

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN OCTOBER 2009

Producers mined 797,000 metric tons (t) of gypsum in October 2009 (table 1). Output increased 8% from that of September 2009 and was 28% less than the revised output data for October 2008. Synthetic gypsum production was 637,000 t in October 2009 (table 1), which was 4% more than that of September 2009 and 7% less than that of October 2008. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During October 2009, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 36% of the 1.76-million-metric-ton (Mt) total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in October 2009, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 436,000 t (table 2), slightly more than those of September 2009 and 22% less than those of October 2008.

Output of calcined gypsum for October 2009 (table 1) was 1.12 Mt, slightly less than that of September 2009 and 26% less than that of October 2008. Sales of board products (table 2) were 1.3 Mt, equivalent to approximately 141 million square meters (1.52 billion square feet), a slight increase from those of September 2009 and 9% less than those of October 2008.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in October 2009 were 330,000 t (table 3), an increase of 38% from those of September 2009 and 49% less than those of October 2008. The United States imported crude gypsum from four countries in October 2009. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 79%, followed by Mexico with 21%. Imports from Brazil and Germany were negligible.

Gypsum wallboard imports for October 2009 were 21,400 t, equivalent to 2.4 million square meters (26 million square feet). These imports were up 24% from those of September 2009 and 48% less than those of October 2008. The United States imported wallboard products from five countries in October 2009. Canada accounted for 55% of these imports, followed by

Mexico with 45%. Imports from Colombia, Denmark, and Italy were negligible.

Although there were no wallboard imports from China in October 2009, the issue continued to be contentious. 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 31 countries and territories in October 2009 were 68,468 t, equivalent to 7.6 million square meters (82 million square feet). These exports were 4% more than those of September 2009 and 673% more than the reported October 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 93%, 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-October	September	October	January-October
Crude:				
Mined ³	10,600,000 ^r	738,000	797,000	7,830,000
Imported ⁴	6,300,000	239,000	330,000	3,520,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	6,720,000 ^r	610,000	637,000	6,080,000 ^r
Total supply	23,600,000 ^r	1,590,000	1,760,000	17,400,000
Crude, exported ⁴	132,000	17,500	22,900	117,000
Consumption	23,500,000 ^r	1,570,000	1,740,000	17,300,000
Calcined:				
Produced	15,700,000 ^r	1,150,000	1,120,000	11,500,000 ^r
Imported ⁶	11,200	1,230	1,130	13,100
Total supply	15,700,000 ^r	1,150,000	1,120,000	11,500,000
Exported ⁶	115,000	13,800	13,500	126,000
Consumption	15,600,000 ^r	1,140,000	1,110,000	11,400,000

^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-October	September	October	January-October
Uncalcined:³				
Portland cement	1,740,000	142,000	143,000	1,360,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	2,390,000	288,000	293,000	2,730,000
Total	4,140,000	430,000	436,000	4,090,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁴	18,100,000	1,290,000	1,270,000	12,900,000
Plaster	92,100	6,610	6,810	70,700
Total	18,100,000	1,290,000	1,270,000	13,000,000
Board products: (thousand square feet)⁵				
Regular board	11,400,000	869,000	855,000	8,000,000
Type X board	8,010,000	503,000	493,000	5,650,000
Other	2,280,000	171,000	172,000	1,810,000
Total supply	21,700,000	1,540,000	1,520,000	15,500,000

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-October	September	October	January-October
Brazil	--	--	--	1
Canada	4,100,000	180,000	259,000	2,260,000
China	42,200	--	--	3
Dominican Republic	66,500	--	--	--
France	--	--	--	18
Germany	--	--	1	65
India	1	--	--	--
Italy	6	--	--	--
Jamaica	12,800	--	--	--
Japan	1	--	--	--
Korea, Republic of	5	--	--	10
Mexico	1,660,000	58,600	71,000	1,120,000
Netherlands	32	--	--	--
Singapore	--	5	--	5
Spain	415,000	--	--	131,000
Sweden	--	--	1	1
United Kingdom	28	--	--	--
Total	6,300,000	239,000	330,000	3,520,000

-- 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:				
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
September	960	738	239	17
October	1,100	797	330	23
January-October	11,200	7,830	3,520	117

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
October:											
Veneer base	9,160	1,290	3,920	344	2,430	15	43	95	550	63	17,900
Sheathing	979	2,690	1,940	1,610	4,710	1,600	4,340	1,900	4,420	2,620	26,800
Regular gypsum board	22,600	91,700	107,000	66,000	198,000	65,200	133,000	64,400	75,200	31,800	855,000
Type X gypsum board	13,900	62,700	60,900	37,500	78,100	23,200	65,500	49,400	87,000	15,000	493,000
Liner Panel	371	1,690	836	311	2,940	284	609	529	726	253	8,550
Predecorated board	233	516	629	297	847	281	774	300	493	141	4,510
5/16 Mobile home board	--	915	702	3	497	7,040	1,510	195	218	--	11,100
Water/moisture resistant board	5,060	24,600	13,400	5,270	20,200	4,350	10,400	4,700	10,400	4,630	103,000
Total	52,200	186,000	189,000	111,000	308,000	102,000	216,000	122,000	179,000	54,500	1,520,000
January-October:											
Veneer base	85,000	13,000	33,700	3,120	26,100	212	249	1,040	7,660	401	170,000
Sheathing	8,450	27,100	22,500	18,400	65,500	17,700	73,300	25,600	54,500	25,400	339,000
Regular gypsum board	204,000	852,000	976,000	593,000	1,800,000	630,000	1,360,000	592,000	740,000	259,000	8,000,000
Type X gypsum board	161,000	656,000	649,000	385,000	948,000	267,000	879,000	582,000	1,030,000	117,000	5,670,000
Liner Panel	4,330	19,100	8,420	3,570	38,000	2,660	9,960	6,540	9,130	3,020	105,000
Predecorated board	2,160	5,340	6,720	3,460	11,200	3,310	8,650	3,470	4,860	997	50,200
5/16 Mobile home board	--	8,510	10,600	4	9,620	60,000	13,800	1,370	1,250	114	105,000
Water/moisture resistant board	52,100	228,000	123,000	58,700	204,000	49,600	114,000	51,400	118,000	40,000	1,040,000
Total	517,000	1,810,000	1,830,000	1,070,000	3,100,000	1,030,000	2,450,000	1,260,000	1,960,000	446,000	15,500,000

-- 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.