

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## GYPSUM IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2020

Producers mined 5.31 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum during the first quarter of 2020 (table 1). That was essentially the same as that of the fourth quarter of 2019 and the first quarter of 2019. Synthetic gypsum used was estimated to be 3.6 Mt in the first quarter of 2020 (table 1), which was unchanged from that of the fourth quarter of 2019 and the first quarter of 2019. During the first quarter of 2020 synthetic gypsum accounted for approximately 35% of the 10.3-Mt total supply of gypsum in the United States. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard.

Calcined gypsum production during the first quarter of 2020 was 4.35 Mt, which was slightly less than that of the fourth quarter of 2019 and 3% more than that of the first quarter of 2019 (table 1). Sales of board products were 5.37 Mt, equivalent to approximately 599 million square meters (6.45 billion square feet), slightly less than those of the fourth quarter of 2019 and 3% more than those of the first quarter of 2019 (table 2).

Sales of uncalcined gypsum in the first quarter of 2020, primarily for portland cement and agricultural uses, were estimated to be 6.30 Mt, unchanged from those of the fourth quarter of 2019 and the first quarter of 2019 (table 2).

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 first quarter of 2020 were 1.38 Mt (table 3), 16%

less than those of the fourth quarter of 2019 and slightly more than those of the first quarter of 2019. Canada was the leading source with 38% of total crude imports, followed by Mexico with 33% and Spain with 25%.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, gypsum wallboard imports for the first quarter of 2020 were 131,000 t, equivalent to about 14.6 million square meters (157 million square feet). These imports were slightly more than those of the fourth quarter of 2019 and 13% more than those of the first quarter of 2019. Mexico was the source of 77% of wallboard imports, followed by Canada with 22%.

Wallboard exports to 38 countries and territories in the first quarter of 2020 were 141,000 t, equivalent to 15.7 million square meters (169 million square feet). These were 12% more than those of the fourth quarter of 2019 and 18% more than those of the first quarter of 2019. Most wallboard exports were shipped to Canada, which accounted for 93% of the total.

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<sup>1, 2</sup>

(Metric tons)

	2019				1st quarter– 4th quarter <sup>3</sup>	2020 1st quarter
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter		
<b>Crude:</b>						
Mined <sup>4</sup>	5,300,000	5,400,000	5,460,000	5,330,000	21,500,000	5,310,000
Imported <sup>5</sup>	1,350,000	1,510,000	1,630,000	1,640,000	6,140,000	1,380,000
Synthetic gypsum <sup>6</sup>	3,600,000	3,600,000	3,600,000	3,600,000	14,400,000	3,600,000
Total supply	10,300,000	10,500,000	10,700,000	10,600,000	42,000,000	10,300,000
Crude, exported <sup>5</sup>	8,330	11,000	9,920	7,690	36,900	8,980
Consumption	10,200,000	10,500,000	10,700,000	10,600,000	42,000,000	10,300,000
<b>Calcined:</b>						
Produced	4,230,000	4,490,000	4,410,000	4,390,000	17,500,000	4,350,000
Imported <sup>7</sup>	6,160	6,420	6,940	7,410	26,900	7,860
Total supply	4,230,000	4,490,000	4,420,000	4,400,000	17,500,000	4,360,000
Exported <sup>7</sup>	25,400	32,000	29,600	25,700	113,000	23,900
Consumption	4,210,000	4,460,000	4,390,000	4,370,000	17,400,000	4,340,000

<sup>1</sup>Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

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

<sup>3</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

<sup>4</sup>Includes estimated data.

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

<sup>6</sup>Estimated, based on American Coal Ash Association data for FGD gypsum used.

<sup>7</sup>Import and export data are for "Plaster," Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2520.20.0000.

