

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN JANUARY 2010

Producers mined 610,000 metric tons (t) of gypsum in January 2010 (table 1). This amount was 4% less than that of December 2009 and 27% less than the that for January 2009. Synthetic gypsum production was 577,000 t in January 2010 (table 1), which was 4% more than that of December 2009 and slightly less than that of January 2009. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During January 2010, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 42% of the 1.39-million-metric-ton (Mt) total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in January 2010, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 201,000 t (table 2), which was 17% less than those of December 2009 and 16% less than those of January 2009.

Output of calcined gypsum for January 2010 (table 1) was 969,000 t, which was slightly more than that of December 2009 and 22% less than that of January 2009. Sales of board products (table 2) were 1.1 Mt, equivalent to approximately 121 million square meters (1.31 billion square feet), which was 3% less than those of December 2009 and 16% less than those of January 2009.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in January 2010 were 202,000 t (table 3), a decrease of 29% from those of December 2009 and 47% less than those of

January 2009. The United States imported crude gypsum from three countries in January 2010. Of these imports, Mexico accounted for 54%, followed by Canada with 32%, and Spain with 14%.

Gypsum wallboard imports for January 2010 were 20,200 t, equivalent to 2.2 million square meters (24 million square feet). These imports were 19% more than those of December 2009 and 36% less than those of January 2009. The United States imported wallboard products from five countries in January 2010. Canada accounted for 56% of these imports, followed by Mexico with 44%. Imports from Colombia, Italy, and China were negligible.

Wallboard exports to 25 countries and territories in January 2010 were 57,500 t, equivalent to 6.4 million square meters (69 million square feet). This amount was 9% less than that of December 2009 and 17% more than that of January 2009. Most wallboard exports were shipped to 19 western hemisphere countries, with Canada accounting for 93%, followed by Qatar with 2%. Wallboard exports to the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and The Bahamas each accounted for 1%.

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

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1, 2}

(Metric tons)

	2009		2010
	January	December	January
Crude:			
Mined ³	836,000 ^r	634,000	610,000
Imported ⁴	381,000	284,000	202,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	587,000 ^r	555,000	577,000
Total supply	1,800,000 ^r	1,470,000	1,390,000
Crude, exported ⁴	7,090	14,100	22,800
Consumption	1,800,000	1,460,000	1,370,000
Calcined:			
Produced	1,250,000	958,000	969,000
Imported ⁶	1,040	667	919
Total supply	1,250,000	959,000	970,000
Exported ⁶	8,590	13,500	8,940
Consumption	1,240,000	945,000	961,000

^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)

	2009		2010
	January	December	January
Uncalcined:³			
Portland cement	114,000	125,000	88,700
Agriculture and miscellaneous	124,000 ^r	116,000 ^r	112,000
Total	239,000 ^r	242,000 ^r	201,000
Calcined:			
Board products ⁴	1,300,000	1,120,000	1,090,000
Plaster	6,610	6,410	6,840
Total	1,300,000	1,130,000	1,100,000
Board products: (thousand square feet)⁵			
Regular board	758,000	748,000	722,000
Type X board	615,000	451,000	438,000
Other	183,000	151,000	151,000
Total supply	1,560,000	1,350,000	1,310,000

^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	2009		2010
	January	December	January
Brazil	1	--	--
Canada	243,000	169,000	63,900
China	--	130	--
Germany	40	--	--
Mexico	88,400	114,000	109,000
Spain	49,900	--	28,600
Total	381,000	284,000	202,000

-- 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
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
2010, January	789	610	202	23

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 2010^{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
January:											
Veneer base	8,250	1,300	3,250	311	2,320	6	16	74	699	23	16,200
Sheathing	478	1,770	1,510	1,270	4,630	1,350	5,480	1,740	3,280	2,540	24,000
Regular gypsum board	20,000	78,600	91,100	52,400	161,000	50,500	116,000	56,900	66,300	28,600	722,000
Type X gypsum board	14,200	54,800	55,500	33,000	69,300	18,100	65,600	41,700	71,200	14,500	438,000
Liner Panel	499	1,650	462	214	3,280	155	499	514	586	390	8,250
Predecorated board	154	565	596	303	1,280	253	899	217	459	131	4,860
5/16 Mobile home board	--	291	284	--	385	4,810	1,100	90	153	--	7,120
Water/moisture resistant board	5,460	19,200	11,100	4,580	19,000	4,260	9,110	3,990	9,630	4,300	90,600
Total	49,100	158,000	164,000	92,100	261,000	79,500	199,000	105,000	152,000	50,500	1,310,000

-- 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.