

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## GYPSUM IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 2020

Producers mined 5.02 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum during the fourth quarter of 2020 (table 1). That was slightly less than that of the third quarter of 2020 and 6% less than that of the fourth quarter of 2019. The total production of mined gypsum in 2020 was 20.5 Mt, which was 5% less than that of 2019. Synthetic gypsum used was estimated to be 3.6 Mt in the fourth quarter of 2020 (table 1), which was unchanged from that of the third quarter of 2019 and also unchanged from the fourth quarter of 2019. During the fourth quarter of 2020, synthetic gypsum accounted for approximately 35% of the 10.2-Mt total supply of gypsum in the United States. Total synthetic gypsum used in 2020 was estimated to be 14.4 Mt, which was unchanged from that of 2019. 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 2020 was 4.46 Mt, which was 5% more than that of the third quarter of 2020 and slightly more than that of the fourth quarter of 2019 (table 1). Sales of board products were 5.62 Mt, equivalent to approximately 627 million square meters (6.75 billion square feet), slightly more than those of the third quarter of 2020 and 3% more than those of the fourth quarter of 2019 (table 2). The total supply of calcined gypsum for 2020 was 17.2 Mt, which was slightly less than the total annual supply of calcined gypsum for 2019 (table 1).

Sales of uncalcined gypsum in the fourth quarter of 2020, primarily for portland cement and agricultural uses, were estimated to be 6.30 Mt, unchanged from those of the third quarter of 2020 and the fourth quarter of 2019 (table 2). Total estimated sales of uncalcined gypsum in 2020 were 25.2 Mt, which were unchanged from those of 2019.

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 2020 were 1.59 Mt (table 3), 6% more than those of the third quarter of 2020 and 3% less than those of the fourth quarter of 2019. Spain was the leading source with 34% of total crude imports, followed by Canada and Mexico, each with 32%. Total crude gypsum imports in 2020 were 6.03 Mt, slightly less than those of 2019.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, gypsum wallboard imports from 8 countries or localities in the fourth quarter of 2020 were 147,000 t, equivalent to about 16.4 million square meters (176 million square feet). These imports were 15% more than those of the third quarter of 2020 and 14% more than those of the fourth quarter of 2019. Mexico was the source of 71% of wallboard imports, followed by Canada with 29%. Total wallboard imports in 2020 were 528,000 t, 5% more than those of 2019.

Wallboard exports to 31 countries or localities in the fourth quarter of 2020 were 132,000 t, equivalent to 14.7 million square meters (158 million square feet). These were 3% more than those of the third quarter of 2020 and 5% more than those of the fourth quarter of 2019. Most wallboard exports were shipped to Canada, which accounted for 92% of the total. Wallboard exports in 2020 were 524,000 t, 4% more than those of 2019.

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				
	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter <sup>3</sup>	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter
<b>Crude:</b>							
Mined <sup>4</sup>	5,330,000	21,500,000	5,120,000	5,280,000	5,030,000 <sup>r</sup>	5,020,000	20,500,000
Imported <sup>5</sup>	1,640,000	6,140,000	1,380,000	1,550,000	1,500,000	1,590,000	6,030,000
Synthetic gypsum <sup>6</sup>	3,600,000	14,400,000	3,600,000	3,600,000	3,600,000	3,600,000	14,400,000
Total supply	10,600,000	42,000,000	10,100,000	10,400,000	10,100,000 <sup>r</sup>	10,200,000	40,900,000
Crude, exported <sup>5</sup>	7,690	37,000	8,980	7,530	7,570	8,080	32,200
Consumption	10,600,000	42,000,000	10,100,000	10,400,000	10,100,000 <sup>r</sup>	10,200,000	40,900,000
<b>Calcined:</b>							
Produced	4,390,000	17,500,000	4,350,000	4,170,000	4,240,000	4,460,000	17,200,000
Imported <sup>7</sup>	7,410	26,900	7,860	6,850	7,500	6,810	29,000
Total supply	4,400,000	17,500,000	4,360,000	4,170,000	4,240,000	4,470,000	17,200,000
Exported <sup>7</sup>	25,700	113,000	23,900	20,700	21,100	23,700	89,400
Consumption	4,370,000	17,400,000	4,340,000	4,150,000	4,220,000	4,450,000	17,200,000

