

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN MAY 2006

Producers mined 1.64 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum in May 2006 (table 1). Output was 6% more than that of April 2006 and 12% less than that of May 2005. Synthetic gypsum production was 618,000 metric tons (t) in May 2006 (table 1), which was 20% less than that of April 2006, and 19% less than that of May 2005. 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 April 2006 synthetic gypsum accounted for 3.41 Mt, or about 24%, of the 13.4-Mt supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 542,000 t (table 2), 8% more than those of April 2006 and 20% more than those of May 2005.

Output of calcined gypsum for May 2006 (table 1) was 2.23 Mt, 5% more than that of April 2006 and 11% more than that of May 2005. Sales of board products were about 3.3 billion square feet (302 million square meters), 10% more than those of April 2006 and 9% more than those of May 2005.

U.S. Government import and export data for May 2006 were not available at the time of publication. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in April 2006 were 1,110,000 t (table 3), 14% more than those of March 2006 and 22% more than those of May 2005. Gypsum wallboard imports for April 2006 were 88,000 t, equivalent to 106 million square feet (9.8 million square meters). These imports were 13% less than those of March 2006 and 57% more than those of April 2005. Canada accounted for 46% of wallboard imports, followed by Mexico with 24%, China with 21%, Germany with 9%, and Costa Rica with less than 1%. Wallboard exports to 34 countries and territories in April 2006 were 6,500 t, equivalent to 7.8 million square feet (724,000 square meters). These exports were 28% less than those of March 2006 and 17% less than those of April 2005.

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

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

| | 2006 | | | 2005 |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| | May | April | January-May | January-May |
| Crude: | | | | |
| Mined ³ | 1,640,000 | 1,540,000 | 7,900,000 | 7,170,000 |
| Imported ⁴ | NA | 1,110,000 | NA | 4,390,000 |
| Synthetic gypsum ⁵ | 618,000 | 769,000 | 3,810,000 | 3,680,000 |
| Total supply | NA | 3,420,000 | NA | 15,200,000 |
| Crude, exported ⁴ | NA | 8,420 | NA | 79,900 |
| Consumption | NA | 3,410,000 | NA | 15,200,000 |
| Calcined: | | | | |
| Produced | 2,230,000 | 2,120,000 | 10,700,000 | 9,790,000 |
| Imported ⁶ | NA | 773 | NA | 1,710 |
| Total supply | NA | 2,120,000 | NA | 9,790,000 |
| Exported ⁶ | NA | 20,700 | NA | 76,900 |
| Consumption | NA | 2,100,000 | NA | 9,710,000 |

NA Not available.

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)

| | 2006 | | | 2005 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| | May | April | January-May | January-May |
| Uncalcined:³ | | | | |
| Portland cement | 332,000 | 306,000 | 1,430,000 | 1,440,000 |
| Agriculture and miscellaneous | 211,000 | 196,000 | 991,000 | 1,040,000 |
| Total | 542,000 | 502,000 | 2,420,000 | 2,480,000 |
| Calcined: | | | | |
| Board products ⁴ | 2,710,000 | 2,460,000 | 13,100,000 | 12,100,000 |
| Plaster | 12,900 | 12,400 | 64,400 | 67,900 |
| Total | 2,730,000 | 2,480,000 | 13,200,000 | 12,200,000 |
| Board products: (thousand square feet)⁵ | | | | |
| Regular board | 1,960,000 | 1,810,000 | 9,620,000 | 8,970,000 |
| Type X board | 1,000,000 | 889,000 | 4,680,000 | 4,260,000 |
| Other | 292,000 | 261,000 | 1,410,000 | 1,320,000 |
| Total supply | 3,260,000 | 2,960,000 | 15,700,000 | 14,600,000 |

