

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2020

Producers mined 5.25 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum during the second quarter of 2020 (table 1). That was a slight increase from that of the first quarter of 2020 and a 3% decrease from the second quarter of 2019. Synthetic gypsum used was estimated to be 3.6 Mt in the second quarter of 2020 (table 1), which was unchanged from that of the first quarter of 2020 and the second quarter of 2019. During the second quarter of 2020 synthetic gypsum accounted for approximately 35% of the 10.4 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 second quarter of 2020 was 4.17 Mt, which was 4% less than that of the first quarter of 2020 and 7% less than that of the second quarter of 2020 (table 1). Sales of board products and plaster were 5.20 Mt, equivalent to approximately 578 million square meters (6.22 billion square feet), 5% less than those of the first quarter of 2020 and 5% more than those of the second quarter of 2019 (table 2).

Sales of uncalcined gypsum in the second quarter of 2020, primarily for portland cement and agricultural uses, were estimated to be 6.30 Mt, unchanged from those of the first quarter of 2020 and the second 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 second quarter of 2020 were 1.55 Mt (table 3),

12% more than those of the first quarter of 2020 and 3% more than those of the second quarter of 2019. Spain was the leading source with 33% of total crude imports, followed by Mexico with 30% and Canada with 29%.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, gypsum wallboard imports for the second quarter of 2020 were from 9 countries and totaled 122,000 t, equivalent to about 13.6 million square meters (146 million square feet). These imports were 7% less than those of the first quarter of 2020 and 10% less than those of the second quarter of 2019. Mexico was the source of 79% of wallboard imports, followed by Canada with 19%.

Wallboard exports to 30 countries and territories in the second quarter of 2020 were 122,000 t, equivalent to 13.6 million square meters (146 million square feet). These were 14% less than those of the first quarter of 2020 and 7% less than those of the second quarter of 2019. Most wallboard exports were shipped to Canada, which accounted for 94% 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^{1, 2}

(Metric tons)

	2019				2020		
	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter ³	1st quarter	2d quarter	1st quarter– 2d quarter ³
Crude:							
Mined ⁴	5,400,000	5,460,000	5,330,000	21,500,000	5,130,000 ^r	5,250,000	10,400,000
Imported ⁵	1,510,000	1,630,000	1,640,000	6,140,000	1,380,000	1,550,000	2,930,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁶	3,600,000	3,600,000	3,600,000	14,400,000	3,600,000	3,600,000	7,200,000
Total supply	10,500,000	10,700,000	10,600,000	42,000,000	10,100,000 ^r	10,400,000	20,500,000
Crude, exported ⁵	11,000	9,920	7,690	37,000	8,980	7,530	16,500
Consumption	10,500,000	10,700,000	10,600,000	42,000,000	10,100,000 ^r	10,400,000	20,500,000
Calcined:							
Produced	4,490,000	4,410,000	4,390,000	17,500,000	4,350,000	4,170,000	8,520,000
Imported ⁷	6,420	6,940	7,410	26,900	7,860	6,850	14,700
Total supply	4,490,000	4,420,000	4,400,000	17,500,000	4,360,000	4,170,000	8,530,000
Exported ⁷	32,000	29,600	25,700	113,000	23,900	20,700	44,600
Consumption	4,460,000	4,390,000	4,370,000	17,400,000	4,340,000	4,150,000	8,490,000

^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 FGD gypsum used.

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)

	2019				2020		
	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter ³	1st quarter	2d quarter	1st quarter– 2d quarter ³
Uncalcined:⁴							
Portland and masonry cement ^e	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	4,400,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	2,200,000
Agriculture and other ^{e,5}	5,200,000	5,200,000	5,200,000	20,800,000	5,200,000	5,200,000	10,400,000
Total	6,300,000	6,300,000	6,300,000	25,200,000	6,300,000	6,300,000	12,600,000
Calcined:							
Board products ⁶	5,440,000	5,480,000	5,450,000	21,600,000	5,460,000 ^r	5,180,000	10,600,000
Plaster	20,700	19,600	18,600	79,100	20,300	16,600	36,800
Total	5,460,000	5,500,000	5,470,000	21,700,000	5,490,000^r	5,200,000	10,700,000
Board products: (thousand square feet)⁷							
Regular board	3,360,000	3,440,000	3,480,000	13,500,000	3,450,000 ^r	3,400,000	6,850,000
Type X board	2,270,000	2,250,000	2,200,000	8,910,000	2,210,000 ^r	2,040,000	4,250,000
Other	890,000	882,000	868,000	3,490,000	892,000 ^r	784,000	1,680,000
Total supply	6,530,000	6,570,000	6,540,000	25,900,000	6,560,000^r	6,220,000	12,800,000

^eEstimated. ^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.

