

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## GYPSUM IN FEBRUARY 2007

Producers mined 1.8 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum in February 2007 (table 1). Output was 42% more than that of January 2007 and 21% more than that of February 2006. Synthetic gypsum production was 654,000 metric tons (t) in February 2007 (table 1), which was slightly less than that of January 2007, and 16% less than that of February 2006. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the largest domestic consumer of gypsum. During January through February 2007, synthetic gypsum accounted for 1.32 Mt, or about 23%, of the 5.75 Mt supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in February 2007, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 361,000 t (table 2), 13% less than those of January 2007 and 24% less than those of February 2006.

Output of calcined gypsum for February 2007 (table 1) was 1.74 Mt, 3% less than that of January 2007 and 11% less than that of February 2006. Sales of board products were about 2.4 billion square feet (223 million square meters), 8% less than those of January 2007 and 18% less than those of February 2006.

Import and export data for February 2007 were incomplete by time of publication. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in January 2007 were 714,000 t (table 3), 22% less than that of December 2006 and 28% less than that of January 2006. Canada accounted for 52% of crude gypsum imports, followed by Mexico with 33%, Spain with 15%. Small amounts of crude gypsum were also imported from China and Brazil. Gypsum wallboard imports for January 2007 were 54,000 t, equivalent to 45 million square feet (4.2 million square meters). These imports were slightly more than those of December 2006 and 32% less than those of January 2006. Canada accounted for 58% of wallboard imports, followed by Mexico with 41%, and China with 1%. Costa Rica and Sweden also accounted for small imports of wallboard. Wallboard exports to 30 countries and territories in January 2007 were 6,600 t, equivalent to 7.9 million square feet (735,000 square meters). These exports were about the same as those of December 2006 and 31% less than those of January 2006. Most of these wallboard exports went to other western hemisphere countries.

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

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

(Metric tons)

	2007			2006
	February	January	January-February	January-February
Crude:				
Mined <sup>3</sup>	1,800,000	1,270,000	3,070,000	3,080,000
Imported <sup>4</sup>	694,000	714,000	1,410,000	1,930,000
Synthetic gypsum <sup>5</sup>	654,000	663,000	1,320,000	1,540,000
Total supply	3,150,000	2,640,000	5,790,000	6,550,000
Crude, exported <sup>4</sup>	12,800	24,500	37,300	26,200
Consumption	3,140,000	2,620,000	5,750,000	6,520,000
Calcined:				
Produced	1,740,000	1,800,000	3,540,000	4,160,000
Imported <sup>6</sup>	1,070	945	2,020	960
Total supply	1,740,000	1,800,000	3,540,000	4,160,000
Exported <sup>6</sup>	10,700	14,000	12,000	30,300
Consumption	1,730,000	1,780,000	3,530,000	4,130,000

<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>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			2006
	February	January	January-February	January-February
Uncalcined: <sup>3</sup>				
Portland cement	228,000	279,000	507,000	522,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	133,000	134,000	267,000	386,000
Total	361,000	413,000	774,000	905,000
Calcined:				
Board products <sup>4</sup>	2,000,000	2,180,000 <sup>r</sup>	4,180,000	5,020,000
Plaster	10,200	11,400	21,500	23,300
Total	2,010,000	2,190,000	4,200,000	5,050,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) <sup>5</sup>				
Regular board	1,390,000	1,520,000 <sup>r</sup>	2,910,000	3,720,000
Type X board	786,000	844,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,630,000	1,770,000
Other	223,000	245,000 <sup>r</sup>	468,000	543,000
Total supply	2,400,000	2,610,000 <sup>r</sup>	5,010,000	6,030,000

<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>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		2006	
	January	December	December	January
Brazil	5	--	--	1
Canada	368,000	696,000	696,000	686,000
China	24	--	--	--
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	9,300
France	--	--	--	954
India	--	111	111	--
Mexico	234,000	166,000	166,000	257,000
Spain	111,000	47,500	47,500	43,600
Total	714,000	910,000	910,000	997,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data 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<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Consumption <sup>3</sup>	Production <sup>4</sup>	Imports <sup>5</sup>	Exports <sup>5</sup>
2005:				
December	2,840	1,820	1,040	14
January-December	30,200	19,200	11,200	189
2006:				
January	2,580	1,590	997	14
February	2,410	1,490	928	12
March	2,600	1,640	970	14
April	2,650	1,540	1,120	8
May	2,710	1,640	1,080	10
June	2,650	1,690	972	9
July	2,560	1,550	1,020	9
August	2,700	1,690	1,030	12
September	2,330	1,490	848	15
October	2,230	1,490	752	13
November	2,120	1,370	759	12
December	2,270	1,370	910	11
January-December	29,800	18,600	11,400	139
2007:				
January	1,960	1,270 <sup>r</sup>	714	25
February	2,480	1,800	694	13
January-February	4,440	3,070	1,410	38

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<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<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
2007:											
February:											
Veneer base	19,000	2,060	5,490	506	6,920	18	25	219	1,370	135	35,800
Sheathing	1,370	3,240	3,730	2,320	13,700	2,540	7,810	4,750	7,860	2,120	49,400
Regular gypsum board	33,600	117,000	145,000	85,400	395,000	113,000	197,000	133,000	141,000	32,900	1,390,000
Type X gypsum board	26,900	81,000	96,700	55,500	149,000	30,900	87,300	98,000	153,000	8,310	786,000
Predecorated board	194	583	722	425	1,230	228	763	393	556	89	5,180
5/16 Mobile home board	--	362	2,190	--	3,000	9,390	4,590	102	117	--	19,700
Water/moisture resistant board	5,120	19,000	12,200	6,240	26,200	5,260	10,400	8,490	14,100	5,590	112,000
Total	86,200	224,000	266,000	150,000	595,000	162,000	308,000	245,000	318,000	49,100	2,400,000
January-February:											
Veneer base	39,100	4,560	13,000	1,210	13,300	23	102	542	2,830	159	74,900
Sheathing	2,860	7,830	8,430	5,650	28,300	5,700	15,900	10,300	17,400	3,360	106,000
Regular gypsum board	71,600	249,000	321,000	184,000	827,000	233,000	404,000	266,000	290,000	69,300	2,910,000
Type X gypsum board	56,800	174,000	212,000	116,000	307,000	65,000	175,000	195,000	315,000	14,300	1,630,000
Predecorated board	517	1,250	1,570	1,000	2,300	601	1,550	830	1,160	140	10,900
5/16 Mobile home board	--	907	3,810	--	7,710	19,600	9,270	221	341	--	41,900
Water/moisture resistant board	11,100	39,900	27,800	12,700	54,100	10,500	21,400	18,100	28,700	10,300	235,000
Total	182,000	477,000	587,000	321,000	1,240,000	335,000	628,000	491,000	655,000	97,600	5,010,000

-- 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.

Source: Gypsum Association.