

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2019

Producers mined 5.44 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum during the third quarter of 2019 (table 1). That was slightly more than that of the second quarter of 2019 and slightly less than that of the third quarter of 2018. Synthetic gypsum used was estimated to be 4.1 Mt in the third quarter of 2019 (table 1), which was unchanged from that of the second quarter of 2019 and the third quarter of 2018. During the third quarter of 2019, synthetic gypsum accounted for approximately 37% of the 11.2-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 third quarter of 2019 was 4.41 Mt, which was slightly less than that of the second quarter of 2019 and slightly more than that of the third quarter of 2018 (table 1). Sales of board products were 5.48 Mt, equivalent to approximately 611 million square meters (6.57 billion square feet), which was slightly more than those of the second quarter of 2019 and 7% more than those of the third quarter of 2018 (table 2).

Sales of uncalcined gypsum in the third quarter of 2019, primarily for portland cement and agricultural uses, were estimated to be 6.40 Mt, which were unchanged from those of the second quarter of 2019 and also unchanged from those of the third quarter of 2018 (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 usually driven by residential and commercial building activity.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in the third quarter of 2019 were 1.63 Mt (table 3), 8% more than those of the second quarter of 2019 and those of the third quarter of 2018. Mexico and Spain were the leading sources of crude imports, each with 34%, followed by Canada with 29%.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, gypsum wallboard imports for the third quarter of 2019 were 121,000 t, equivalent to about 13.4 million square meters (144 million square feet). These imports were 11% less than those of the second quarter of 2019 and 3% more than those of the third quarter of 2018. Mexico was the source of 71% of wallboard imports, followed by Canada with 28%.

Wallboard exports to 35 countries and territories in the third quarter of 2019 were 123,000 t, equivalent to 13.7 million square meters (148 million square feet). These were 6% lower from those of the second quarter of 2019 and 17% less than those of the third quarter of 2018. 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.

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TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	2018			2019			
	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter ³	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Crude:							
Mined ⁴	5,570,000	5,200,000	21,600,000	5,300,000 ^r	5,420,000 ^r	5,440,000	16,200,000
Imported ⁵	1,510,000	1,080,000	5,190,000	1,350,000	1,510,000	1,630,000	4,500,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁶	4,240,000	4,240,000	17,000,000	4,100,000	4,100,000	4,100,000	12,300,000
Total supply	11,300,000	10,500,000	43,700,000	10,800,000 ^r	11,000,000 ^r	11,200,000	33,000,000
Crude, exported ⁵	8,070	10,300	35,800	8,330	11,000	9,920	29,200
Consumption	11,300,000	10,500,000	43,700,000	10,700,000 ^r	11,000,000 ^r	11,200,000	32,900,000
Calcined:							
Produced	4,320,000	4,560,000	17,300,000	4,230,000	4,490,000	4,410,000	13,100,000
Imported ⁷	5,380	6,610	21,600	6,160	6,420	6,940	19,500
Total supply	4,320,000	4,570,000	17,300,000	4,230,000	4,490,000	4,420,000	13,100,000
Exported ⁷	28,900	26,300	118,000	25,400	32,000	29,600	87,000
Consumption	4,300,000	4,540,000	17,200,000	4,210,000	4,460,000	4,390,000	13,100,000

^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 utilized FGD gypsum.

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)

	2018			2019			
	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter ³	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Uncalcined: ⁴							
Portland and masonry cement ^e	1,200,000	1,200,000	4,800,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	3,600,000
Agriculture and other ^{e,5}	5,200,000	5,200,000	20,800,000	5,200,000	5,200,000	5,200,000	15,600,000
Total	6,400,000	6,400,000	25,600,000	6,400,000	6,400,000	6,400,000	19,200,000
Calcined:							
Board products ⁶	5,140,000	5,100,000	20,700,000	5,230,000	5,440,000	5,480,000	16,100,000
Plaster	20,400	18,700	79,600	20,100	20,700	19,600	60,500
Total	5,160,000	5,120,000	20,800,000	5,250,000	5,460,000	5,500,000	16,200,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) ⁷							
Regular board	3,240,000	3,230,000	13,000,000	3,240,000	3,360,000	3,440,000	10,000,000
Type X board	2,110,000	2,080,000	8,580,000	2,190,000	2,270,000	2,250,000	6,710,000
Other	819,000	817,000	3,290,000	845,000	890,000	882,000	2,620,000
Total supply	6,170,000	6,130,000	24,900,000	6,270,000	6,530,000	6,570,000	19,400,000

^eEstimated.