TABLE 2  
GYPSUM SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS, BY USE<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2019				1st quarter– 4th quarter <sup>3</sup>	2020 1st quarter
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter		
Uncalcined: <sup>4</sup>						
Portland and masonry cement <sup>e</sup>	1,100,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,100,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,100,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,100,000 <sup>r</sup>	4,400,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,100,000
Agriculture and other <sup>e,5</sup>	5,200,000	5,200,000	5,200,000	5,200,000	20,800,000	5,200,000
Total	6,300,000	6,300,000	6,300,000	6,300,000	25,200,000	6,300,000
Calcined:						
Board products <sup>6</sup>	5,230,000	5,440,000	5,480,000	5,450,000	21,600,000	5,370,000
Plaster	20,100	20,700	19,600	18,600	79,100	20,300
Total	5,250,000	5,460,000	5,500,000	5,470,000	21,700,000	5,390,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) <sup>7</sup>						
Regular board	3,240,000	3,360,000	3,440,000	3,480,000	13,500,000	3,410,000
Type X board	2,190,000	2,270,000	2,250,000	2,200,000	8,910,000	2,160,000
Other	845,000	890,000	882,000	868,000	3,490,000	873,000
Total supply	6,270,000	6,530,000	6,570,000	6,540,000	25,900,000	6,450,000

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

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

<sup>3</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

<sup>4</sup>Does not include synthetic gypsum from electric powerplants.

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

<sup>6</sup>Includes weight of paper and other materials.

<sup>7</sup>One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

TABLE 3  
CRUDE GYPSUM IMPORTED FOR CONSUMPTION<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	2019				1st quarter– 4th quarter	2020 1st quarter
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter		
Belgium	--	--	--	--	--	20
Brazil	1	--	--	--	1	--
Canada	312,000	475,000	478,000	462,000	1,730,000	525,000
China	--	443	651	27	1,120	110
Dominican Republic	--	--	5,730	--	5,730	--
Germany	4	109	174	504	791	625
Guatemala	40	71	--	--	111	--
Hong Kong	--	3	--	5	8	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	28	28	20
Mexico	476,000	511,000	549,000	433,000	1,970,000	457,000
Morocco	27,400	19	42	144	27,600	36
Spain	448,000	447,000	549,000	658,000	2,100,000	349,000
Taiwan	457	--	--	--	457	1
Thailand	40	44	86	10	180	--
Turkey	90,100	76,700	48,400	91,100	306,000	48,400
United Kingdom	1	4	3	--	8	112
Total	1,350,000	1,510,000	1,630,000	1,640,000	6,140,000	1,380,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
CRUDE GYPSUM IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Consumption <sup>3</sup>	Production <sup>4</sup>	Imports <sup>5</sup>	Exports <sup>5</sup>
2019:				
1st quarter	6,640	5,300	1,350	8
2d quarter	6,900	5,400	1,510	11
3d quarter	7,080	5,460	1,630	10
4th quarter	6,970	5,330	1,650	8
1st quarter–4th quarter	27,600	21,500	6,140	37
2020, 1st quarter				
	6,680	5,310	1,380	9

<sup>1</sup>Excludes synthetic gypsum.

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup>Data from U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
SALES OF GYPSUM BOARD PRODUCTS, BY SALES REGIONS IN 2020<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand square feet)<sup>3</sup>

	New England	Middle Atlantic	E. North Central	W. North Central	South Atlantic	E. South Central	W. South Central	Mountain	Pacific	Exports	Total
1st quarter:											
Veneer base	51,600	2,580	11,100	423	5,320	18	5	--	610	--	71,700
Sheathing	3,960	10,600	8,400	8,790	22,300	5,020	20,600	8,290	19,500	17,900	125,000
Regular gypsum board	61,900	267,000	375,000	215,000	936,000	277,000	591,000	348,000	262,000	78,000	3,410,000
Type X gypsum board	73,600	234,000	253,000	143,000	435,000	85,100	293,000	240,000	365,000	37,400	2,160,000
Liner panel	2,120	9,450	3,530	1,620	25,200	2,460	5,810	7,210	4,040	355	61,800
Predecorated board	573	1,520	2,040	989	3,050	849	2,480	951	843	216	13,500
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,170	3,440	--	552	5,060	1,550	--	--	--	11,800
Water/moisture resistant board	27,900	126,000	63,700	29,600	140,000	26,800	64,500	33,600	49,600	27,300	589,000
Total	222,000	653,000	720,000	400,000	1,570,000	403,000	979,000	638,000	702,000	161,000	6,450,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Sales 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).

<sup>3</sup>One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

Source: Gypsum Association.