

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## GYPSUM IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2023

Producers mined 5.46 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum during the first quarter of 2023. That was 8% less than that in the fourth quarter of 2022 and 5% more than the amount in the first quarter of 2022. Synthetic gypsum utilized was estimated to be 3.25 Mt in the first quarter of 2023, which was unchanged from that in the fourth quarter of 2022 and the first quarter of 2022. During the first quarter of 2023, synthetic gypsum accounted for approximately 31% of the 10.5-Mt total supply of gypsum in the United States (table 1). 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 2023 was 4.70 Mt, which was 4% less than that during the fourth quarter of 2022 and 10% more than that during the first quarter of 2022 (table 1). Sales of board products were 3.86 Mt, equivalent to approximately 623 million square meters (6.70 billion square feet), essentially unchanged from those of the fourth quarter of 2022, and slightly more than those of the first quarter of 2022 (table 2).

Sales of uncalcined gypsum in the first quarter of 2023, primarily for portland cement and agricultural uses, were estimated to be 4.95 Mt, slightly less than those in the fourth quarter of 2022 and the first quarter of 2022 (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 2023 were 1.84 Mt, 4% more than

those in the fourth quarter of 2023 and 29% more than those in the first quarter of 2022. Spain was the leading source with 44% of total crude imports, followed by Canada with 26%, and Mexico with 25% (table 3).

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, gypsum wallboard imports from 9 countries or localities in the first quarter of 2023 were 207,000 t, equivalent to about 23.0 million square meters (248 million square feet). These imports were unchanged from those of the fourth quarter of 2022 and 4% more than those of the first quarter of 2022. Mexico was the source of 91% of wallboard imports, followed by Canada with 8%.

Wallboard exports to 30 countries or localities in the first quarter of 2023 were 180,000 t, equivalent to 20.1 million square meters (216 million square feet). These were 18% more than those of the fourth quarter of 2022 and 19% more than those of the first quarter of 2022. Most wallboard exports were shipped to Canada, which accounted for 94% of the total.

Changes in wallboard import and export 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)

	2022				1st quarter–	2023
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter
Crude:						
Mined <sup>3</sup>	5,200,000 <sup>r</sup>	5,480,000 <sup>r</sup>	5,720,000 <sup>r</sup>	5,950,000 <sup>r</sup>	22,300,000 <sup>r</sup>	5,460,000
Imported <sup>4</sup>	1,420,000	2,040,000	1,640,000	1,780,000	6,890,000	1,840,000
Synthetic gypsum <sup>5</sup>	3,250,000	3,250,000	3,250,000	3,250,000	13,000,000	3,250,000
Total supply	9,870,000 <sup>r</sup>	10,800,000 <sup>r</sup>	10,600,000 <sup>r</sup>	11,000,000 <sup>r</sup>	42,200,000 <sup>r</sup>	10,500,000
Crude, exported <sup>4</sup>	8,830	12,400	8,650	8,960	38,800	10,500
Consumption	9,860,000 <sup>r</sup>	10,800,000 <sup>r</sup>	10,600,000 <sup>r</sup>	11,000,000 <sup>r</sup>	42,200,000 <sup>r</sup>	10,500,000
Calcined:						
Produced	4,260,000	4,750,000	4,820,000	4,860,000	18,700,000	4,680,000
Imported <sup>6</sup>	5,550	8,350	7,340	7,940	29,200	10,700
Total supply	4,260,000	4,760,000	4,830,000	4,860,000	18,700,000	4,690,000
Exported <sup>6</sup>	24,900	25,500	27,400	27,200	105,000	29,300
Consumption	4,240,000	4,730,000	4,800,000	4,840,000	18,600,000	4,660,000

<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>Includes estimated data.

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

<sup>5</sup>Estimated, based on American Coal Ash Association data for FGD gypsum used.