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	2019				2020		
	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	1st quarter– 2d quarter
Belgium	--	--	--	--	20	--	20
Brazil	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Canada	475,000	478,000	462,000	1,730,000	525,000	449,000	974,000
China	443	651	27	1,120	110	63	173
Dominican Republic	--	5,730	--	5,730	--	--	--
Germany	109	174	504	791	625	1	626
Guatemala	71	--	--	111	--	--	--
Hong Kong	3	--	5	8	--	--	--
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	4,800	4,800
Korea, Republic of	--	--	28	28	20	--	20
Mexico	511,000	549,000	433,000	1,970,000	457,000	473,000	930,000
Morocco	19	42	144	27,600	36	6	42
Spain	447,000	549,000	658,000	2,100,000	349,000	506,000	855,000
Taiwan	--	--	--	457	1	--	1
Thailand	44	86	10	180	--	80	80
Turkey	76,700	48,400	91,100	306,000	48,400	117,000	166,000
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	1	1
United Kingdom	4	3	--	8	112	20	132
Total	1,510,000	1,630,000	1,640,000	6,140,000	1,380,000	1,550,000	2,930,000

-- 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}

(Metric tons)

Period	Consumption ³	Production ⁴	Imports ⁵	Exports ⁵
2019:				
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	6,510 ^r	5,130 ^r	1,380	9
2d quarter	6,790	5,250	1,550	8
1st quarter–2d quarter	13,300	10,400	2,930	17

^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 2020^{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
2d quarter:											
Veneer base	44,400	2,160	10,500	368	5,040	15	17	51	1,010	--	63,500
Sheathing	3,110	7,630	8,320	7,660	23,000	5,460	21,800	8,260	19,300	10,900	115,000
Regular gypsum board	53,700	216,000	339,000	218,000	948,000	288,000	601,000	369,000	294,000	68,400	3,400,000
Type X gypsum board	56,500	150,000	216,000	148,000	434,000	90,500	296,000	239,000	382,000	29,600	2,040,000
Liner panel	1,680	6,120	3,430	1,240	24,300	2,480	5,630	7,770	4,040	493	57,200
Predecorated board	418	1,160	2,050	872	2,380	730	1,680	839	1,280	180	11,600
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,190	2,600	--	454	3,530	1,390	--	--	61	9,210
Water/moisture resistant board	21,000	85,500	57,600	28,000	131,000	26,900	66,800	31,200	57,500	21,900	527,000
Total	181,000	470,000	639,000	404,000	1,570,000	418,000	994,000	656,000	759,000	132,000	6,220,000
1st quarter–2d quarter:											
Veneer base	96,000	4,740	21,600	791	10,400	33	23	51	2,290	5	136,000
Sheathing	7,080	18,200	16,700	16,500	45,300	10,500	42,400	16,500	39,700	29,000	242,000
Regular gypsum board	116,000	484,000	713,000	433,000	1,880,000	566,000	1,190,000	717,000	597,000	147,000	6,850,000
Type X gypsum board	130,000	384,000	469,000	291,000	868,000	176,000	589,000	480,000	798,000	68,500	4,250,000
Liner panel	3,800	15,600	6,960	2,860	49,500	4,940	11,400	15,000	8,600	857	119,000
Predecorated board	991	2,680	4,090	1,860	5,430	1,580	4,150	1,790	2,900	440	25,900
5/16 Mobile home board	--	2,360	6,030	--	1,010	8,580	2,930	--	--	123	21,000
Water/moisture resistant board	48,800	212,000	121,000	57,600	271,000	53,700	131,000	64,800	122,000	50,500	1,130,000
Total	402,000	1,120,000	1,360,000	803,000	3,140,000	820,000	1,970,000	1,290,000	1,570,000	297,000	12,800,000

-- 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.