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 | 2006 | | | 2005 |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------------|
| | April | March | January-April | January-April |
| Austria | 18 | -- | 30 | -- |
| Bahrain | -- | -- | -- | 7 |
| Brazil | -- | -- | 1 | -- |
| Canada | 643,000 | 526,000 | 2,390,000 | 2,300,000 |
| China | 8,530 | 4,800 | 13,500 | 18 |
| Dominica | -- | -- | -- | 2 |
| Dominican Republic | 15,800 | 6,500 | 31,600 | 59,200 |
| France | 14 | 16 | 983 | -- |
| Germany | 5,350 | 8,550 | 13,900 | 60 |
| India | 1 | -- | 1 | -- |
| Jamaica | -- | -- | -- | 21,600 |
| Korea, Republic of | -- | 5 | 5 | -- |
| Mexico | 291,000 | 329,000 | 1,150,000 | 770,000 |
| Peru | -- | -- | -- | 80 |
| Spain | 151,000 | 94,200 | 406,000 | 247,000 |
| Sweden | -- | 20 | 20 | -- |
| United Kingdom | -- | -- | 19 | -- |
| Total | 1,110,000 | 970,000 | 4,010,000 | 3,400,000 |

-- 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 |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2005: | | | | |
| March | 2,400 | 1,470 | 964 | 27 |
| April | 2,320 | 1,420 | 909 | 12 |
| May | 2,800 | 1,820 | 994 | 11 |
| June | 2,580 | 1,620 | 972 | 10 |
| July | 2,500 | 1,590 | 923 | 9 |
| August | 2,550 | 1,630 | 926 | 12 |
| September | 2,890 | 1,680 | 1,230 | 18 |
| October | 2,550 | 1,720 | 848 | 14 |
| November | 2,400 | 1,550 | 863 | 17 |
| 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 | NA | 1,640 | NA | NA |

NA Not available.

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^{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 |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|------------|
| 2006: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| May | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Veneer base | 25,500 | 1,850 | 7,230 | 414 | 9,770 | 28 | 5 | 315 | 1,750 | 17 | 46,900 |
| Sheathing | 1,660 | 6,390 | 6,340 | 4,960 | 18,500 | 3,640 | 8,630 | 8,340 | 9,370 | 1,580 | 69,400 |
| Regular gypsum board | 41,700 | 148,000 | 218,000 | 114,000 | 572,000 | 144,000 | 206,000 | 206,000 | 210,000 | 37,600 | 1,960,000 |
| Type X gypsum board | 32,300 | 98,400 | 136,000 | 74,600 | 175,000 | 35,600 | 132,000 | 132,000 | 205,000 | 7,920 | 1,000,000 |
| Predecorated board | 289 | 1,010 | 861 | 410 | 1,290 | 407 | 240 | 240 | 459 | 79 | 5,880 |
| 5/16 Mobile home board | -- | 864 | 3,660 | -- | 8,420 | 11,600 | 123 | 123 | 315 | -- | 31,200 |
| Water/moisture resistant board | 5,540 | 23,500 | 15,800 | 6,950 | 32,800 | 5,520 | 12,500 | 12,500 | 17,500 | 4,750 | 139,000 |
| Total | 107,000 | 281,000 | 389,000 | 201,000 | 818,000 | 201,000 | 359,000 | 359,000 | 445,000 | 52,000 | 3,260,000 |
| January- May: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Veneer base | 121,000 | 11,700 | 36,200 | 3,290 | 44,100 | 100 | 1,740 | 1,740 | 7,740 | 248 | 226,000 |
| Sheathing | 7,380 | 23,200 | 26,900 | 26,500 | 87,600 | 15,700 | 36,600 | 36,600 | 46,300 | 8,310 | 330,000 |
| Regular gypsum board | 210,000 | 733,000 | 1,090,000 | 570,000 | 2,820,000 | 710,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,010,000 | 181,000 | 9,620,000 |
| Type X gypsum board | 145,000 | 457,000 | 624,000 | 348,000 | 803,000 | 183,000 | 622,000 | 622,000 | 948,000 | 39,500 | 4,680,000 |
| Predecorated board | 1,380 | 3,960 | 4,650 | 2,470 | 6,450 | 2,030 | 1,970 | 1,970 | 3,060 | 277 | 31,300 |
| 5/16 Mobile home board | -- | 3,080 | 14,200 | -- | 47,300 | 65,000 | 565 | 565 | 2,120 | 39 | 162,000 |
| Water/moisture resistant board | 27,000 | 110,000 | 155,000 | 33,900 | 155,000 | 30,100 | 57,200 | 57,200 | 82,200 | 22,700 | 661,000 |
| Total | 512,000 | 1,340,000 | 3,960,000 | 983,000 | 3,960,000 | 1,010,000 | 1,720,000 | 1,720,000 | 2,090,000 | 252,000 | 15,700,000 |

-- 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.