

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## GYPSUM IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2020

Producers mined 5.23 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum during the third quarter of 2020 (table 1). That was a slight decrease from that of the second quarter of 2020 and a 4% decrease from the third quarter of 2019. Synthetic gypsum used was estimated to be 3.6 Mt in the third quarter of 2020 (table 1), which was unchanged from that of the second quarter of 2020 and the third quarter of 2019. During the third 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 third quarter of 2020 was 4.24 Mt, which was slightly more than that of the second quarter of 2020 and 4% less than that of the third quarter of 2020 (table 1). Sales of board products and plaster were 5.54 Mt, equivalent to approximately 617 million square meters (6.65 billion square feet), 7% more than those of the second quarter of 2020 and slightly more than those of the third quarter of 2019 (table 2).

Sales of uncalcined gypsum in the third quarter of 2020, primarily for portland cement and agricultural uses, were estimated to be 6.30 Mt, unchanged from those of the second quarter of 2020 and the third 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 third quarter of 2020 were 1.50 Mt (table 3), 3%

less than those of the second quarter of 2020 and 8% less than those of the third quarter of 2019. Spain was the leading source with 39% of total crude imports, followed by Mexico with 38% and Canada with 24%.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, gypsum wallboard imports for the third quarter of 2020 were from 8 countries and totaled 128,000 t, equivalent to about 14.2 million square meters (153 million square feet). These imports were 4% more than those of the second quarter of 2020 and 6% more than those of the third quarter of 2019. Mexico was the source of 73% of wallboard imports, followed by Canada with 27%.

Wallboard exports to 30 countries and territories in the third quarter of 2020 were 128,000 t, equivalent to 14.2 million square meters (153 million square feet). These were 5% more than those of the second quarter of 2020 and 4% more than those of the third 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			2020			
	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter <sup>3</sup>	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter <sup>3</sup>
<b>Crude:</b>							
Mined <sup>4</sup>	5,460,000	5,330,000	21,500,000	5,120,000 <sup>r</sup>	5,280,000 <sup>r</sup>	5,230,000	15,600,000
Imported <sup>5</sup>	1,630,000	1,640,000	6,140,000	1,380,000	1,550,000	1,500,000	4,430,000
Synthetic gypsum <sup>6</sup>	3,600,000	3,600,000	14,400,000	3,600,000	3,600,000	3,600,000	10,800,000
Total supply	10,700,000	10,600,000	42,000,000	10,100,000	10,400,000	10,300,000	30,900,000
Crude, exported <sup>5</sup>	9,960 <sup>r</sup>	7,690	37,000	8,980	7,530	7,570	24,100
Consumption	10,700,000	10,600,000	42,000,000	10,100,000	10,400,000	10,300,000	30,800,000
<b>Calcined:</b>							
Produced	4,410,000	4,390,000	17,500,000	4,350,000	4,170,000	4,240,000	12,800,000
Imported <sup>7</sup>	6,940	7,410	26,900	7,860	6,850	7,500	22,200
Total supply	4,420,000	4,400,000	17,500,000	4,360,000	4,170,000	4,240,000	12,800,000
Exported <sup>7</sup>	29,600	25,700	113,000	23,900	20,700	21,100	65,700
Consumption	4,390,000	4,370,000	17,400,000	4,340,000	4,150,000	4,220,000	12,700,000

<sup>1</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>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			2020			
	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter <sup>3</sup>	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter <sup>3</sup>
<b>Uncalcined:<sup>4</sup></b>							
Portland and masonry cement <sup>5</sup>	1,100,000	1,100,000	4,400,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	3,300,000
Agriculture and other <sup>5</sup>	5,200,000	5,200,000	20,800,000	5,200,000	5,200,000	5,200,000	15,600,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,300,000</b>	<b>6,300,000</b>	<b>25,200,000</b>	<b>6,300,000</b>	<b>6,300,000</b>	<b>6,300,000</b>	<b>18,900,000</b>
<b>Calcined:</b>							
Board products <sup>6</sup>	5,480,000	5,450,000	21,600,000	5,460,000	5,180,000	5,540,000	16,200,000
Plaster	19,600	18,600	79,100	20,300	16,600	18,700	55,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,500,000</b>	<b>5,470,000</b>	<b>21,700,000</b>	<b>5,490,000</b>	<b>5,200,000</b>	<b>5,560,000</b>	<b>16,200,000</b>
<b>Board products: (thousand square feet)<sup>7</sup></b>							
Regular board	3,440,000	3,480,000	13,500,000	3,450,000	3,400,000	3,580,000	10,400,000
Type X board	2,250,000	2,200,000	8,910,000	2,210,000	2,040,000	2,160,000	6,410,000
Other	882,000	868,000	3,490,000	892,000	784,000	904,000	2,580,000
<b>Total supply</b>	<b>6,570,000</b>	<b>6,540,000</b>	<b>25,900,000</b>	<b>6,560,000</b>	<b>6,220,000</b>	<b>6,650,000</b>	<b>19,400,000</b>

<sup>4</sup>Estimated.

