

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## GYPSUM IN NOVEMBER 2009

Producers mined 632,000 metric tons (t) of gypsum in November 2009 (table 1). Output decreased 21% from that of October 2009 and was 4% more than the output data for November 2008. Synthetic gypsum production was 436,000 t in November 2009 (table 1), which was 31% less than that of October 2009 and 13% less than that of November 2008. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During November 2009, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 29% of the 1.49-million-metric-ton (Mt) total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in November 2009, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 368,000 t (table 2), 16% less than those of October 2009 and 28% less than those of November 2008.

Output of calcined gypsum for November 2009 (table 1) was 870,000 t, which was 23% less than that of October 2009 and 18% less than that of November 2008. Sales of board products (table 2) were 1.1 Mt, equivalent to approximately 121 million square meters (1.30 billion square feet), which was 14% less than those of October 2009 and 3% more than those of November 2008.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in November 2009 were 418,000 t (table 3), an increase of 26% from those of October 2009 and 7% less than those of November 2008. The United States imported crude gypsum from four countries in November 2009. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 68%, followed by Mexico with 24%, and Spain with 8%. Imports from the United Kingdom were negligible.

Gypsum wallboard imports for November 2009 were 16,000 t, equivalent to 1.8 million square meters (19 million square feet). These imports were down 25% from those of October 2009 and 3% less than those of November 2008. The United States imported wallboard products from two countries in

November 2009. Mexico accounted for 54% of these imports, followed by Canada with 46%.

Although there were no wallboard imports from China in November 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 2,200 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 November 2009 were 68,573 t, equivalent to 7.6 million square meters (82 million square feet). These exports were unchanged from those of October 2009 and 1147% more than the reported November 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 22 western hemisphere countries, with Canada accounting for 95%, 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<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

	2008		2009	
	January-November	October	November	January-November
Crude:				
Mined <sup>3</sup>	11,300,000 <sup>r</sup>	797,000	632,000	8,460,000
Imported <sup>4</sup>	6,760,000	330,000	418,000	3,930,000
Synthetic gypsum <sup>5</sup>	7,220,000 <sup>r</sup>	637,000	436,000	6,520,000
Total supply	25,300,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,760,000	1,490,000	18,900,000
Crude, exported <sup>4</sup>	141,000	22,900	24,600	142,000
Consumption	25,200,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,740,000	1,460,000	18,800,000
Calcined:				
Produced	16,800,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,120,000	871,000	12,400,000
Imported <sup>6</sup>	12,200	1,130	1,270	14,400
Total supply	16,800,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,120,000	872,000	12,400,000
Exported <sup>6</sup>	127,000	13,500	15,500	141,000
Consumption	16,700,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,110,000	857,000	12,300,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>3</sup>Some data were estimated from semiannual reports.

<sup>4</sup>Import and export data are for "Gypsum; anhydrite," Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2520.10.0000.

<sup>5</sup>Reported production only.

<sup>6</sup>Import and export data are for "Plaster," Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2520.20.0000.

TABLE 2  
GYPSUM SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS, BY USE<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2008		2009	
	January-November	October	November	January-November
Uncalcined: <sup>3</sup>				
Portland cement	1,940,000	143,000	111,000	1,470,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	2,700,000	293,000	257,000	2,990,000
Total	4,650,000	436,000	368,000	4,460,000
Calcined:				
Board products <sup>4</sup>	19,300,000	1,270,000	1,090,000	14,000,000
Plaster	98,300	6,810	6,120	76,800
Total	19,400,000	1,270,000	1,090,000	14,000,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) <sup>5</sup>				
Regular board	12,200,000	855,000	718,000	8,720,000
Type X board	8,570,000	493,000	431,000	6,080,000
Other	2,440,000	172,000	153,000	1,960,000
Total supply	23,200,000	1,520,000	1,300,000	16,800,000

<sup>1</sup>Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>3</sup>Does not include synthetic gypsum from electric power plants.

<sup>4</sup>Includes weight of paper and other materials.

<sup>5</sup>One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

TABLE 3  
CRUDE GYPSUM IMPORTED FOR CONSUMPTION<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country of origin	2008		2009	
	January-November	October	November	January-November
Brazil	--	--	--	1
Canada	4,410,000	259,000	285,000	2,550,000
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	10 <sup>r</sup>	--	--	10
Mexico	1,780,000	71,000	99,300	1,220,000
Netherlands	32	--	--	--
Singapore	--	--	--	5
Spain	442,000	--	33,100	164,000
Sweden	--	1	--	1
United Kingdom	28	--	10	10
Total	6,760,000	330,000	418,000	3,930,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data 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<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Consumption <sup>3</sup>	Production <sup>4</sup>	Imports <sup>5</sup>	Exports <sup>5</sup>
2008:				
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
November	1,030	632	418	25
January-November	12,300	8,470	3,930	142

<sup>1</sup>Excludes synthetic gypsum.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>3</sup>Consumption 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.

<sup>4</sup>Production 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.

<sup>5</sup>Data from U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
SALES OF GYPSUM BOARD PRODUCTS, BY SALES REGIONS IN 2009<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand square feet)<sup>3</sup>

	New England	Middle Atlantic	E. North Central	W. North Central	South Atlantic	E. South Central	W. South Central	Mountain	Pacific	Exports	Total
November:											
Veneer base	8,260	1,110	3,190	456	1,970	5	2	91	567	192	15,800
Sheathing	864	1,830	2,050	1,710	4,380	1,550	4,400	1,650	3,920	3,130	25,500
Regular gypsum board	19,400	79,700	91,300	52,700	155,000	55,500	110,000	54,300	68,300	32,300	718,000
Type X gypsum board	12,600	56,000	52,000	32,600	69,200	18,400	59,500	40,800	75,600	14,600	431,000
Liner Panel	429	1,680	671	268	2,880	206	555	506	588	249	8,030
Predecorated board	159	609	481	174	853	322	624	335	320	58	3,940
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,050	413	--	508	6,190	1,330	116	102	--	9,710
Water/moisture resistant board	4,350	20,900	11,400	4,480	17,400	4,300	9,250	3,780	9,590	4,270	89,700
Total	46,100	163,000	162,000	92,400	252,000	86,400	186,000	102,000	159,000	54,800	1,300,000
January-November:											
Veneer base	93,200	14,100	36,900	3,580	28,000	217	251	1,130	8,230	592	186,000
Sheathing	9,320	29,000	24,600	20,200	69,900	19,200	77,700	27,300	58,500	28,600	364,000
Regular gypsum board	223,000	932,000	1,070,000	646,000	1,960,000	686,000	1,470,000	647,000	809,000	291,000	8,720,000
Type X gypsum board	174,000	712,000	701,000	418,000	1,020,000	285,000	938,000	623,000	1,100,000	132,000	6,100,000
Liner Panel	4,760	20,800	9,090	3,840	40,900	2,870	10,500	7,050	9,710	3,270	113,000
Predecorated board	2,320	5,940	7,200	3,640	12,100	3,630	9,270	3,810	5,180	1,060	54,100
5/16 Mobile home board	--	9,560	11,000	4	10,100	66,200	15,200	1,480	1,360	114	115,000
Water/moisture resistant board	56,500	249,000	134,000	63,200	221,000	53,900	123,000	55,200	127,000	44,200	1,130,000
Total	563,000	1,970,000	1,990,000	1,160,000	3,360,000	1,120,000	2,640,000	1,370,000	2,120,000	500,000	16,800,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Sales 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).

<sup>3</sup>One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

Source: Gypsum Association.