

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Robert D. Crangle, Jr., Gypsum Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-6410, Fax: (703) 648-7757
Email: rcrangle@usgs.gov

Susan M. Weaver (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7979
Fax: (703) 648-7975
Email: sweaver@usgs.gov

Internet: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic>

GYPSUM IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2021

Producers mined 4.97 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum during the first quarter of 2021 (table 1). That was slightly less than that of the fourth quarter of 2020 and 4% less than that of the first quarter of 2020. Synthetic gypsum used was estimated to be 3.6 Mt in the first quarter of 2021 (table 1), which was unchanged from that of the fourth quarter of 2020 and also unchanged from the first quarter of 2020. During the first quarter of 2021, synthetic gypsum accounted for approximately 35% of the 10.2-Mt total supply of gypsum in the United States. 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 first quarter of 2021 was 4.65 Mt, which was 4% more than that of the fourth quarter of 2020 and 7% more than that of the first quarter of 2020 (table 1). Sales of board products were 5.60 Mt, equivalent to approximately 625 million square meters (6.72 billion square feet), slightly less than those of the fourth quarter of 2020 and slightly more than those of the first quarter of 2020 (table 2).

Sales of uncalcined gypsum in the first quarter of 2021, primarily for portland cement and agricultural uses, were estimated to be 6.30 Mt, unchanged from those of the fourth quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2020 (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 2021 were 1.58 Mt (table 3),

slightly less than those of the fourth quarter of 2020 and 15% more than those of the first quarter of 2020. Mexico was the leading source with 35% of total crude imports, followed by Spain with 31%, and Canada with 27%.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, gypsum wallboard imports in the first quarter of 2021, from 8 countries or localities, were 156,000 t, equivalent to about 17.3 million square meters (187 million square feet). These imports were 6% more than those of the fourth quarter of 2020 and 19% more than those of the first quarter of 2020. Mexico was the source of 80% of wallboard imports, followed by Canada with 19%.

Wallboard exports to 31 countries or localities in the first quarter of 2021 were 143,000 t, equivalent to 15.9 million square meters (171 million square feet). These were 8% more than those of the fourth quarter of 2020 and slightly more than those of the first quarter of 2020. Most wallboard exports were shipped to Canada, which accounted for 92% 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.

*List services and web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of new USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For more information on how to subscribe, visit:
<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/minerals-information-publication-list-services>.*

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	2020				1st quarter– 4th quarter	2021 1st quarter
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter		
Crude:						
Mined ³	5,180,000 ^r	5,300,000 ^r	5,060,000 ^r	5,060,000 ^r	20,600,000 ^r	4,970,000
Imported ⁴	1,380,000	1,550,000	1,500,000	1,590,000	6,030,000	1,580,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	3,600,000	3,600,000	3,600,000	3,600,000	14,400,000	3,600,000
Total supply	10,200,000 ^r	10,500,000 ^r	10,200,000 ^r	10,300,000 ^r	41,000,000 ^r	10,200,000
Crude, exported ⁴	8,980	7,530	7,570	8,080	32,200	8,080
Consumption	10,200,000 ^r	10,400,000 ^r	10,200,000 ^r	10,200,000 ^r	41,000,000 ^r	10,100,000
Calcined:						
Produced	4,350,000	4,170,000	4,240,000	4,460,000	17,200,000	4,650,000
Imported ⁶	7,860	6,850	7,500	6,810	29,000	5,980
Total supply	4,360,000	4,170,000	4,240,000	4,470,000	17,200,000	4,650,000
Exported ⁶	23,900	20,700	21,100	23,700	89,400	24,100
Consumption	4,340,000	4,150,000	4,220,000	4,450,000	17,200,000	4,630,000

^rRevised.

¹Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

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

³Includes estimated data.

⁴Import and export data are for "Gypsum; anhydrite," Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2520.10.0000.

⁵Estimated, based on American Coal Ash Association data for FGD gypsum used.

