

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Robert D. Crangle, Jr., Gypsum Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-6410, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: rcrangle@usgs.gov

Paula R. Neely (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7949
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: pneely@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

GYPSUM IN MAY 2009

Producers mined 772,000 metric tons (t) of gypsum in May 2009 (table 1). Output increased by 7% from that of April 2009 and was 54% less than the revised output data for May 2008. Synthetic gypsum production was 551,000 t in May 2009 (table 1), which was 8% less than that of April 2009 and 14% less than that of May 2008. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During May 2009, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 33% of the 1.7 million-metric-ton (Mt) total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in May 2009, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 383,000 t (table 2), 3% less than those of April 2009 and 17% more than those of May 2008.

Output of calcined gypsum for May 2009 (table 1) was 1.01 Mt, 10% less than that of April 2009 and 35% less than that of May 2008. Sales of board products (table 2) were 1.16 Mt, equivalent to approximately 130 million square meters (1.39 billion square feet), a decrease of 8% from those of April 2009 and 35% less than those of May 2008.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in May 2009 were 370,000 t (table 3), 20% less than those of April 2009 and 41% less than those of May 2008. The United States imported crude gypsum from three countries in

May 2009. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 58%, followed by Mexico with 36%, and Spain with 6%.

Gypsum wallboard imports for May 2009 were 17,200 t, equivalent to 1.9 million square meters (21 million square feet). These imports were 26% less than those of April 2009 and 12% less than those of May 2008. The United States imported wallboard products from three countries in May 2009. Canada accounted for 57% of these imports, followed by Mexico with 42%. Imports from Colombia were negligible. Wallboard exports to 27 countries and territories in May 2009 were 49,800 t, equivalent to 5.5 million square meters (60 million square feet). These exports were slightly less than those of April 2009 and 346% more than the reported May 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 21 western hemisphere countries, with Canada accounting for 93%, followed by Costa Rica with 1%.

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

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	2008		2009	
	January-May	April	May	January-May
Crude:				
Mined ³	5,320,000 ^r	723,000	772,000	3,940,000 ^r
Imported ⁴	3,030,000	461,000	370,000	1,840,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	3,240,000	602,000	551,000	2,990,000 ^r
Total supply	11,600,000 ^r	1,790,000	1,690,000	8,770,000
Crude, exported ⁴	68,200	8,820	7,270	49,400
Consumption	11,500,000 ^r	1,780,000	1,690,000	8,720,000 ^r
Calcined:				
Produced	7,980,000 ^r	1,130,000	1,010,000	5,820,000 ^r
Imported ⁶	5,930	1,590	1,960	7,190
Total supply	7,980,000 ^r	1,130,000	1,020,000	5,820,000 ^r
Exported ⁶	56,600	8,860	10,900	48,100
Consumption	7,920,000 ^r	1,120,000	1,000,000	5,770,000 ^r

^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-May	April	May	January-May
Uncalcined:³				
Portland cement	841,000	134,000	121,000	613,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	923,000	261,000	263,000	1,250,000
Total	1,760,000	395,000	383,000	1,870,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁴	9,350,000	1,270,000	1,160,000	6,430,000 ^r
Plaster	48,200	7,550	6,610	35,700
Total	9,400,000	1,270,000	1,170,000	6,470,000 ^r
Board products: (thousand square feet)⁵				
Regular board	5,930,000	745,000	697,000	3,810,000 ^r
Type X board	4,110,000	590,000	531,000	2,990,000 ^r
Other	1,180,000	185,000	167,000	913,000
Total supply	11,200,000	1,520,000	1,390,000	7,720,000 ^r

^rRevised.

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-May	April	May	January-May
Brazil	-- ^r	--	--	1
Canada	1,940,000 ^r	251,000	213,000	1,160,000
China	42,200 ^r	--	--	--
Dominican Republic	39,900 ^r	--	--	--
France	--	--	--	18
Germany	--	--	--	64
Italy	5	--	--	--
Jamaica	12,800	--	--	--
Korea, Republic of	5 ^r	5	--	10
Mexico	763,000	189,000	134,000	584,000
Spain	234,000	21,000	23,100	94,000
United Kingdom	15	--	--	--
Total	3,030,000	461,000	370,000	1,840,000

^rRevised. -- 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:				
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	381	7
February	1,020	806	233	14
March	1,190	806	394	12
April	1,180	723 ^r	461	9
May	1,140	772	370	7
January-May	5,730	3,940	1,840	49

^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
May:											
Veneer base	7,590	754	2,330	175	2,280	18	44	46	649	66	13,900
Sheathing	938	2,780	2,070	1,640	6,470	1,720	6,820	2,260	5,960	2,550	33,200
Regular gypsum board	17,600	72,900	79,200	44,900	157,000	55,800	128,000	50,400	70,600	20,300	697,000
Type X gypsum board	15,100	59,200	58,700	34,100	86,600	24,300	83,700	55,500	103,000	10,000	531,000
Liner Panel	292	1,870	855	339	3,510	306	1,020	752	838	516	10,300
Predecorated board	238	573	528	390	1,090	284	881	375	385	157	4,900
5/16 Mobile home board	--	832	829	--	978	6,360	1,670	264	117	--	11,000
Water/moisture resistant board	4,370	20,600	10,200	4,830	17,400	4,930	10,500	4,610	11,800	4,240	93,400
Total	46,100	160,000	155,000	86,400	275,000	93,700	232,000	114,000	194,000	37,900	1,390,000
January-May:											
Veneer base	42,400	6,300	15,400	1,470	13,400	130	162	586	4,060	256	84,200
Sheathing	4,500	13,800	10,900	9,220	37,200	9,810	42,600	14,100	27,600	12,400	182,000
Regular gypsum board	102,000	419,000	473,000	282,000	844,000	299,000	643,000	271,000	356,000	126,000	3,810,000
Type X gypsum board	83,900	334,000	333,000	193,000	511,000	143,000	481,000	328,000	538,000	49,300	2,990,000
Liner Panel	2,150	9,040	4,170	1,800	17,600	1,490	5,770	3,700	5,080	1,560	52,400
Predecorated board	1,040	2,640	3,130	1,670	5,260	1,460	4,160	1,750	2,360	522	24,000
5/16 Mobile home board	--	3,310	4,780	--	6,520	26,000	7,470	802	475	38 [†]	49,400
Water/moisture resistant board	26,500	109,000	59,900	30,200	102,000	25,400	59,600	27,400	61,800	19,400	521,000
Total	263,000	896,000	904,000	519,000	1,540,000	506,000	1,240,000	647,000	996,000	209,000	7,720,000

[†]Revised. -- 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.