

# 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 DECEMBER 2009

Producers mined 634,000 metric tons (t) of gypsum in December 2009 (table 1). This amount was unchanged from that of November 2009 and was 8% less than the output data for December 2008. Synthetic gypsum production was 555,000 t in December 2009 (table 1), which was 27% more than that of November 2009 and 3% less than that of December 2008. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During December 2009, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 38% of the 1.47-million-metric-ton (Mt) total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in December 2009, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 367,000 t (table 2), unchanged from that of November 2009 and 13% less than those of December 2008.

Output of calcined gypsum for December 2009 (table 1) was 958,000 t, which was 10% more than that of November 2009 and 17% less than that of December 2008. Sales of board products (table 2) were 1.1 Mt, equivalent to approximately 125 million square meters (1.35 billion square feet), which was 4% more than those of November 2009 and 18% less than those of December 2008.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in December 2009 were 284,000 t (table 3), a decrease of 32% from those of November 2009 and 50% less than those of December 2008. The United States imported crude gypsum from three countries in December 2009. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 60%, followed by Mexico with 40%. Imports of crude gypsum from China were negligible.

Gypsum wallboard imports for December 2009 were 17,000 t, equivalent to 1.9 million square meters (20 million square feet). These imports were up 6% from those of November 2009 and 5% less than those of December 2008. The United States imported wallboard products from four countries in December

2009. Canada accounted for 54% of these imports, followed by Mexico with 43%, Colombia with 2%, and China with 1%.

The issue regarding corrosive wallboard imported from China 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 2,300 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 23 countries and territories in December 2009 were 63,115 t, equivalent to 7.0 million square meters (75 million square feet). This amount was 8% less than that of November 2009 and 1059% more than the reported December 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 19 western hemisphere countries, with Canada accounting for 93%, followed by Qatar with 2%. Wallboard exports to Honduras, Mexico, and Panama each accounted for 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-December	November	December	January-December
<b>Crude:</b>				
Mined <sup>3</sup>	12,000,000	632,000	634,000	9,100,000
Imported <sup>4</sup>	7,330,000	418,000	284,000	4,220,000
Synthetic gypsum <sup>5</sup>	7,790,000	436,000	555,000	7,070,000
Total supply	27,100,000	1,490,000	1,470,000	20,400,000
Crude, exported <sup>4</sup>	149,000	24,600	14,100	156,000
Consumption	27,000,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	20,200,000
<b>Calcined:</b>				
Produced	17,900,000	871,000	958,000	13,400,000
Imported <sup>6</sup>	13,300	1,270	667	15,100
Total supply	18,000,000	872,000	959,000	13,400,000
Exported <sup>6</sup>	135,000	15,500	13,500	155,000
Consumption	17,800,000	857,000	945,000	13,200,000

<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>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-December	November	December	January-December
<b>Uncalcined:<sup>3</sup></b>				
Portland cement	2,100,000	111,000	125,000	1,600,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	2,960,000	257,000	242,000	3,230,000
Total	5,070,000	368,000	367,000	4,830,000
<b>Calcined:</b>				
Board products <sup>4</sup>	20,700,000	1,090,000	1,120,000	15,100,000
Plaster	105,000	6,120	6,410	83,200
Total	20,800,000	1,090,000	1,130,000	15,200,000
<b>Board products: (thousand square feet)<sup>5</sup></b>				
Regular board	13,000,000	718,000	748,000	9,470,000
Type X board	9,220,000	431,000	451,000	6,530,000
Other	2,610,000	153,000	151,000	2,110,000
Total supply	24,800,000	1,300,000	1,350,000	18,100,000

<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-December	November	December	January-December
Brazil	--	--	--	1
Canada	4,740,000	285,000	169,000	2,720,000
China	42,200	--	130	133
Dominican Republic	66,500	--	--	--
France	--	--	--	18
Germany	--	--	--	65
India	1	--	--	--
Italy	6	--	--	--
Jamaica	19,100	--	--	--
Japan	1	--	--	--
Korea, Republic of	10 <sup>r</sup>	--	--	10
Mexico	1,930,000	99,300	114,000	1,340,000
Netherlands	32	--	--	--
Singapore	--	--	--	5
Spain	524,000	33,100	--	164,000
Sweden	--	--	--	1
United Kingdom	28	10	--	10
Total	7,330,000	418,000	284,000	4,220,000

<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:				
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
December	904	634	284	14
January-December	13,200	9,100	4,220	156

<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
<b>December:</b>											
Veneer base	8,340	1,250	3,700	287	1,920	12	16	80	461	--	16,100
Sheathing	770	2,420	1,840	1,730	4,490	1,300	4,080	1,420	3,380	4,530	26,000
Regular gypsum board	19,500	81,000	101,000	61,900	161,000	58,600	117,000	51,500	66,200	30,700	748,000
Type X gypsum board	14,300	57,900	60,700	36,200	68,400	18,800	58,400	41,700	78,300	16,300	451,000
Liner Panel	463	1,590	620	318	2,610	265	533	344	371	225	7,340
Predecorated board	182	560	577	244	977	277	419	177	563	15	3,990
5/16 Mobile home board	--	136	214	--	175	4,690	1,030	77	27	37	6,390
Water/moisture resistant board	5,100	21,300	12,100	4,740	17,800	4,610	7,780	3,600	9,800	4,400	91,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,700</b>	<b>166,000</b>	<b>181,000</b>	<b>105,000</b>	<b>257,000</b>	<b>88,500</b>	<b>189,000</b>	<b>99,000</b>	<b>159,000</b>	<b>56,200</b>	<b>1,350,000</b>
<b>January-December:</b>											
Veneer base	102,000	15,400	40,600	3,860	30,000	228	266	1,210	8,690	592	202,000
Sheathing	10,100	31,400	26,400	21,900	74,400	20,500	81,800	28,700	61,900	33,100	390,000
Regular gypsum board	243,000	1,010,000	1,170,000	708,000	2,120,000	744,000	1,580,000	698,000	875,000	322,000	9,470,000
Type X gypsum board	188,000	770,000	761,000	454,000	1,090,000	304,000	997,000	665,000	1,180,000	148,000	6,550,000
Liner Panel	5,220	22,400	9,710	4,150	43,500	3,130	11,100	7,390	10,100	3,490	120,000
Predecorated board	2,500	6,510	7,780	3,880	13,100	3,910	9,690	3,980	5,740	1,070	58,100
5/16 Mobile home board	--	9,700	11,200	4	10,300	70,900	16,200	1,560	1,380	151	121,000
Water/moisture resistant board	61,600	270,000	146,000	67,900	239,000	58,500	131,000	58,800	137,000	48,600	1,220,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>611,000</b>	<b>2,140,000</b>	<b>2,170,000</b>	<b>1,260,000</b>	<b>3,610,000</b>	<b>1,210,000</b>	<b>2,830,000</b>	<b>1,460,000</b>	<b>2,280,000</b>	<b>557,000</b>	<b>18,100,000</b>

-- 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.