⁶Import 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)

	2020				1st quarter– 4th quarter	2021 1st quarter
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter		
Uncalcined: ³						
Portland and masonry cement ^e	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	4,400,000	1,100,000
Agriculture and other ^{e, 4}	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 ⁵	5,460,000	5,180,000	5,540,000	5,620,000	21,800,000	5,600,000
Plaster	20,300	16,600	18,700	18,500	74,000	19,000
Total	5,490,000	5,200,000	5,560,000	5,640,000	21,900,000	5,620,000
Board products: (thousand square feet)⁶						
Regular board	3,450,000	3,400,000	3,580,000	3,730,000	14,200,000	3,790,000
Type X board	2,210,000	2,040,000	2,160,000	2,100,000	8,520,000	2,030,000
Other	892,000	784,000	904,000	911,000	3,490,000	902,000
Total supply	6,560,000	6,220,000	6,650,000	6,750,000	26,200,000	6,720,000

^eEstimated.

¹Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

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

³Does not include synthetic gypsum from electric powerplants.

⁴Includes gypsum used for infrastructure purposes, unspecified uses, and estimated under-reported amount.

⁵Includes weight of paper and other materials.

⁶One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

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

(Metric tons)

Country or locality	2020				1st quarter–	2021
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter
Belgium	20	--	--	--	20	--
Canada	525,000	449,000	356,000	503,000	1,830,000	426,000
China	110	63	652	1,240	2,070	71
Colombia	--	--	28	--	28	--
Czechia	--	--	746	770	1,520	1
Germany	625	1	--	1	627	--
Guatemala	--	--	42	--	42	--
Italy	--	4,800	--	--	4,800	--
Japan	--	--	--	--	--	1
Korea, Republic of	20	--	--	--	20	--
Mexico	457,000	473,000	565,000	508,000	2,000,000	561,000
Morocco	36	6	47	104	193	182
Peru	--	--	--	1	1	--
Spain	349,000	506,000	581,000	536,000	1,970,000	497,000
Taiwan	1	--	--	--	1	--
Thailand	--	80	50	160	290	--
Turkey	48,400	117,000	--	43,000	209,000	101,000
Ukraine	--	1	--	--	1	--
United Kingdom	112	20	--	3	135	4
Total	1,380,000	1,550,000	1,500,000	1,590,000	6,030,000	1,580,000

-- 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
2020:				
1st quarter	6,550 ^r	5,180 ^r	1,380	9
2d quarter	6,840 ^r	5,300 ^r	1,550	8
3d quarter	6,550 ^r	5,060 ^r	1,500	8
4th quarter	6,650 ^r	5,060 ^r	1,590	8
1st quarter-4th quarter	26,600 ^r	20,600 ^r	6,030	32
2021, 1st quarter	6,550	4,970	1,580	8

^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 2021^{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
1st quarter:											
Veneer base	49,100	2,660	11,500	339	4,900	29	--	116	1,010	--	69,700
Sheathing	2,890	10,900	8,200	8,560	18,900	5,040	18,800	6,140	22,300	18,100	120,000
Regular gypsum board	64,900	280,000	407,000	237,000	1,080,000	308,000	629,000	379,000	333,000	73,500	3,790,000
Type X gypsum board	60,300	203,000	231,000	139,000	378,000	86,400	256,000	244,000	395,000	37,400	2,030,000
Liner panel	2,630	10,500	4,140	1,390	34,200	3,080	5,240	7,650	4,130	1,030	74,000
Predecorated board	845	1,330	1,880	951	2,860	897	2,230	1,070	1,410	331	13,800
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,750	4,790	--	545	6,380	1,670	--	--	60	15,200
Water/moisture resistant board	30,400	135,000	64,200	30,200	136,000	28,000	61,200	35,600	66,700	22,000	610,000
Total	211,000	646,000	733,000	417,000	1,650,000	438,000	974,000	674,000	824,000	152,000	6,720,000

-- 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, 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).

³One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

Source: Gypsum Association.