

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN MARCH 2010

Producers mined 826,000 metric tons (t) of gypsum in March 2010 (table 1). This amount was 22% more than that of February 2010 and slightly more than that for March 2009. Synthetic gypsum production was 766,000 t in March 2010 (table 1), which was 45% more than that of February 2010 and 23% more than that of March 2009. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During March 2010, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 39% of the 1.96-million-metric-ton (Mt) total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in March 2010, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 237,000 t (table 2), which was 12% more than those of February 2010 and 37% less than those of March 2009.

Output of calcined gypsum for March 2010 (table 1) was 1.24 Mt, which was 30% more than that of February 2010 and slightly less than that of March 2009. Sales of board products (table 2) were 1.51 Mt, equivalent to approximately 169 million square meters (1.82 billion square feet), which was 32% more than those of February 2010 and 4% more than those of March 2009.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in March 2010 were 365,000 t (table 3), an increase of

27% from those of February 2010 and 7% less than those of March 2009. The United States imported crude gypsum from three countries in March 2010. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 56%, followed by Spain with 24%, and Mexico with 20%.

Gypsum wallboard imports for March 2010 were 27,800 t, equivalent to 3.1 million square meters (33 million square feet). These imports were up by 67% from those of February 2010 and 34% less than those of March 2009. The United States imported wallboard products from four countries in March 2010. Mexico accounted for 58% of these imports, followed by Canada with 41%. Imports from China and Colombia were negligible.

Wallboard exports to 28 countries and territories in March 2010 were 54,800 t, equivalent to 6.1 million square meters (66 million square feet). This amount was 4% more than that of February 2010 and 9% more than that of March 2009. Most wallboard exports were shipped to 21 western hemisphere countries, with Canada accounting for 93%, followed by the Bahamas, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico, and Singapore, each with 1%.

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

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	2009		2010	
	January-March	February	March	January-March ³
Crude:				
Mined ⁴	2,450,000 ^r	679,000	826,000	2,110,000
Imported ⁵	1,010,000	287,000	365,000	854,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁶	1,840,000	528,000	766,000	1,870,000
Total supply	5,300,000	1,490,000	1,960,000	4,840,000
Crude, exported ⁵	33,400	25,500	31,600	79,900
Consumption	5,260,000	1,470,000	1,930,000	4,760,000
Calcined:				
Produced	3,670,000 ^r	953,000	1,240,000	3,160,000
Imported ⁷	3,640	1,060	1,230	3,210
Total supply	3,680,000	954,000	1,240,000	3,170,000
Exported ⁷	28,300	11,200	13,800	33,900
Consumption	3,650,000 ^r	943,000	1,230,000	3,130,000

^rRevised.

¹Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

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

³May include revised data from previous month(s).

⁴Some data were estimated from semiannual reports.

⁵Import and export data are for "Gypsum; anhydrite," Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2520.10.0000.

⁶Reported production only.

⁷Import 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-March	February	March	January-March ³
Uncalcined:⁴				
Portland cement	359,000	100,000	117,000	306,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	372,000 ^r	111,000	120,000	343,000
Total	730,000 ^r	211,000	237,000	649,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁵	4,000,000	1,150,000	1,510,000	3,750,000
Plaster	21,600	6,730	8,890	21,800
Total	4,030,000	1,150,000	1,520,000	3,770,000
Board products: (thousand square feet)⁶				
Regular board	2,370,000	776,000	1,030,000	2,520,000
Type X board	1,870,000	450,000	591,000	1,480,000
Other	561,000	149,000	198,000	498,000
Total supply	4,800,000 ^r	1,370,000	1,820,000	4,500,000

^rRevised.

¹Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

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

³May include revised data from previous month(s).

⁴Does not include synthetic gypsum from electric power plants.

⁵Includes weight of paper and other materials.

⁶One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

TABLE 3
CRUDE GYPSUM IMPORTED FOR CONSUMPTION¹

(Metric tons)

Country of origin	2009		2010	
	January-March	February	March	January-March ²
Brazil	1	--	--	--
Canada	698,000	203,000	205,000	472,000
France	18	--	--	--
Germany	64	1	--	1
Korea	5	--	--	--
Mexico	260,000	83,900	73,200	266,000
Spain	49,900	--	87,100	116,000
Total	1,010,000	287,000	365,000	854,000

-- Zero.

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

²May include revised data from previous month(s).

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:				
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
March	1,160	826	365	32
January-March	2,890	2,120	854	80

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
March:											
Veneer base	11,400	1,630	4,750	420	3,420	6	8	172	813	9	22,600
Sheathing	502	2,240	1,990	1,650	5,850	1,930	5,550	1,850	4,370	3,480	29,400
Regular gypsum board	26,000	107,000	129,000	77,900	234,000	79,000	163,000	83,700	97,100	29,700	1,030,000
Type X gypsum board	17,700	71,200	73,800	48,200	93,000	30,700	77,800	62,700	100,000	15,600	591,000
Liner Panel	501	2,280	920	299	4,900	376	642	643	672	316	11,600
Predecorated board	261	769	913	396	1,220	427	897	297	505	46	5,730
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,030	837	--	830	6,290	2,100	136	73	37	11,300
Water/moisture resistant board	6,600	25,500	15,800	7,230	21,500	6,220	11,900	4,790	12,800	4,870	117,000
Total	63,000	212,000	228,000	136,000	365,000	125,000	262,000	154,000	217,000	54,100	1,820,000
January-March:											
Veneer base	28,300	4,160	11,700	1,120	7,590	47	125	309	2,090	94	55,500
Sheathing	1,330	5,490	4,710	4,460	14,200	4,410	14,700	5,350	11,400	9,060	75,100
Regular gypsum board	68,400	263,000	326,000	197,000	556,000	185,000	409,000	200,000	236,000	83,800	2,520,000
Type X gypsum board	46,500	177,000	187,000	118,000	232,000	68,700	204,000	149,000	257,000	41,600	1,480,000
Liner Panel	1,370	5,230	1,960	705	11,300	795	1,620	1,510	1,890	1,110	27,500
Predecorated board	594	1,720	2,040	969	3,330	992	2,370	647	1,380	310	14,300
5/16 Mobile home board	--	2,020	1,820	--	1,870	16,400	4,310	316	327	37	27,100
Water/moisture resistant board	17,500	63,700	38,600	17,300	58,500	14,800	29,900	13,000	32,600	13,600	299,000
Total	164,000	522,000	575,000	340,000	884,000	291,000	665,000	369,000	542,000	150,000	4,500,000

-- 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.