

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN FEBRUARY 2010

Producers mined 679,000 metric tons (t) of gypsum in February 2010 (table 1). This amount was 11% more than that of January 2010 and 24% less than that for February 2009. Synthetic gypsum production was 528,000 t in February 2010 (table 1), which was 9% less than that of January 2010 and 16% less than that of February 2009. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During February 2010, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 35% of the 1.49-million-metric-ton (Mt) total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in February 2010, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 211,000 t (table 2), which was 5% more than those of January 2010 and 41% less than those of February 2009.

Output of calcined gypsum for February 2010 (table 1) was 953,000 t, which was slightly less than that of January 2010 and 18% less than that of February 2009. Sales of board products (table 2) were 1.15 Mt, equivalent to approximately 128 million square meters (1.37 billion square feet), which was 5% more than those of January 2010 and 9% less than those of February 2009.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in February 2010 were 287,000 t (table 3), an increase of 42% from those of January 2010 and 23% more than those of February 2009. The United States imported crude gypsum from three countries in February 2010. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 71%, followed by Mexico with 29%. Imports from Germany were negligible.

Gypsum wallboard imports for February 2010 were 16,700 t, equivalent to 1.9 million square meters (20 million square feet). These imports were down 17% from those of January 2010 and 5% more than those of February 2009. The United States imported wallboard products from three countries in February

2010. Canada accounted for 50% of these imports, followed by Mexico with 49%. Imports from Denmark were negligible.

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

The issue regarding corrosive wallboard imported from China continued to be contentious. The release of corrosive sulfide gases 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 offgassing. Approximately 3,000 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 (CPSC, 2009b). The Department of Housing and Urban Development recently published guidelines on repairing homes that have corrosive wallboard. These recommendations include the removal of problematic wallboard and the replacement of electrical components and wiring, gas piping, fire sprinkler systems, and smoke and carbon monoxide alarms (U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2010).

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 April 16, 2010, at <http://www.cpsc.gov/info/drywall/jul2009status.pdf>.)
- U.S. Consumer Safety Product Commission, 2009b, Drywall information center: U.S. Consumer Safety Product Commission. (Accessed April 16, 2010, at <http://www.cpsc.gov/info/drywall/>.)
- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2010, HUD and CPSC news: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, April, 3 p. (Accessed April 29, 2010, at <http://www.cpsc.gov/info/drywall/hud10068.html>.)

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	2009	2010		
	January-February	January	February	January-February
Crude:				
Mined ³	1,640,000	610,000	679,000	1,290,000
Imported ⁴	614,000	202,000	287,000	489,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	1,220,000	577,000	528,000	1,110,000
Total supply	3,470,000	1,390,000	1,490,000	2,880,000
Crude, exported ⁴	21,200	22,800	25,500	48,300
Consumption	3,450,000	1,370,000	1,470,000	2,830,000
Calcined:				
Produced	2,410,000	969,000	953,000	1,920,000
Imported ⁶	2,120	919	1,060	1,980
Total supply	2,410,000	970,000	954,000	1,920,000
Exported ⁶	18,600	8,940	11,200	20,200
Consumption	2,390,000 ^r	961,000	943,000	1,900,000

^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-February	January	February	January-February
Uncalcined: ³				
Portland cement	234,000	88,700	100,000	189,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	245,000 ^r	112,000	111,000	223,000
Total	478,000 ^r	201,000	211,000	412,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁴	2,550,000	1,090,000	1,150,000	2,240,000
Plaster	13,700	6,840	6,730	13,600
Total	2,570,000	1,100,000	1,150,000	2,250,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) ⁵				
Regular board	1,500,000	722,000	776,000	1,500,000
Type X board	1,200,000	438,000	450,000	888,000
Other	362,000	151,000	149,000	300,000
Total supply	3,060,000 ^r	1,310,000	1,370,000	2,690,000

^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-February	January	February	January-February
Brazil	1	--	--	--
Canada	410,000	63,900	203,000	267,000
Germany	40	--	1	1
Mexico	154,000	109,000	83,900	193,000
Spain	49,900	28,600	--	--
Total	614,000	202,000	287,000	460,000

-- 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:				
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
February	941	679	287	25
January-February	1,730	1,290	489	48

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
February:											
Veneer base	8,640	1,240	3,710	388	1,850	35	100	64	579	62	16,700
Sheathing	349	1,480	1,210	1,540	3,730	1,130	3,650	1,770	3,770	3,040	21,700
Regular gypsum board	22,400	77,200	106,000	66,700	161,000	55,900	130,000	59,000	72,600	25,400	776,000
Type X gypsum board	14,600	50,600	58,100	36,800	69,300	19,800	60,200	44,300	85,000	11,500	450,000
Liner Panel	367	1,300	572	193	3,110	264	478	355	633	406	7,670
Predecorated board	180	384	531	270	829	312	573	133	414	133	3,760
5/16 Mobile home board	--	707	698	--	650	5,300	1,110	90	101	--	8,650
Water/moisture resistant board	5,410	19,000	11,700	5,490	17,000	4,290	8,970	4,200	10,200	4,430	90,700
Total	51,900	152,000	183,000	111,000	257,000	87,000	205,000	110,000	173,000	45,100	1,370,000
January-February:											
Veneer base	16,900	2,540	6,960	699	4,170	41	116	138	1,280	85	32,900
Sheathing	827	3,240	2,720	2,810	8,360	2,480	9,130	3,510	7,050	5,580	45,700
Regular gypsum board	42,400	156,000	197,000	119,000	322,000	106,000	246,000	116,000	139,000	54,100	1,500,000
Type X gypsum board	28,800	105,000	114,000	69,800	139,000	37,900	126,000	86,000	156,000	26,000	888,000
Liner Panel	866	3,950	1,040	406	6,380	419	977	868	1,220	796	16,900
Predecorated board	333	948	1,130	573	2,110	565	1,470	350	872	264	8,610
5/16 Mobile home board	--	998	982	--	1,040	10,100	2,210	180	254	--	15,800
Water/moisture resistant board	10,900	38,200	22,800	10,100	36,000	8,550	18,100	8,190	19,800	8,730	181,000
Total	101,000	311,000	346,000	203,000	519,000	166,000	403,000	215,000	326,000	95,600	2,690,000

-- 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.