<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>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				
	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter <sup>3</sup>	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter
Uncalcined: <sup>4</sup>							
Portland and masonry cement <sup>c</sup>	1,100,000	4,400,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	4,400,000
Agriculture and other <sup>c,5</sup>	5,200,000	20,800,000	5,200,000	5,200,000	5,200,000	5,200,000	20,800,000
Total	6,300,000	25,200,000	6,300,000	6,300,000	6,300,000	6,300,000	25,200,000
Calcined:							
Board products <sup>6</sup>	5,450,000	21,600,000	5,460,000	5,180,000	5,540,000	5,620,000	21,800,000
Plaster	18,600	79,100	20,300	16,600	18,700	18,500	74,000
Total	5,470,000	21,700,000	5,490,000	5,200,000	5,560,000	5,640,000	21,900,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) <sup>7</sup>							
Regular board	3,480,000	13,500,000	3,450,000	3,400,000	3,580,000	3,730,000	14,200,000
Type X board	2,200,000	8,910,000	2,210,000	2,040,000	2,160,000	2,100,000	8,520,000
Other	868,000	3,490,000	892,000	784,000	904,000	911,000	3,490,000
Total supply	6,540,000	25,900,000	6,560,000	6,220,000	6,650,000	6,750,000	26,200,000

<sup>c</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				
	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter
Belgium	--	--	20	--	--	--	20
Brazil	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Canada	462,000	1,730,000	525,000	449,000	356,000	503,000	1,830,000
China	27	1,120	110	63	652	1,240	2,070
Colombia	--	--	--	--	28	--	28
Czechia	--	--	--	--	746	770	1,520
Dominican Republic	--	5,730	--	--	--	--	--
Germany	504	791	625	1	--	1	627
Guatemala	--	111	--	--	42	--	42
Hong Kong	5	8	--	--	--	--	--
Italy	--	--	--	4,800	--	--	4,800
Korea, Republic of	28	28	20	--	--	--	20
Mexico	433,000	1,970,000	457,000	473,000	565,000	508,000	2,000,000
Morocco	144	27,600	36	6	47	104	193
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	1	1
Spain	658,000	2,100,000	349,000	506,000	581,000	536,000	1,970,000
Taiwan	--	457	1	--	--	--	1
Thailand	10	180	--	80	50	160	290
Turkey	91,100	306,000	48,400	117,000	--	43,000	209,000
Ukraine	--	--	--	1	--	--	1
United Kingdom	--	8	112	20	--	3	135
Total	1,640,000	6,140,000	1,380,000	1,550,000	1,500,000	1,590,000	6,030,000

-- 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:				
4th quarter	6,970	5,330	1,640 <sup>r</sup>	8
1st quarter–4th quarter	27,600	21,500	6,140	37
2020:				
1st quarter	6,500 <sup>r</sup>	5,120	1,380	9
2d quarter	6,830 <sup>r</sup>	5,280	1,550	8
3d quarter	6,520 <sup>r</sup>	5,030 <sup>r</sup>	1,500	8
4th quarter	6,610	5,020	1,590	8
1st quarter–4th quarter	26,500	20,500	6,030	32

<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
4th quarter:											
Veneer base	46,300	2,250	12,900	388	5,290	10	--	112	1,330	--	68,600
Sheathing	4,300	11,900	10,000	7,970	21,100	5,960	20,000	8,840	19,400	17,600	127,000
Regular gypsum board	57,800	274,000	406,000	250,000	1,030,000	306,000	652,000	364,000	316,000	77,900	3,730,000
Type X gypsum board	62,000	203,000	242,000	154,000	401,000	90,700	295,000	238,000	380,000	37,100	2,100,000
Liner panel	1,460	8,170	3,470	1,690	25,500	2,180	5,870	7,350	4,780	822	61,300
Predecorated board	563	1,550	1,900	930	3,300	846	2,020	887	1,450	306	13,800
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,810	4,240	--	574	6,270	1,630	--	--	60	14,600
Water/moisture resistant board	30,100	133,000	66,100	29,100	143,000	28,900	70,100	33,500	65,700	26,200	626,000
Total	203,000	635,000	747,000	444,000	1,630,000	441,000	1,050,000	652,000	789,000	160,000	6,750,000
1st quarter–4th quarter:											
Veneer base	189,000	9,010	46,500	1,480	21,000	43	31	259	4,860	--	272,000
Sheathing	15,600	42,000	36,500	31,800	88,600	22,400	81,800	34,700	80,900	65,000	499,000
Regular gypsum board	227,000	1,020,000	1,490,000	909,000	3,900,000	1,170,000	2,450,000	1,440,000	1,240,000	300,000	14,200,000
Type X gypsum board	258,000	807,000	946,000	588,000	1,680,000	354,000	1,170,000	965,000	1,600,000	142,000	8,520,000
Liner panel	7,420	33,600	14,600	5,680	105,000	9,530	23,100	29,000	17,900	2,340	248,000
Predecorated board	2,090	5,750	7,830	3,630	11,500	3,290	8,130	3,610	5,650	1,040	52,500
5/16 Mobile home board	--	5,710	14,700	--	2,050	19,900	6,230	--	--	244	48,800
Water/moisture resistant board	108,000	478,000	248,000	113,000	554,000	110,000	265,000	134,000	254,000	105,000	2,370,000
Total	808,000	2,400,000	2,800,000	1,650,000	6,370,000	1,690,000	4,010,000	2,610,000	3,200,000	616,000	26,200,000

-- 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.