

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## GYPSUM IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2012

Producers mined 2.38 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum during the first quarter of 2012 (table 1). This amount was 9% more than that of the fourth quarter of 2011 and 6% more than that of the first quarter of 2011. Synthetic gypsum production was 1.88 Mt in the first quarter of 2012 (table 1), which was 7% more than that of the fourth quarter of 2011 and 5% more than that of the first quarter of 2011. During the first quarter of 2012, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 38% of the 5.01 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.

Sales of uncalcined gypsum in the first quarter of 2012, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 351,000 metric tons (t) (table 2), which was 7% less than those of the fourth quarter of 2011 and 33% more than those of the first quarter of 2011.

Sales of calcined gypsum for the first quarter of 2012 (table 1) were 2.99 Mt, which was slightly more than that of the fourth quarter of 2011 and slightly less than that of the first quarter of 2011. Sales of board products (table 2) were 3.57 Mt, equivalent to approximately 398 million square meters (4.28 billion square feet), which was 4% less than those of the fourth quarter of 2011 and slightly more than those of the first quarter of 2011.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in the first quarter of 2012 were 751,000 t (table 3), a decrease of 13% from those of the fourth quarter of 2011 and 6% less than those of the first quarter of 2011. Mexico accounted for 45% of crude gypsum imports, followed by Spain with 33%, and Canada with 22%.

Gypsum wallboard imports for the first quarter of 2012 were 63,400 t, equivalent to 7.1 million square meters (75.9 million square feet). These imports were 11% less than those of the fourth quarter of 2011 and 32% more than those of the first quarter of 2011. Mexico accounted for 58% of wallboard imports, followed by Canada with 41%.

Wallboard exports to 39 countries and territories in the first quarter of 2012 were 239,000 t, equivalent to 26.6 million square meters (286 million square feet). This amount was 13% more than that of the fourth quarter of 2011 and 25% more than that of the first quarter of 2011. Most wallboard exports were shipped to 28 western hemisphere countries, with Canada accounting for 94%.

All percentages in this report were computed based on unrounded data.

TABLE 1  
GYPSUM SUPPLY<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

	2011				1st quarter– 4th quarter	2012 1st quarter
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter		
Crude:						
Mined <sup>3</sup>	2,240,000	2,250,000	2,230,000	2,180,000	8,900,000	2,380,000
Imported <sup>4</sup>	799,000	892,000	773,000	864,000	3,330,000	751,000
Synthetic gypsum <sup>5</sup>	1,790,000	1,740,000	1,780,000	1,770,000	7,080,000	1,880,000
Total supply	4,830,000	4,880,000	4,780,000	4,810,000	19,300,000	5,010,000
Crude, exported <sup>4</sup>	70,100	59,000	94,700	92,700	316,000	171,000
Consumption	4,760,000	4,820,000	4,690,000	4,720,000	19,000,000	4,840,000
Calcined:						
Produced	3,060,000	2,930,000	2,980,000	2,930,000	11,900,000	2,990,000
Imported <sup>6</sup>	3,060	3,790	3,910	3,290	14,000	3,930
Total supply	3,060,000	2,940,000	2,990,000	2,940,000	11,900,000	3,000,000
Exported <sup>6</sup>	54,900	72,200	90,100	89,800	307,000	35,100
Consumption	3,000,000	2,860,000	2,900,000	2,850,000	11,600,000	2,960,000

<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>Some data were estimated from semiannual reports.

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

<sup>5</sup>Reported production only.