<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			2020			
	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Belgium	--	--	--	20	--	--	20
Brazil	--	--	1	--	--	--	--
Canada	478,000	462,000	1,730,000	525,000	449,000	356,000	1,330,000
China	651	27	1,120	110	63	652	825
Colombia	--	--	--	--	--	28	28
Czechia	--	--	--	--	--	746	746
Dominican Republic	5,730	--	5,730	--	--	--	--
Germany	174	504	791	625	1	--	626
Guatemala	--	--	111	--	--	42	42
Hong Kong	--	5	8	--	--	--	--
Italy	--	--	--	--	4,800	--	4,800
Korea, Republic of	--	28	28	20	--	--	20
Mexico	549,000	433,000	1,970,000	457,000	473,000	565,000	1,500,000
Morocco	42	144	27,600	36	6	47	89
Spain	549,000	658,000	2,100,000	349,000	506,000	581,000	1,440,000
Taiwan	--	--	457	1	--	--	1
Thailand	86	10	180	--	80	50	130
Turkey	48,400	91,100	306,000	48,400	117,000	--	166,000
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
United Kingdom	3	--	8	112	20	--	132
Total	1,630,000	1,640,000	6,140,000	1,380,000	1,550,000	1,500,000	4,430,000

-- 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>

(Metric tons)

Period	Consumption <sup>3</sup>	Production <sup>4</sup>	Imports <sup>5</sup>	Exports <sup>5</sup>
2019:				
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	6,490 <sup>r</sup>	5,120 <sup>r</sup>	1,380	9
2d quarter	6,820 <sup>r</sup>	5,280 <sup>r</sup>	1,550	8
3d quarter	6,730	5,230	1,500	8
1st quarter–3d quarter	20,000	15,600	4,430	24

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<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
<b>3d quarter:</b>											
Veneer base	46,700	2,020	12,000	299	5,300	--	9	96	1,240	--	67,700
Sheathing	4,200	11,800	9,780	7,340	22,200	5,990	19,500	9,350	21,800	18,400	130,000
Regular gypsum board	54,100	263,000	370,000	226,000	991,000	299,000	610,000	364,000	326,000	75,200	3,580,000
Type X gypsum board	66,300	221,000	235,000	142,000	413,000	87,700	289,000	248,000	424,000	36,500	2,160,000
Liner panel	2,160	9,840	4,180	1,130	30,300	2,420	5,800	6,700	4,520	659	67,700
Predecorated board	536	1,520	1,840	839	2,780	861	1,950	932	1,300	291	12,800
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,540	4,410	--	467	5,000	1,670	--	--	61	13,100
Water/moisture resistant board	29,100	134,000	61,000	25,900	141,000	27,700	64,100	35,500	67,100	28,000	612,000
Total	203,000	644,000	698,000	404,000	1,610,000	429,000	992,000	665,000	846,000	159,000	6,650,000
<b>1st quarter–3d quarter:</b>											
Veneer base	143,000	6,760	33,600	1,090	15,700	33	31	147	3,530	--	204,000
Sheathing	11,300	30,000	26,500	23,800	67,500	16,500	61,900	25,900	61,500	47,400	372,000
Regular gypsum board	170,000	747,000	1,080,000	659,000	2,880,000	865,000	1,800,000	1,080,000	922,000	222,000	10,400,000
Type X gypsum board	196,000	604,000	704,000	433,000	1,280,000	263,000	878,000	727,000	1,220,000	105,000	6,410,000
Liner panel	5,960	25,400	11,100	3,990	79,800	7,350	17,200	21,700	13,100	1,520	187,000
Predecorated board	1,530	4,200	5,930	2,700	8,210	2,440	6,100	2,720	4,200	731	38,800
5/16 Mobile home board	--	3,890	10,400	--	1,470	13,600	4,600	--	--	184	34,200
Water/moisture resistant board	77,900	345,000	182,000	83,500	411,000	81,400	195,000	100,000	189,000	78,400	1,740,000
Total	605,000	1,770,000	2,060,000	1,210,000	4,740,000	1,250,000	2,970,000	1,960,000	2,420,000	456,000	19,400,000

-- 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, ND, NE, 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.