

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN APRIL 2009

Producers mined 723,000 metric tons (t) of gypsum in April 2009 (table 1). Output decreased by 10% from that of March 2009 and was 61% less than the revised output data for April 2008. Synthetic gypsum production was 602,000 t in April 2009 (table 1), which was 3% less than that of March 2009 and 12% less than that of April 2008. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During April 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 April 2009, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 395,000 t (table 2), 5% more than those of March 2009 and 20% more than those of April 2008.

Output of calcined gypsum for April 2009 (table 1) was 1.13 Mt, 11% less than that of March 2009 and 32% less than that of April 2008. Sales of board products (table 2) were 1.27 Mt, equivalent to approximately 141 million square meters (1.52 billion square feet), an decrease of 13% from those of March 2009 and 33% less than those of April 2008.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in April 2009 were 461,000 t (table 3), 17% more than those of March 2009 and 41% less than those of April 2008. The United States imported crude gypsum from four countries in

April 2009. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 54%, followed by Mexico with 41%, and Spain with 5%. Imports from South Korea were negligible.

Gypsum wallboard imports for April 2009 were 23,300 t, equivalent to 2.6 million square meters (28 million square feet). These imports were 7% less than those of March 2009 and 17% less than those of April 2008. The United States imported wallboard products from four countries in April 2009. Canada accounted for 52% of these imports, followed by Mexico with 48%. Imports from China, Italy, and Taiwan were negligible. Wallboard exports to 31 countries and territories in April 2009 were 50,600 t, equivalent to 5.6 million square meters (61 million square feet). These exports were unchanged from those of March 2009 and 432% more than the reported April 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 23 western hemisphere countries, with Canada accounting for 92%, 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-April	March	April	January-April
Crude:				
Mined ³	4,300,000 ^r	806,000	723,000	3,170,000
Imported ⁴	2,410,000	394,000	461,000	1,470,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	2,600,000	622,000	602,000	2,440,000
Total supply	9,310,000 ^r	1,820,000	1,790,000	7,080,000
Crude, exported ⁴	55,700	12,200	8,820	42,200
Consumption	9,250,000 ^r	1,810,000	1,780,000	7,040,000
Calcined:				
Produced	6,420,000 ^r	1,270,000	1,130,000	4,800,000
Imported ⁶	4,810	1,520	1,590	5,230
Total supply	6,420,000 ^r	1,270,000	1,130,000	4,810,000
Exported ⁶	43,200	9,730	8,860	37,200
Consumption	6,380,000 ^r	1,260,000	1,120,000	4,770,000

^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-April	March	April	January-April
Uncalcined:³				
Portland cement	708,000	125,000	134,000	492,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	727,000	252,000	261,000	992,000
Total	1,440,000	377,000	395,000	1,480,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁴	7,560,000	1,450,000	1,270,000	5,270,000
Plaster	38,000	7,840	7,550	29,100
Total	7,600,000	1,460,000	1,270,000	5,300,000
Board products: (thousand square feet)⁵				
Regular board	4,810,000	873,000	745,000	3,120,000
Type X board	3,810,000	668,000	590,000	2,460,000
Other	954,000	199,000	185,000	746,000
Total supply	9,070,000	1,740,000	1,520,000	6,330,000

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-April	March	April	January-April
Brazil	--	--	--	1
Canada	1,540,000	289,000	251,000	949,000
China	41,900	--	--	--
Dominican Republic	26,500	--	--	--
France	--	--	--	18
Germany	--	24	--	64
Italy	5	--	--	--
Jamaica	6,470	--	--	--
Korea, Republic of	3	--	5	5
Mexico	603,000	106,000	189,000	449,000
Spain	188,000	--	21,000	70,900
United Kingdom	15	--	--	--
Total	2,410,000	394,000	461,000	1,470,000

-- 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
2008:				
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	836 ^r	381	7
February	1,020	806	233	14
March	1,190	806	394	12
April	1,180	732	461	9
January-April	4,610	3,180	1,470	42

^rRevised.

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
April:											
Veneer base	9,310	1,190	3,020	226	2,550	3	16	169	592	21	17,100
Sheathing	1,100	3,110	2,220	1,980	7,720	1,920	7,360	3,050	5,450	2,600	36,500
Regular gypsum board	20,500	82,100	91,000	50,600	166,000	59,200	124,000	50,400	74,400	26,500	745,000
Type X gypsum board	16,700	65,100	67,700	36,600	96,100	29,400	96,400	61,900	111,000	9,680	590,000
Liner Panel	412	2,160	967	388	3,470	279	1,120	691	1,050	393	10,900
Predecorated board	183	528	810	368	1,010	369	711	423	530	157	5,090
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,250	966	--	1,310	4,870	1,560	114	242	--	10,300
Water/moisture resistant board	5,700	21,500	12,600	6,450	19,800	4,570	12,100	5,290	13,100	3,740	105,000
Total	53,900	177,000	179,000	96,700	298,000	101,000	244,000	122,000	206,000	43,100	1,520,000
January-April:											
Veneer base	34,800	5,540	13,100	1,300	11,100	112	119	541	3,410	190	70,200
Sheathing	3,560	11,000	8,800	7,580	30,700	8,090	35,700	11,800	21,700	9,870	149,000
Regular gypsum board	84,500	346,000	393,000	237,000	687,000	243,000	516,000	221,000	286,000	105,000	3,120,000
Type X gypsum board	68,800	275,000	275,000	159,000	424,000	119,000	397,000	272,000	435,000	39,300	2,460,000
Liner Panel	1,860	7,180	3,320	1,460	14,100	1,180	4,750	2,940	4,240	1,040	42,100
Predecorated board	802	2,060	2,600	1,280	4,170	1,170	3,280	1,370	1,970	366	19,100
5/16 Mobile home board	--	2,480	3,950	--	5,540	19,600	5,800	538	358	6,690	45,000
Water/moisture resistant board	22,200	88,300	49,700	25,300	84,200	20,500	49,100	22,800	50,000	8,520	421,000
Total	216,000	737,000	750,000	433,000	1,260,000	413,000	1,010,000	533,000	802,000	171,000	6,330,000

-- 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.