

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN DECEMBER 2006

U.S. producers mined 1.28 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum in December 2006 (table 1). Output was 7% less than that of November 2006 and 30% less than that of December 2005. Synthetic gypsum production was 606,000 metric tons (t) in December 2006 (table 1), which was 8% less than that of November 2006, and 21% less than that of December 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 November 2006, synthetic gypsum accounted for 7.88 Mt, or about 22%, of the 35.4-Mt supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 554,000 t (table 2), 3% less than those of November 2006 and 8% less than those of December 2005.

Output of calcined gypsum for December 2006 (table 1) was 1.6 Mt, about 5% less than that of November 2006 and 20% less than that of December 2005. Sales of board products were about 2.3 billion square feet (212 million square meters), 9% less than those of November 2006 and 23% less than those of December 2005.

U.S. Government import and export data for December 2006 were not available at the time of publication. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in November 2006 were 760,000 t (table 3), slightly more than those of October 2006 and about 12% less than those of November 2005. Canada accounted for 74% of crude gypsum imports, followed by Mexico with 17% and Spain with 6%, with China, the Dominican Republic, and Germany accounting for the remainder. Gypsum wallboard imports for November 2006 were 48,000 t, equivalent to 58 million square feet (5.3 million square meters). These imports were 11% less than those of October 2006 and 35% less than those of November 2005. Canada accounted for 51% of wallboard imports, followed by Mexico with 45%, China with 3%, and Denmark the remainder. Wallboard exports to 31 countries and territories in November 2006 were 8,400 t, equivalent to 10.1 million square feet (935,000 square meters). These exports were 15% less than those of October 2006 and slightly less than in November 2005.

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

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	2006			2005
	December	November	January-December	January-December
Crude:				
Mined ³	1,280,000	1,370,000	18,500,000	18,800,000
Imported ⁴	NA	760,000	NA	11,200,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	606,000	662,000	7,830,000	9,410,000
Total supply	NA	2,790,000	NA	39,300,000
Crude, exported ⁴	NA	13,800	NA	151,000
Consumption	NA	2,780,000	NA	39,200,000
Calcined:				
Produced	1,560,000	1,640,000	23,800,000	24,500,000
Imported ⁶	NA	1,710	NA	9,970
Total supply	NA	1,640,000	NA	24,500,000
Exported ⁶	NA	12,300	NA	174,000
Consumption	NA	1,630,000	NA	24,300,000

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
	December	November	January-December	January-December
Uncalcined:³				
Portland cement	361,000	310,000	3,820,000	3,780,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	193,000	226,000	2,520,000	3,550,000
Total	554,000	536,000	6,340,000	7,320,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁴	2,350,000	2,100,000	29,600,000	30,100,000
Plaster	10,200	10,100	143,000	159,000
Total	2,360,000	2,110,000	29,800,000	30,200,000
Board products: (thousand square feet)⁵				
Regular board	1,350,000	1,530,000	21,200,000	22,300,000
Type X board	735,000	766,000	10,600,000	10,600,000
Other	208,000	225,000	3,150,000	3,320,000
Total supply	2,290,000	2,520,000	35,000,000	36,200,000

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
	November	October	January-November	January-November
Austria	--	--	27	--
Bahrain	--	--	--	7
Brazil	--	--	14,000	--
Canada	564,000	459,000	6,680,000	6,900,000
China	12,800	43	39,100	16
Denmark	--	--	--	34
Dominica	--	--	--	2
Dominican Republic	6,500	19,700	92,900	161,000
France	--	--	983	52
Germany	88	48	14,300	142
India	--	--	1	--
Italy	--	--	--	1
Jamaica	--	--	3,940	64,600
Jordan	--	--	50	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	5	--
Mexico	132,000	231,000	2,770,000	2,280,000
Peru	--	--	--	80
Spain	44,300	43,100	852,000	736,000
Sweden	--	--	20	80
United Kingdom	--	--	41	1
Total	760,000	752,000	10,500,000	10,100,000

-- 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:				
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	2,230	1,490	752	13
November	2,120	1,370	759	12
December	NA	1,370	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:											
December:											
Veneer base	16,900	1,640	5,640	548	5,890	46	--	382	850	--	31,800
Sheathing	1,680	4,210	4,280	3,800	14,200	2,640	8,730	5,140	8,020	1,170	53,900
Regular gypsum board	31,300	115,000	142,000	82,200	383,000	108,000	202,000	120,000	132,000	30,500	1,350,000
Type X gypsum board	25,300	81,200	97,500	53,300	137,000	28,800	78,300	85,200	142,000	6,250	735,000
Predecorated board	273	517	873	474	1,380	402	602	453	624	96	5,700
5/16 Mobile home board	--	269	1,220	--	3,350	6,900	3,130	139	41	37	15,100
Water/moisture resistant board	4,600	18,700	11,100	5,460	23,000	4,370	9,680	7,750	12,400	4,100	101,000
Total	80,000	221,000	263,000	146,000	568,000	152,000	302,000	219,000	295,000	42,100	2,290,000
January- December:											
Veneer base	261,000	25,700	80,700	6,820	94,100	320	203	3,720	16,700	408	490,000
Sheathing	18,300	54,600	65,600	56,000	199,000	34,800	117,000	84,200	108,000	20,100	758,000
Regular gypsum board	457,000	1,630,000	2,290,000	1,240,000	6,170,000	1,620,000	3,010,000	2,170,000	2,210,000	451,000	21,200,000
Type X gypsum board	333,000	1,070,000	1,400,000	752,000	1,870,000	411,000	1,170,000	1,390,000	2,150,000	99,600	10,600,000
Predecorated board	3,720	8,930	10,800	6,050	15,800	4,580	11,400	4,520	7,630	699	74,100
5/16 Mobile home board	--	8,610	32,900	--	93,500	132,000	62,500	1,420	3,420	153	335,000
Water/moisture resistant board	62,600	258,000	169,000	72,600	352,000	67,800	145,000	127,000	184,000	59,200	1,500,000
Total	1,140,000	3,060,000	4,050,000	2,130,000	8,790,000	2,270,000	4,510,000	3,770,000	4,670,000	631,000	35,000,000

-- 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.