

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN AUGUST 2009

Producers mined 739,000 metric tons (t) of gypsum in August 2009 (table 1). Output decreased by 6% from that of July 2009 and was 23% less than the revised output data for August 2008. Synthetic gypsum production was 589,000 t in August 2009 (table 1), which was 10% less than that of July 2009 and 10% less than that of August 2008. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During August 2009, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 35% of the 1.82 million-metric-ton (Mt) total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in August 2009, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 484,000 t (table 2), 4% more than those of July 2009 and 4% less than those of July 2008.

Output of calcined gypsum for August 2009 (table 1) was 1.1 Mt, 7% less than that of July 2009 and 29% less than that of August 2008. Sales of board products (table 2) were 1.2 Mt, equivalent to approximately 134 million square meters (1.44 billion square feet), a decrease of 14% from those of July 2009 and 15% less than those of August 2008.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in August 2009 were 362,000 t (table 3), a decrease of 5% from those of July 2009 and 54% less than those of August 2008. The United States imported crude gypsum from two countries in August 2009. Of these imports, Mexico accounted for 53%, followed by Canada with 47%.

Gypsum wallboard imports for August 2009 were 18,000 t, equivalent to 2.0 million square meters (22 million square feet). These imports were up 4% from those of July 2009 and 42% less than those of August 2008. The United States imported wallboard products from four countries in August 2009. Mexico accounted for 54% of these imports, followed by

Canada with 43%, and China with 2%. Imports from Colombia were negligible.

Imported wallboard from China continued to be a contentious issue. The release of corrosive sulfide gasses from some of these imports, which have a high content of elemental sulfur, have been documented (U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2009a). Warm and humid climate conditions are thought to exacerbate sulfide off-gassing. Approximately 2,000 complaints of metals corrosion within affected homes, sometimes coupled with reports of home-occupant health ailments, have been received by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2009b).

Wallboard exports to 28 countries and territories in August 2009 were 56,945 t, equivalent to 6.3 million square meters (68 million square feet). These exports were 6% more than those of July 2009 and 586% more than the reported August 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. Therefore, the sizeable increase should not be interpreted as an actual rise in exports. Most wallboard exports were shipped to 20 Western Hemisphere countries, with Canada accounting for 94%, followed by the Bahamas and Mexico, each with 1%.

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

References Cited

- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2009a, CPSC Investigation of Imported Drywall Status Report: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, July, 7 p. (Accessed December 9, 2009, at <http://www.cpsc.gov/info/drywall/jul2009status.pdf>.)
- U.S. Consumer Safety Product Commission, 2009b, Drywall Information Center: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. (Accessed December 9, 2009, at <http://www.cpsc.gov/info/drywall/>.)

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	2008		2009	
	January-August	July	August	January-August
Crude:				
Mined ³	8,520,000 ^r	783,000	739,000	6,300,000
Imported ⁴	5,220,000 ^r	381,000	362,000	2,950,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	5,280,000 ^r	657,000	589,000	4,800,000
Total supply	19,000,000 ^r	1,820,000	1,690,000	14,000,000
Crude, exported ⁴	105,000	10,300	10,000	77,100
Consumption	18,900,000 ^r	1,810,000	1,680,000	1,390,000
Calcined:				
Produced	12,700,000 ^r	1,190,000	1,100,000	9,250,000
Imported ⁶	9,130	1,260	1,390	10,800
Total supply	12,700,000 ^r	1,190,000	1,110,000	9,260,000
Exported ⁶	94,000	14,000	22,500	98,300
Consumption	12,600,000 ^r	1,180,000	1,080,000	9,160,000

^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-August	July	August	January-August
Uncalcined: ³				
Portland cement	1,280,000	158,000	171,000	1,080,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	1,690,000	308,000	313,000	2,150,000
Total	2,970,000	466,000	484,000	3,220,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁴	14,700,000	1,400,000	1,200,000	10,300,000
Plaster	75,500	7,540	6,860	57,200
Total	14,800,000	1,410,000	1,210,000	10,400,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) ⁵				
Regular board	9,300,000	891,000	783,000	6,280,000
Type X board	6,510,000	593,000	491,000	4,660,000
Other	1,850,000	198,000	169,000	1,460,000
Total supply	17,600,000	1,680,000	1,440,000	12,400,000

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-August	July	August	January-August
Brazil	-- ^r	--	--	1
Canada	3,340,000 ^r	276,000	171,000	1,820,000
China	42,200 ^r	--	--	3
Dominican Republic	53,100 ^r	--	--	--
France	--	--	--	18
Germany	--	--	--	64
India	1	--	--	--
Italy	6	--	--	--
Jamaica	12,800	--	--	--
Japan	1	--	--	--
Korea, Republic of	5 ^r	--	--	10
Mexico	1,360,000 ^r	68,700	191,000	995,000
Netherlands	32	--	--	--
Spain	415,000	35,600	--	131,000
United Kingdom	15	--	--	--
Total	5,220,000 ^r	380,000	362,000	2,950,000

^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:				
August	1,800	1,020	794	12
September	1,470	1,040	441	12
October	1,650	1,020	645	15
November	1,210	764	451	8
December	1,250	686	571	8
January-December	19,200	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	461	9
May	1,140	772	370	7
June	1,190	833	364	7
July	1,150	783	381	10
August	1,090	739	362	10
January-August	9,170	6,300	2,950	76

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
August:											
Veneer base	7,350	1,100	3,410	399	2,010	6	5	67	653	40	15,000
Sheathing	669	2,330	2,250	1,820	5,580	1,520	5,880	2,400	5,040	2,540	30,000
Regular gypsum board	18,300	78,500	94,100	59,100	182,000	63,000	126,000	62,200	75,100	25,500	783,000
Type X gypsum board	15,100	59,500	56,600	34,500	82,900	23,200	73,300	43,700	93,100	9,590	491,000
Liner Panel	409	1,930	804	398	4,130	225	820	570	751	191	10,200
Predecorated board	202	471	906	281	1,200	380	928	393	463	48	5,270
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,110	845	--	693	7,450	1,110	39	231	--	11,500
Water/moisture resistant board	4,710	22,900	11,800	5,110	19,000	4,350	10,000	4,620	10,700	3,880	97,000
Total	46,800	168,000	171,000	102,000	297,000	100,000	218,000	114,000	186,000	41,800	1,440,000
January-August:											
Veneer base	67,200	10,300	26,500	2,440	21,000	190	181	868	6,560	312	136,000
Sheathing	6,680	21,800	18,200	15,000	55,600	14,600	63,000	21,300	44,900	20,300	281,000
Regular gypsum board	161,000	673,000	762,000	464,000	1,410,000	496,000	1,070,000	460,000	589,000	198,000	6,280,000
Type X gypsum board	132,000	530,000	525,000	310,000	788,000	219,000	745,000	481,000	850,000	76,600	4,660,000
Liner Panel	3,520	15,600	6,770	2,960	31,600	2,200	8,640	5,520	7,640	2,540	87,000
Predecorated board	1,680	4,390	5,600	2,910	9,330	2,770	7,300	2,860	3,870	742	41,500
5/16 Mobile home board	--	6,700	9,040	--	8,680	46,100	11,000	1,060	872	77	83,500
Water/moisture resistant board	41,900	181,000	97,300	47,900	163,000	40,500	93,400	42,200	96,800	31,600	836,000
Total	414,000	1,440,000	1,450,000	845,000	2,480,000	822,000	2,000,000	1,020,000	1,600,000	330,000	12,400,000

-- 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.