

# 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:** <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>

## GYPSUM IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2018

Producers mined 5.51 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum during the third quarter of 2018 (table 1). That was slightly more than that of the second quarter of 2018 and 5% more than that of the third quarter of 2017. Synthetic gypsum used was estimated to be 4.0 Mt in the third quarter of 2018 (table 1), which was unchanged from that of the second quarter of 2018 and also unchanged from that of the third quarter of 2017. During the third quarter of 2018, synthetic gypsum accounted for approximately 36% of the 11.0-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.

The supply of calcined gypsum for the third quarter of 2018 (table 1) was 4.32 Mt, which was 6% less than that of the second quarter of 2018 and slightly more than that of the third quarter of 2017. Sales of board products (table 2) were 5.14 Mt, equivalent to approximately 573 million square meters (6.17 billion square feet), which were 11% less than those of the second quarter of 2018 and slightly less than the third quarter of 2017.

Sales of uncalcined gypsum in the third quarter of 2018, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 6.40 Mt (table 2), which were unchanged from those of the second quarter of 2018 and slightly more than those of the third quarter of 2017.

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 2018 were 1.51 Mt (table 3), slightly more than those of the second quarter of 2018 and 18% more than those of the third quarter of 2017. Mexico was the leading source with 40% of crude imports, followed by Spain with 38% and Canada with 20%.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, gypsum wallboard imports for the third quarter of 2018 were 117,000 t, equivalent to about 13.0 million square meters (140 million square feet). These imports were 13% less than those of the second quarter of 2018 and slightly more than those of the third quarter of 2017. Mexico was the source of 71% of wallboard imports, followed by Canada with 28%.

Wallboard exports to 32 countries and territories in the third quarter of 2018 were 150,000 t, equivalent to 16.6 million square meters (179 million square feet). These were slightly less than those of the second quarter of 2018 and 24% more than those of the third quarter of 2017. 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.

*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: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>.*

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

(Metric tons)

	2017			2018			
	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter <sup>3</sup>	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Crude:							
Mined <sup>4</sup>	5,260,000	5,420,000	20,700,000	5,260,000 <sup>r</sup>	5,410,000 <sup>r</sup>	5,510,000	16,200,000
Imported <sup>5</sup>	1,280,000	1,330,000	4,890,000	1,090,000	1,500,000	1,510,000	4,110,000
Synthetic gypsum <sup>6</sup>	4,000,000	4,000,000	16,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	12,000,000
Total supply	10,500,000	10,700,000	41,600,000	10,400,000 <sup>r</sup>	10,900,000 <sup>r</sup>	11,000,000	32,300,000
Crude, exported <sup>5</sup>	8,520	9,520	36,400	7,300	10,200	8,070	25,600
Consumption	10,500,000	10,700,000	41,600,000	10,300,000 <sup>r</sup>	10,900,000 <sup>r</sup>	11,000,000	32,300,000
Calcined:							
Produced	4,250,000	4,360,000	16,800,000	3,820,000	4,620,000	4,320,000	12,800,000
Imported <sup>7</sup>	5,810	5,050	23,100	4,040	5,550	5,380	15,000
Total supply	4,250,000	4,360,000	16,800,000	3,820,000	4,620,000	4,320,000	12,800,000
Exported <sup>7</sup>	25,000	28,700	107,000	27,400	35,500	28,900	91,800
Consumption	4,230,000	4,330,000	16,700,000	3,800,000	4,590,000	4,300,000	12,700,000

<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 utilized FGD gypsum.

<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)

	2017			2018			
	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter <sup>3</sup>	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Uncalcined: <sup>4</sup>							
Portland and masonry cement <sup>e</sup>	1,200,000	1,200,000	4,430,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	3,600,000
Agriculture and other <sup>5</sup>	5,090,000 <sup>r</sup>	5,090,000 <sup>r</sup>	20,400,000 <sup>r</sup>	5,200,000 <sup>r</sup>	5,200,000 <sup>r</sup>	5,200,000	15,600,000
Total	6,290,000 <sup>r</sup>	6,290,000 <sup>r</sup>	24,800,000 <sup>r</sup>	6,400,000 <sup>r</sup>	6,400,000 <sup>r</sup>	6,400,000	19,200,000
Calcined:							
Board products <sup>6</sup>	5,230,000	5,670,000	21,100,000	4,740,000	5,750,000	5,140,000	15,600,000
Plaster	19,900	19,600	81,700	19,000	21,600	20,400	60,900
Total	5,250,000	5,690,000	21,200,000	4,760,000	5,770,000	5,160,000	15,700,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) <sup>7</sup>							
Regular board	3,320,000	3,540,000	13,200,000	2,970,000	3,570,000	3,240,000	9,780,000
Type X board	2,160,000	2,380,000	8,770,000	1,970,000	2,430,000	2,110,000	6,500,000
Other	805,000	890,000	3,330,000	759,000	893,000	819,000	2,470,000
Total supply	6,280,000	6,800,000	25,300,000	5,690,000	6,900,000	6,170,000	18,800,000