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	2018			2019			
	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Australia	--	--	1	--	--	--	--
Belgium	--	--	2	--	--	--	--
Brazil	--	--	4	1	--	--	1
Canada	300,000	351,000	1,370,000	312,000	475,000	478,000	1,270,000
China	1	3	8	--	443	651	1,090
Dominican Republic	--	--	7,510	--	--	5,730	5,730
Germany	380	--	435	4	109	174	287
Guatemala	40	--	105	40	71	--	111
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	3	--	3
Japan	--	--	1	--	--	--	--
Malaysia	--	--	8	--	--	--	--
Mexico	605,000	468,000	2,100,000	476,000	511,000	549,000	1,540,000
Morocco	71	57	186	27,400	19	42	27,500
Spain	572,000	262,000	1,620,000	448,000	447,000	549,000	1,440,000
Taiwan	--	--	--	457	--	--	457
Thailand	49	44	203	40	44	86	170
Turkey	34,000	--	87,600	90,100	76,700	48,400	215,000
United Kingdom	57	76	228	1	4	3	8
Venezuela	--	--	160	--	--	--	--
Total	1,510,000	1,080,000	5,190,000	1,350,000	1,510,000	1,630,000	4,500,000

-- 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}

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Consumption ³	Production ⁴	Imports ⁵	Exports ⁵
2018:				
3d quarter	7,080	5,570	1,510	8
4th quarter	6,270	5,200	1,080	10
1st quarter–4th quarter	26,700 ^r	21,600 ^r	5,190	35
2019:				
1st quarter	6,640 ^r	5,300 ^r	1,350	8
2d quarter	6,920 ^r	5,420 ^r	1,510	11
3d quarter	7,060	5,440	1,630	10
1st quarter–3d quarter	20,600	16,200	4,500	29

^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 2019^{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
3d quarter:											
Veneer base	45,700	2,010	12,800	311	5,360	20	7	32	1,460	--	67,800
Sheathing	4,270	11,600	10,500	8,410	23,500	6,190	20,800	7,340	22,400	20,800	136,000
Regular gypsum board	54,900	258,000	356,000	208,000	959,000	280,000	585,000	348,000	320,000	73,900	3,440,000
Type X gypsum board	75,700	232,000	251,000	151,000	421,000	86,600	310,000	239,000	443,000	38,600	2,250,000
Liner panel	2,590	9,820	4,860	1,400	27,800	2,210	6,190	6,980	4,440	1,000	67,300
Predecorated board	837	1,680	2,130	1,060	3,090	938	2,360	892	1,400	452	14,800
5/16 Mobile home board	--	2,050	3,690	--	522	4,100	1,420	--	--	91	11,900
Water/moisture resistant board	28,500	126,000	58,200	28,800	129,000	25,600	67,000	30,600	63,500	28,000	585,000
Total	213,000	643,000	699,000	399,000	1,570,000	405,000	993,000	633,000	857,000	163,000	6,570,000
1st quarter–3d quarter:											
Veneer base	146,000	7,540	35,300	1,050	17,300	133	21	249	4,220	5	212,000
Sheathing	12,200	34,800	28,800	24,400	64,900	17,300	60,100	24,800	66,700	55,700	390,000
Regular gypsum board	173,000	791,000	1,050,000	598,000	2,810,000	796,000	1,660,000	1,030,000	918,000	212,000	10,000,000
Type X gypsum board	220,000	691,000	755,000	441,000	1,260,000	258,000	911,000	741,000	1,320,000	121,000	6,710,000
Liner panel	7,450	28,800	13,400	4,180	80,300	5,620	17,500	19,100	13,800	2,830	193,000
Predecorated board	1,830	4,610	6,110	2,930	9,310	2,880	6,880	2,750	4,710	1,540	43,500
5/16 Mobile home board	--	5,100	11,600	--	1,550	12,500	3,900	--	27	218	35,000
Water/moisture resistant board	84,200	385,000	174,000	83,500	380,000	74,400	197,000	92,400	196,000	77,500	1,740,000
Total	645,000	1,950,000	2,070,000	1,160,000	4,620,000	1,170,000	2,860,000	1,910,000	2,520,000	471,000	19,400,000

-- 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.