

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 2019

Producers mined 5.33 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum during the fourth quarter of 2019 (table 1). That was slightly less than that of the third quarter of 2019 and slightly more than that of the fourth quarter of 2018. The total production of mined gypsum in 2019 was 21.5 Mt, which was slightly less than that of 2018. Synthetic gypsum used was estimated to be 3.6 Mt in the fourth quarter of 2019 (table 1), which was unchanged from that of the third quarter of 2019 and a 15% decrease from the fourth quarter of 2018. During the fourth quarter of 2019, synthetic gypsum accounted for approximately 34% of the 10.6-Mt total supply of gypsum in the United States. Total synthetic gypsum used in 2019 was estimated to be 14.4 Mt, which was 15% less than that of 2018. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum.

Calcined gypsum production during the fourth quarter of 2019 was 4.39 Mt, which was slightly less than that of the third quarter of 2019 and 4% less than that of the fourth quarter of 2018 (table 1). Sales of board products were 5.45 Mt, equivalent to approximately 608 million square meters (6.54 billion square feet), slightly less than those of the third quarter of 2019 and 7% more than those of the fourth quarter of 2018 (table 2). The total supply of calcined gypsum for 2019 was 17.5 Mt, which was slightly more than the total annual supply of calcined gypsum for 2018.

Sales of uncalcined gypsum in the fourth quarter of 2019, primarily for portland cement and agricultural uses, were estimated to be 6.40 Mt, unchanged from those of the third quarter of 2019 and the fourth quarter of 2018 (table 2). Total estimated sales of uncalcined gypsum in 2019 were 25.6 Mt, which were unchanged from those of 2018.

The occurrence of quarterly fluctuations is not unusual in the production and consumption of gypsum, synthetic gypsum, and

calcined gypsum. These variances are often the result of differences in weather conditions, which can impede or encourage construction activities, coupled with market demands that are often driven by residential and commercial building activity.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in the fourth quarter of 2019 were 1.64 Mt (table 3), slightly more than those of the third quarter of 2019 and 52% more than those of the fourth quarter of 2018. Spain was the leading source with 40% of total crude imports, followed by Canada with 28% and Mexico with 26%. Total crude gypsum imports in 2019 were 6.1 Mt, 18% more than those of 2018.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, gypsum wallboard imports for the fourth quarter of 2019 were 129,000 t, equivalent to about 14.3 million square meters (154 million square feet). These imports were 7% more than those of the third quarter of 2019 and 22% more than those of the fourth quarter of 2018. Mexico was the source of 70% of wallboard imports, followed by Canada with 30%. Total wallboard imports in 2019 were 501,000 t, 6% more than those of 2018.

Wallboard exports to 27 countries and territories in the fourth quarter of 2019 were 126,000 t, equivalent to 14.0 million square meters (150 million square feet). These were slightly more than those of the third quarter of 2019 and 5% more than those of the fourth quarter of 2018. Most wallboard exports were shipped to Canada, which accounted for 91% of the total. Wallboard exports in 2019 were 501,000 t, 13% less than those of 2018.

Changes in import and export wallboard data are frequently amplified as a result of relatively small quantities of traded material.

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

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TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	2018		2019				
	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter ³	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter
Crude:							
Mined ⁴	5,200,000	21,600,000	5,300,000	5,400,000 ^r	5,460,000 ^r	5,330,000	21,500,000
Imported ⁵	1,080,000	5,190,000	1,350,000	1,510,000	1,630,000	1,640,000	6,140,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁶	4,240,000	17,000,000	3,600,000 ^r	3,600,000 ^r	3,600,000 ^r	3,600,000	14,400,000
Total supply	10,500,000	43,700,000	10,300,000 ^r	10,500,000 ^r	10,700,000 ^r	10,600,000	42,000,000
Crude, exported ⁵	10,300	35,800	8,330	11,000	9,920	7,690	36,900
Consumption	10,500,000	43,700,000	10,200,000 ^r	10,500,000 ^r	10,700,000 ^r	10,600,000	42,000,000
Calcined:							
Produced	4,560,000	17,300,000	4,230,000	4,490,000	4,410,000	4,390,000	17,500,000
Imported ⁷	6,610	21,600	6,160	6,420	6,940	7,410	26,900
Total supply	4,570,000	17,300,000	4,230,000	4,490,000	4,420,000	4,400,000	17,500,000
Exported ⁷	26,300	118,000	25,400	32,000	29,600	25,700	113,000
Consumption	4,540,000	17,200,000	4,210,000	4,460,000	4,390,000	4,370,000	17,400,000

^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 revisions to previously published data.

⁴Includes estimated data.

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

⁶Estimated, based on American Coal Ash Association data for utilized FGD gypsum.

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)

	2018		2019				
	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter ³	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter
Uncalcined:⁴							
Portland and masonry cement ^c	1,200,000	4,800,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	4,800,000
Agriculture and other ^{e, 5}	5,200,000	20,800,000	5,200,000	5,200,000	5,200,000	5,200,000	20,800,000
Total	6,400,000	25,600,000	6,400,000	6,400,000	6,400,000	6,400,000	25,600,000
Calcined:							
Board products ⁶	5,100,000	20,700,000	5,230,000	5,440,000	5,480,000	5,450,000	21,600,000
Plaster	18,700	79,600	20,100	20,700	19,600	18,600	79,100
Total	5,120,000	20,800,000	5,250,000	5,460,000	5,500,000	5,470,000	21,700,000
Board products: (thousand square feet)⁷							
Regular board	3,230,000	13,000,000	3,240,000	3,360,000	3,440,000	3,480,000	13,500,000
Type X board	2,080,000	8,580,000	2,190,000	2,270,000	2,250,000	2,200,000	8,910,000
Other	817,000	3,290,000	845,000	890,000	882,000	868,000	3,490,000
Total supply	6,130,000	24,900,000	6,270,000	6,530,000	6,570,000	6,540,000	25,900,000

⁴Estimated.