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <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>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	2017			2018			
	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Australia	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
Belgium	--	--	--	--	2	--	2
Brazil	1	--	1	--	4	--	4
Canada	331,000	463,000	1,480,000	200,000	518,000	300,000	1,020,000
China	--	--	19	2	2	1	5
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	7,510	--	--	7,510
France	--	--	42	--	--	--	--
Germany	702	72	1,010	15	40	380	435
Guatemala	55	10	139	41	24	40	105
Hong Kong	--	--	2	--	--	--	--
Japan	--	1	22	1	--	--	1
Malaysia	--	--	--	8	--	--	8
Malta	10,000	--	10,000	--	--	--	--
Mexico	526,000	481,000	1,900,000	471,000	557,000	605,000	1,630,000
Morocco	33	42	138	57	1	71	129
Oman	--	--	63,300	--	--	--	--
Spain	398,000	350,000	1,350,000	367,000	419,000	572,000	1,360,000
Switzerland	--	--	1	--	--	--	--
Thailand	25	120	153	30	80	49	159
Turkey	10,300	32,000	94,500	44,800	8,800	34,000	87,600
United Kingdom	190	59	252	--	95	57	152
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	160	--	160
Total	1,280,000	1,330,000	4,890,000	1,090,000	1,500,000	1,510,000	4,110,000

-- 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>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Consumption <sup>3</sup>	Production <sup>4</sup>	Imports <sup>5</sup>	Exports <sup>5</sup>
2017:				
3d quarter	6,530	5,260	1,280	9
4th quarter	6,740	5,420	1,330	9
1st quarter–4th quarter	25,600	20,700	4,890	36
2018:				
1st quarter	6,350 <sup>r</sup>	5,260 <sup>r</sup>	1,090	7
2d quarter	6,910 <sup>r</sup>	5,410 <sup>r</sup>	1,500	10
3d quarter	7,020	5,510	1,510	8
1st quarter–3d quarter	18,500	16,200	4,110	25

<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 2018<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
3d quarter:											
Veneer base	44,000	2,620	12,700	535	5,370	62	--	178	1,410	1	66,900
Sheathing	4,370	11,400	11,200	8,530	19,400	5,890	18,000	9,270	24,800	19,200	132,000
Regular gypsum board	53,400	245,000	346,000	216,000	835,000	261,000	537,000	339,000	339,000	72,400	3,240,000
Type X gypsum board	62,900	199,000	244,000	133,000	350,000	77,100	291,000	236,000	455,000	58,100	2,110,000
Liner panel	2,250	9,140	3,830	1,570	24,100	1,570	4,940	6,960	5,930	879	61,200
Predecorated board	598	1,600	2,160	1,100	2,950	1,080	2,490	952	1,890	476	15,300
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,660	3,180	--	481	3,960	1,630	--	81	107	11,100
Water/moisture resistant board	23,400	115,000	54,600	24,800	117,000	21,700	57,900	28,800	67,900	21,700	532,000
Total	191,000	586,000	677,000	386,000	1,350,000	372,000	912,000	621,000	896,000	173,000	6,170,000
1st quarter–3d quarter:											
Veneer base	143,000	8,720	35,600	1,370	17,300	136	38	290	4,060	6	211,000
Sheathing	12,200	35,500	29,800	23,700	62,600	16,300	57,000	25,400	66,500	55,100	384,000
Regular gypsum board	170,000	772,000	1,020,000	626,000	2,600,000	769,000	1,600,000	1,010,000	976,000	227,000	9,780,000
Type X gypsum board	197,000	638,000	751,000	413,000	1,160,000	246,000	878,000	717,000	1,310,000	193,000	6,500,000
Liner panel	6,640	27,000	11,500	4,690	68,900	4,630	14,400	20,200	14,900	2,520	175,000
Predecorated board	1,590	4,800	6,420	2,960	9,340	2,980	7,580	3,090	5,230	1,110	45,100
5/16 Mobile home board	--	5,140	11,100	60	1,490	12,200	4,480	273	122	239	35,000
Water/moisture resistant board	74,900	351,000	172,000	80,100	354,000	64,700	178,000	87,700	190,000	67,200	1,620,000
Total	606,000	1,840,000	2,040,000	1,150,000	4,280,000	1,120,000	2,740,000	1,860,000	2,570,000	546,000	18,800,000

-- 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.