1). Output was unchanged from that of February 2009 and was 52% less than the revised output data for March 2008. Synthetic gypsum production was 622,000 t in March 2009 (table 1), slightly less than that of February 2009 and 4% less than that of March 2008. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During March 2009, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 34% of the 1.8 million-metric-ton (Mt) total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in March 2009, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 377,000 t (table 2), 5% more than those of February 2009 and 19% more than those of March 2008.

Output of calcined gypsum for March 2009 (table 1) was 1.27 Mt, 9% more than that of February 2009 and 19% less than that of March 2008. Sales of board products (table 2) were 1.45 Mt, equivalent to approximately 162 million square meters (1.74 billion square feet), an increase of 15% from those of February 2009 and 23% less than those of March 2008.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in March 2009 were 394,000 t (table 3), 69% more than those of February 2009 and 20% less than those of March 2008. The United States imported crude gypsum from three countries

in March 2009. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 73%, followed by Mexico with 27%. Imports from Germany were negligible.

Gypsum wallboard imports for March 2009 were 25,100 t, equivalent to 2.8 million square meters (30 million square feet). These imports were 31% more than those of February 2009 and 12% less than those of March 2008. The United States imported wallboard products from two countries in March 2009. Canada accounted for 52% of these imports, followed by Mexico with 48%. Wallboard exports to 29 countries and territories in March 2009 were 50,300 t, equivalent to 5.6 million square meters (60 million square feet). These exports were 17% more than those of February 2009 and 522% more than the reported March 2008 level. An adjustment by the U.S. Census Bureau in the calculation of 2009 monthly 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 exports. Most wallboard exports were shipped to 22 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-March	February	March	January-March
Crude:				
Mined ³	3,190,000 ^r	806,000	806,000	2,440,000
Imported ⁴	1,620,000	233,000	394,000	1,010,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	1,920,000	630,000	622,000	1,840,000
Total supply	6,730,000 ^r	1,670,000	1,820,000	5,300,000
Crude, exported ⁴	40,600	14,100	12,200	33,400
Consumption	6,690,000 ^r	1,650,000	1,810,000	5,260,000
Calcined:				
Produced	4,770,000 ^r	1,160,000	1,270,000	3,680,000
Imported ⁶	3,720	1,090	1,520	3,640
Total supply	4,770,000 ^r	1,160,000	1,270,000	3,680,000
Exported ⁶	31,600	10,000	9,730	28,300
Consumption	4,740,000 ^r	1,150,000	1,260,000	3,660,000

^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-March	February	March	January-March
Uncalcined: ³				
Portland cement	576,000	119,000	125,000	359,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	531,000	240,000	252,000	730,000
Total	1,110,000	359,000	377,000	1,090,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁴	5,660,000	1,260,000	1,450,000	4,000,000
Plaster	28,800	7,120	7,840	21,600
Total	5,690,000	1,260,000	1,460,000	4,030,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) ⁵				
Regular board	3,620,000	742,000	873,000	2,370,000
Type X board	2,470,000	588,000	668,000	1,870,000
Other	711,000	179,000	199,000	561,000
Total supply	6,800,000	1,510,000	1,740,000	4,810,000

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-March	February	March	January-March
Brazil	--	--	--	1
Canada	997,000	167,000	289,000	698,000
China	41,900	--	--	--
Dominican Republic	26,500	--	--	--
France	--	18	--	18 ^r
Germany	--	--	24	64
Korea, Republic of	3	5 ^r	--	5 ^r
Mexico	402,000	66,000	106,000	260,000
Spain	152,000	--	--	49,900
Total	1,620,000	233,000	394,000	1,010,000

^rRevised. -- 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:				
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	832	381	7
February	1,020	806	233	14
March	1,190	806	394	12
January-March	3,420	2,440	1,010	33

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
March:											
Veneer base	10,000	1,660	3,730	362	2,690	54	41	184	1,260	54	20,100
Sheathing	689	3,040	2,580	2,120	7,020	2,310	9,110	3,130	5,310	2,410	37,700
Regular gypsum board	24,500	98,700	113,000	67,700	191,000	69,400	138,000	62,000	79,600	28,300	873,000
Type X gypsum board	18,800	77,700	74,300	46,400	115,000	33,700	101,000	76,100	116,000	9,440	668,000
Liner Panel	450	1,840	807	361	4,210	275	950	484	1,110	219	10,700
Predecorated board	177	594	635	293	1,130	274	813	297	600	63	4,870
5/16 Mobile home board	--	527	543	--	1,130	5,890	1,750	91	--	38	9,970
Water/moisture resistant board	5,950	24,500	13,600	7,370	22,200	5,970	12,800	6,330	12,900	4,180	116,000
Total	60,600	209,000	209,000	125,000	344,000	118,000	264,000	149,000	217,000	44,700	1,740,000
January-March:											
Veneer base	25,500	4,360	10,100	1,070	8,530	109	103	371	2,820	169	53,100
Sheathing	2,460	7,910	6,530	5,460	22,600	5,980	25,000	8,610	16,100	7,270	108,000
Regular gypsum board	64,000	264,000	299,000	183,000	512,000	173,000	367,000	169,000	211,000	78,700	2,320,000
Type X gypsum board	52,200	209,000	204,000	120,000	324,000	86,800	283,000	209,000	323,000	29,600	1,840,000
Liner Panel	1,450	4,990	2,340	1,040	10,600	882	3,530	2,220	3,180	647	30,900
Predecorated board	619	1,540	1,790	911	3,160	803	2,570	950	1,440	209	14,000
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,220	2,990	--	4,230	14,800	4,240	424	116	38	28,000
Water/moisture resistant board	16,500	66,800	37,000	18,800	63,900	15,300	35,600	17,300	36,900	11,400	320,000
Total	163,000	560,000	564,000	330,000	949,000	297,000	721,000	408,000	595,000	128,000	4,720,000

-- 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.