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 to previously published data.

⁴Does not include synthetic gypsum from electric powerplants.

⁵Includes gypsum used for infrastructure purposes, unspecified uses, and estimated under-reported amount.

⁶Includes weight of paper and other materials.

⁷One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

TABLE 3
CRUDE GYPSUM IMPORTED FOR CONSUMPTION^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	2018		2019				
	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter
Australia	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Belgium	--	2	--	--	--	--	--
Brazil	--	4	1	--	--	--	1
Canada	351,000	1,370,000	312,000	475,000	478,000	462,000	1,730,000
China	3	8	--	443	651	27	1,120
Dominican Republic	--	7,510	--	--	5,730	--	5,730
Germany	--	435	4	109	174	504	791
Guatemala	--	105	40	71	--	--	111
Hong Kong	--	--	--	3	--	5	8
Japan	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	28	28
Malaysia	--	8	--	--	--	--	--
Mexico	468,000	2,100,000	476,000	511,000	549,000	433,000	1,970,000
Morocco	57	186	27,400	19	42	144	27,600
Spain	262,000	1,620,000	448,000	447,000	549,000	658,000	2,100,000
Taiwan	--	--	457	--	--	--	457
Thailand	44	203	40	44	86	10	180
Turkey	--	87,600	90,100	76,700	48,400	91,100	306,000
United Kingdom	76	228	1	4	3	--	8
Venezuela	--	160	--	--	--	--	--
Total	1,080,000	5,190,000	1,350,000	1,510,000	1,630,000	1,640,000	6,140,000

-- Zero.

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

²May include revisions to previously published 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
2018:				
4th quarter	6,270	5,200	1,080	10
1st quarter–4th quarter	26,700	21,600	5,190	35
2019:				
1st quarter	6,640	5,300	1,350	8
2d quarter	6,900 ^r	5,400 ^r	1,510	11
3d quarter	7,080 ^r	5,460 ^r	1,630	10
4th quarter	6,970	5,330	1,650	8
1st quarter–4th quarter	27,600	21,500	6,140	37

^rRevised.

¹Excludes synthetic gypsum.

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

³Consumption calculated by adding production and imports and subtracting exports. Quarterly inventory changes are not included.

⁴Production data derived from semiannual gypsum canvasses of non-wallboard producers, annual canvass of all producers, and quarterly data provided by the Gypsum Association.

⁵Data from U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
SALES OF GYPSUM BOARD PRODUCTS, BY SALES REGIONS IN 2019^{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
4th quarter:											
Veneer base	45,600	2,590	12,000	391	5,430	13	--	38	1,160	--	67,200
Sheathing	3,730	12,900	10,600	9,000	23,300	5,530	21,900	7,910	20,000	19,500	134,000
Regular gypsum board	55,700	267,000	360,000	219,000	1,010,000	288,000	572,000	342,000	286,000	80,200	3,480,000
Type X gypsum board	69,900	225,000	258,000	157,000	447,000	84,600	284,000	229,000	411,000	32,500	2,200,000
Liner panel	1,970	8,780	4,190	1,790	24,600	2,090	5,360	6,610	4,220	577	60,200
Predecorated board	452	1,820	2,390	901	3,010	816	2,400	1,130	1,870	543	15,300
5/16 Mobile home board	--	903	3,950	--	578	4,270	1,470	--	--	56	11,200
Water/moisture resistant board	26,800	122,000	61,500	28,700	134,000	23,600	64,700	31,800	59,600	26,800	580,000
Total	204,000	642,000	713,000	417,000	1,640,000	409,000	952,000	619,000	784,000	160,000	6,540,000
1st quarter–4th quarter:											
Veneer base	192,000	10,100	47,300	1,440	22,700	146	21	287	5,370	5	279,000
Sheathing	16,000	47,700	39,400	33,400	88,200	22,800	81,900	32,700	86,700	75,100	524,000
Regular gypsum board	229,000	1,060,000	1,410,000	817,000	3,820,000	1,080,000	2,240,000	1,370,000	1,200,000	293,000	13,500,000
Type X gypsum board	290,000	916,000	1,010,000	599,000	1,700,000	342,000	1,200,000	970,000	1,730,000	154,000	8,910,000
Liner panel	9,420	37,600	17,600	5,970	105,000	7,710	22,900	25,700	18,000	3,410	253,000
Predecorated board	2,280	6,430	8,500	3,830	12,300	3,690	9,280	3,880	6,570	2,090	58,900
5/16 Mobile home board	--	6,000	15,600	--	2,130	16,800	5,370	--	27	274	46,200
Water/moisture resistant board	111,000	508,000	235,000	112,000	514,000	98,000	262,000	124,000	256,000	104,000	2,320,000
Total	849,000	2,590,000	2,790,000	1,570,000	6,270,000	1,580,000	3,810,000	2,530,000	3,300,000	632,000	25,900,000

-- 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.