

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN DECEMBER 2010

Producers mined 661,000 metric tons (t) of gypsum in December 2010 (table 1). This amount was 9% more than that of November 2010 and 4% more than that for December 2009. Synthetic gypsum production was 480,000 t in December 2010 (table 1), which was 24% less than that of November 2010 and 13% less than that of December 2009. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During December 2010, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 34% of the 1.43-million-metric-ton (Mt) total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in December 2010, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 256,000 t (table 2), which was slightly less than those of November 2010 and 6% more than those of December 2009.

Output of calcined gypsum for December 2010 (table 1) was 767,000 t, which was 19% less than that of November 2010 and 20% less than that of December 2009. Sales of board products (table 2) were 989,000 t, equivalent to approximately 126 million square meters (1.19 billion square feet), which was 15% less than those of November 2010 and 12% less than those of December 2009.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in December 2010 were 288,000 t (table 3), an increase

of 13% from those of November 2010 and slightly more than those of December 2009. The United States imported crude gypsum from five countries in December 2010. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 72%, followed by Mexico with 28%. Imports from China, France, and Morocco were negligible.

Gypsum wallboard imports for December 2010 were 17,700 t, equivalent to 1.97 million square meters (21.2 million square feet). These imports were down 6% from those of November 2010 and 4% more than those of December 2009. The United States imported wallboard products from five countries in December 2010. Canada accounted for 56% of these imports, followed by Mexico with 43%. Imports from Colombia, Denmark, and the Dominican Republic were negligible.

Wallboard exports to 26 countries and territories in December 2010 were 56,500 t, equivalent to 6.3 million square meters (68 million square feet). This amount was 6% less than that of November 2010 and 10% less than that of December 2009. Most wallboard exports were shipped to 22 western hemisphere countries, with Canada accounting for 95%.

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

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	2009		2010	
	January-December	November	December	January-December ³
Crude:				
Mined ⁴	9,100,000	606,000	661,000	8,580,000
Imported ⁵	4,220,000	254,000	288,000	3,330,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁶	7,070,000	636,000	480,000	7,320,000
Total supply	20,400,000	1,500,000	1,430,000	19,200,000
Crude, exported ⁵	156,000	35,600	19,500	360,000
Consumption	20,200,000	1,460,000	1,410,000	18,900,000
Calcined:				
Produced	13,400,000	952,000	767,000	12,200,000
Imported ⁷	15,100	1,630	938	15,100
Total supply	13,400,000	954,000	768,000	12,200,000
Exported ⁷	155,000	11,400	12,300	190,000
Consumption	13,200,000	942,000	756,000	12,000,000

¹Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

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

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

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-December	November	December	January-December ³
Uncalcined:⁴				
Portland cement	1,600,000	128,000	124,000	1,510,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	1,630,000 [†]	129,000	132,000	1,500,000
Total	3,230,000 [†]	257,000	256,000	3,020,000
Calcined:				
Board products ⁵	15,100,000	1,170,000	989,000	14,200,000
Plaster	83,200	6,400	5,560	80,200
Total	15,200,000	1,170,000	995,000	14,300,000
Board products: (thousand square feet)⁶				
Regular board	9,470,000	782,000	643,000	9,570,000
Type X board	6,530,000	466,000	409,000	5,560,000
Other	2,110,000	152,000	136,000	1,930,000
Total supply	18,100,000	1,400,000	1,190,000	17,100,000

[†]Revised.

¹Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

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

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

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-December	November	December	January-December ²
Brazil	1	--	--	--
Canada	2,720,000	198,000	208,000	1,980,000
China	133	1	8	15
France	18	--	42	50
Germany	65	--	--	39
Hong Kong	--	--	--	1
Italy	--	--	--	10
Korea, Republic of	10	--	--	--
Mexico	1,340,000	56,600	80,600	1,140,000
Morocco	--	--	6	6
Sinagapore	5	--	--	--
South Africa	--	--	--	8,010
Spain	164,000	--	--	198,000
Sweden	1	--	--	--
Switzerland	--	--	--	1
United Kingdom	10	12	--	33
Total	4,220,000	254,000	288,000	3,330,000

-- Zero.

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

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

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:				
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
April	1,020	780	259	19
May	1,060	766	324	28
June	1,040	775	291	30
July	894	698	225	29
August	918	708	255	45
September	954	718	278	41
October	1,020	750	302	33
November	824	606	254	36
December	930	661	288	19
January-December	11,500	8,580	3,330	360

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
December:											
Veneer base	7,060	1,030	2,790	312	1,450	5	9	64	340	81	13,100
Sheathing	1,020	2,250	1,910	1,720	4,310	1,170	5,590	1,490	3,360	2,900	25,700
Regular gypsum board	17,800	72,200	82,500	50,600	137,000	43,700	102,000	45,000	59,600	32,100	643,000
Type X gypsum board	13,700	53,900	54,400	36,900	59,700	16,000	59,100	35,300	64,800	14,900	409,000
Liner Panel	309	1,390	634	348	1,800	177	651	540	427	331	6,610
Predecorated board	166	576	819	245	732	185	508	517	650	87	4,490
5/16 Mobile home board	--	514	345	2	434	2,950	236	117	89	36	4,730
Water/moisture resistant board	4,100	18,200	10,500	4,690	14,500	3,690	7,960	3,370	9,390	4,690	81,100
Total	44,100	150,000	154,000	94,800	220,000	67,900	176,000	86,400	139,000	55,100	1,190,000
January-December:											
Veneer base	106,000	14,700	42,600	3,880	26,300	240	226	921	7,220	940	203,000
Sheathing	9,060	27,000	23,900	21,600	60,300	17,600	66,600	20,800	43,500	37,200	327,000
Regular gypsum board	247,000	1,010,000	1,170,000	709,000	2,170,000	727,000	1,580,000	704,000	880,000	378,000	9,570,000
Type X gypsum board	176,000	702,000	700,000	449,000	883,000	247,000	756,000	514,000	951,000	186,000	5,560,000
Liner Panel	4,740	20,000	7,820	3,460	38,500	2,400	7,260	5,930	6,540	3,530	100,000
Predecorated board	2,430	6,570	9,860	3,780	12,500	3,990	10,500	3,240	6,300	964	60,200
5/16 Mobile home board	--	15,600	9,140	4	5,530	58,300	12,200	1,860	1,020	257	104,000
Water/moisture resistant board	64,600	245,000	146,000	63,700	218,000	55,900	113,000	48,500	128,000	56,400	1,140,000
Total	610,000	2,040,000	2,110,000	1,250,000	3,410,000	1,110,000	2,550,000	1,300,000	2,020,000	663,000	17,100,000

-- 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.