<sup>6</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)

	2011				1st quarter– 4th quarter	2012 1st quarter
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter		
Uncalcined: <sup>3</sup>						
Portland cement	148,000	233,000	232,000	251,000	863,000	223,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	115,000	148,000	128,000	126,000	517,000	128,000
Total	263,000	381,000	360,000	376,000	1,380,000	351,000
Calcined:						
Board products <sup>4</sup>	3,490,000	3,490,000	3,600,000	3,730,000	14,300,000	3,570,000
Plaster	19,100	19,400	19,100	17,400	75,100	21,700
Total	3,510,000	3,510,000	3,610,000	3,750,000	14,400,000	3,590,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) <sup>5</sup>						
Regular board	2,270,000	2,270,000	2,390,000	2,440,000	9,380,000	2,330,000
Type X board	1,430,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,510,000	5,740,000	1,430,000
Other	483,000	522,000	520,000	526,000	2,050,000	521,000
Total supply	4,190,000	4,190,000	4,310,000	4,480,000	17,200,000	4,280,000

<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>Does not include synthetic gypsum from electric powerplants.

<sup>4</sup>Includes weight of paper and other materials.

<sup>5</sup>One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

TABLE 3  
CRUDE GYPSUM IMPORTED FOR CONSUMPTION<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country of origin	2011				1st quarter– 4th quarter	2012 1st quarter
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter		
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	1
Canada	383,000	445,000	315,000	327,000	1,470,000	168,000
China	209	11	3	19	242	653
France	--	40	--	80	120	76
Germany	21	40	85	2	148	23
Hong Kong	5	1	--	73	79	--
Japan	--	--	--	5	5	1
Mexico	306,000	332,000	245,000	346,000	1,230,000	335,000
Morocco	8	--	--	--	8	--
Netherlands	--	--	--	19	19	--
Spain	109,000	116,000	213,000	191,000	629,000	248,000
Taiwan	284	--	--	--	284	--
Thailand	20	40	--	--	60	--
United Kingdom	10	--	12	15	37	5
Total	799,000	892,000	773,000	864,000	3,330,000	751,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
CRUDE GYPSUM IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Consumption <sup>3</sup>	Production <sup>4</sup>	Imports <sup>5</sup>	Exports <sup>5</sup>
2011:				
1st quarter	2,970	2,240	799	70
2d quarter	3,090	2,250	892	59
3d quarter	2,910	2,230	773	95
4th quarter	2,950	2,180	864	93
1st quarter–4th quarter	11,900	8,900	3,330	316
2012, 1st quarter	2,960	2,380	751	171

<sup>1</sup>Excludes synthetic gypsum.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>3</sup>Consumption calculated by adding the production and imports shown in this table and subtracting exports shown in this table. Quarterly inventory changes are not included.

<sup>4</sup>Production data are from the semiannual gypsum canvasses of the non-wallboard producers, annual canvass of all producers, and from quarterly data furnished by the Gypsum Association from the wallboard producers.

<sup>5</sup>Data from U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
SALES OF GYPSUM BOARD PRODUCTS, BY SALES REGIONS IN 2012<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
1st quarter:											
Veneer base	25,900	3,760	8,740	985	5,720	2	61	143	1,630	14	47,000
Sheathing	2,390	5,490	5,430	4,740	15,700	3,900	14,900	4,360	13,100	11,900	81,900
Regular gypsum board	59,400	255,000	292,000	188,000	513,000	154,000	352,000	161,000	189,000	163,000	2,330,000
Type X gypsum board	47,900	169,000	183,000	128,000	223,000	54,200	190,000	128,000	249,000	60,100	1,430,000
Liner panel	1,220	5,640	1,860	940	11,100	678	3,180	1,440	2,070	474	28,600
Predecorated board	718	1,420	2,250	880	3,160	866	1,860	733	1,620	230	13,700
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,560	3,780	27	1,200	12,400	1,750	919	121	38	21,800
Water/moisture resistant board	13,800	71,600	43,100	21,800	60,500	14,900	33,800	14,800	32,100	21,700	328,000
Total	151,000	514,000	540,000	345,000	833,000	241,000	598,000	312,000	489,000	257,000	4,280,000

-- 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, 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).

<sup>3</sup>One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

Source: Gypsum Association.