

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## GYPSUM IN OCTOBER 2006

U.S. producers mined 1.49 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum in October 2006 (table 1). Output was about the same as that of September 2006 and 13% less than that of October 2005. Synthetic gypsum production was 673,000 metric tons (t) in October 2006 (table 1), which was slightly less than that of September 2006, and 21% less than that of October 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 September 2006 synthetic gypsum accounted for 6.55 Mt, or about 22%, of the 29.7-Mt supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 551,000 t (table 2), 2% less than those of September 2006 and 28% less than those of October 2005.

Output of calcined gypsum for October 2006 (table 1) was 1.9 Mt, about 10% more than that of September 2006 and 15% less than that of October 2005. Sales of board products were about 2.8 billion square feet (262 million square meters), 9% more than those of September 2006 and 29% less than that of October 2005.

U.S. Government import and export data for October 2006 were not available at the time of publication. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in September 2006 were 848,000 t (table 3), 18% less than those of August 2006 and about 30% less than those of September 2005. Canada accounted for 56% of crude gypsum imports, followed by Mexico with 29% and Spain with 13%, with Dominican Republic, Germany, Jordan, and Brazil accounting for the remainder. Gypsum wallboard imports for September 2006 were 78,000 t, equivalent to 94 million square feet (8.7 million square meters). These imports were 6% less than those of August 2006 and 4% less than those of September 2005. China accounted for 38% of wallboard imports, followed by Canada with 34%, Mexico with 28%, with Hong Kong and Italy together accounting for the remainder. Wallboard exports to 34 countries and territories in September 2006 were 8,400 t, equivalent to 10.1 million square feet (935,000 square meters). These exports were 18% less than those of August 2006 and 6% more than those of September 2005.

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

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

(Metric tons)

	2006			2005
	October	September	January-October	January-October
<b>Crude:</b>				
Mined <sup>3</sup>	1,490,000	1,490,000	15,800,000	15,400,000
Imported <sup>4</sup>	NA	848,000	NA	9,330,000
Synthetic gypsum <sup>5</sup>	673,000	677,000	7,220,000	7,840,000
Total supply	NA	3,020,000	NA	41,900,000
Crude, exported <sup>4</sup>	NA	15,400	NA	130,000
Consumption	NA	3,000,000	NA	41,800,000
<b>Calcined:</b>				
Produced	1,900,000	1,720,000	20,600,000	20,500,000
Imported <sup>6</sup>	NA	1,370	NA	4,830
Total supply	NA	1,720,000	NA	20,500,000
Exported <sup>6</sup>	NA	14,400	NA	146,000
Consumption	NA	1,710,000	NA	20,400,000

NA Not available.

<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)

	2006			2005
	October	September	January-October	January-October
<b>Uncalcined:<sup>3</sup></b>				
Portland cement	325,000	339,000	3,140,000	3,160,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	226,000	223,000	2,100,000	2,500,000
Total	551,000	562,000	5,340,000	5,650,000
<b>Calcined:</b>				
Board products <sup>4</sup>	2,350,000	2,160,000	25,200,000	25,100,000
Plaster	12,700	10,600	123,000	135,000
Total	2,360,000	2,180,000	25,300,000	25,300,000
<b>Board products: (thousand square feet)<sup>5</sup></b>				
Regular board	1,710,000	1,590,000	18,400,000	18,600,000
Type X board	856,000	774,000	9,130,000	8,830,000
Other	256,000	239,000	2,720,000	2,760,000
Total supply	2,820,000	2,600,000	30,200,000	30,200,000

<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>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	2006		2005	
	September	August	January-September	January-September
Austria	--	--	27	--
Bahrain	--	--	--	7
Brazil	1	4,010	14,000	--
Canada	476,000	642,000	5,660,000	5,700,000
China	--	--	26,200	16
Denmark	--	--	--	34
Dominica	--	--	--	2
Dominican Republic	13,100	--	66,700	153,000
France	--	--	983	17
Germany	55	2	14,100	120
India	--	--	1	--
Italy	--	--	--	1
Jamaica	--	--	3,940	64,600
Jordan	37	13	50	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	5	--
Mexico	248,000	299,000	2,400,000	1,890,000
Peru	--	--	--	80
Spain	110,000	80,200	765,000	625,000
Sweden	--	--	20	40
United Kingdom	--	1	41	1
Total	848,000	1,030,000	8,950,000	8,440,000

-- 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:				
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	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	NA	1,490	NA	NA

NA Not available.

<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
2006:											
October:											
Veneer base	21,400	2,230	6,440	487	7,330	33	26	326	1,450	10	39,800
Sheathing	2,180	4,660	5,750	4,040	15,900	2,590	8,950	6,540	9,390	1,590	61,500
Regular gypsum board	38,300	133,000	178,000	98,000	507,000	133,000	249,000	171,000	164,000	39,400	1,710,000
Type X gypsum board	26,800	90,000	115,000	59,200	158,000	33,700	91,300	111,000	165,000	7,430	856,000
Predecorated board	343	780	789	512	1,210	387	652	393	642	47	5,760
5/16 Mobile home board	--	748	3,100	--	6,660	10,600	4,840	183	141	38	26,300
Water/moisture resistant board	5,000	21,800	13,900	6,110	29,100	5,720	11,200	9,670	14,500	6,080	123,000
Total	94,100	253,000	322,000	168,000	725,000	186,000	366,000	299,000	355,000	54,600	2,820,000
January- October:											
Veneer base	225,000	22,400	70,100	5,920	81,700	267	182	3,180	14,500	375	424,000
Sheathing	15,300	46,200	56,400	48,700	172,000	29,400	101,000	73,600	92,500	17,200	652,000
Regular gypsum board	392,000	1,390,000	1,990,000	1,060,000	5,340,000	1,390,000	2,580,000	1,900,000	1,930,000	379,000	18,400,000
Type X gypsum board	283,000	910,000	1,200,000	647,000	1,590,000	353,000	998,000	1,200,000	1,860,000	86,100	9,130,000
Predecorated board	3,170	7,790	9,050	4,950	13,100	3,880	9,650	3,760	6,210	580	62,200
5/16 Mobile home board	--	7,810	29,200	--	84,100	117,000	55,100	1,170	3,220	116	298,000
Water/moisture resistant board	53,000	219,000	145,000	62,100	303,000	58,400	125,000	110,000	159,000	50,000	1,280,000
Total	972,000	2,610,000	3,500,000	1,830,000	7,580,000	1,960,000	3,860,000	3,300,000	4,070,000	533,000	30,200,000

-- 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.