<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)

	2022				1st quarter–	2023
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter
Uncalcined: <sup>6, 3</sup>						
Portland and masonry cement	1,375,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,375,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,375,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,375,000 <sup>r</sup>	5,500,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,400,000
Agriculture and other <sup>4</sup>	3,600,000 <sup>r</sup>	3,600,000 <sup>r</sup>	3,600,000 <sup>r</sup>	3,600,000 <sup>r</sup>	14,400,000 <sup>r</sup>	3,550,000
Total	4,975,000 <sup>r</sup>	4,975,000 <sup>r</sup>	4,975,000 <sup>r</sup>	4,975,000 <sup>r</sup>	19,900,000 <sup>r</sup>	4,950,000
Calcined:						
Board products <sup>5</sup>	3,820,000	4,180,000	4,100,000	3,850,000	15,900,000 <sup>r</sup>	3,860,000
Plaster	17,600	21,800	19,100	17,100	75,600	19,700
Total	3,840,000	4,200,000	4,120,000	3,870,000	16,000,000	3,880,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) <sup>6</sup>						
Regular board	3,950,000	4,290,000	4,220,000	3,850,000	16,300,000	3,600,000
Type X board	1,950,000	2,190,000	2,120,000	2,030,000	8,290,000	2,160,000
Other	874,000	925,000	921,000	903,000	3,620,000	946,000
Total supply	6,770,000	7,400,000	7,270,000	6,780,000	28,200,000	6,700,000

<sup>r</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>Does not include synthetic gypsum from electric powerplants.

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

<sup>5</sup>Includes weight of paper and other materials.

<sup>6</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	2022					2023 1st quarter
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	
Brazil	--	--	15	--	15	--
Canada	408,000	657,000	501,000	557,000	2,120,000	484,000
China	133	131	466	91	821	80
Dominican Republic	7,500	19,400	--	7,520	34,400	--
Germany	--	18	3	21	42	18
India	--	--	--	2,840	2,840	1
Mexico	366,000	566,000	585,000	479,000	2,000,000	455,000
Morocco	171	144	288	320	923	101
Spain	589,000	769,000	537,000	611,000	2,510,000	811,000
Taiwan	--	2	--	2	4	23
Thailand	10	45	48	--	103	--
Turkey	53,000	29,500	20,300	123,000	225,000	58,600
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	--	34,500
United Kingdom	5	20	91	--	116	132
Other	--	1	--	19 <sup>r</sup>	20 <sup>r</sup>	--
Total	1,420,000	2,040,000	1,640,000	1,780,000	6,890,000	1,840,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- 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>
2022:				
1st quarter	6,610 <sup>r</sup>	5,200 <sup>r</sup>	1,420	9
2d quarter	7,500 <sup>r</sup>	5,480 <sup>r</sup>	2,040	12
3d quarter	7,350 <sup>r</sup>	5,720 <sup>r</sup>	1,640	9
4th quarter	7,720 <sup>r</sup>	5,950 <sup>r</sup>	1,780	9
1st quarter–4th quarter	29,200 <sup>r</sup>	22,300 <sup>r</sup>	6,890	39
2023, 1st quarter	7,290	5,460	1,840	10

<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 2023<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	52,300	2,070	10,900	346	5,170	--	--	75	913	--	71,800
Sheathing	3,470	12,800	7,930	7,770	19,200	5,380	19,300	9,300	23,700	22,200	131,000
Regular gypsum board	63,000	268,000	373,000	227,000	1,180,000	303,000	548,000	319,000	251,000	68,300	3,600,000
Type X gypsum board	66,500	237,000	249,000	156,000	472,000	91,000	251,000	261,000	334,000	37,500	2,160,000
Liner panel	1,420	8,210	4,470	972	23,500	2,970	5,160	5,050	3,050	750	55,500
Predecorated board	740	1,610	1,900	868	3,390	1,040	2,180	1,130	1,260	319	14,400
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,980	4,270	--	685	3,660	621	--	--	28	11,200
Water/moisture resistant board	27,900	130,000	63,700	31,100	181,000	32,300	70,800	40,600	59,500	25,900	662,000
Total	215,000	661,000	716,000	424,000	1,880,000	440,000	897,000	636,000	674,000	155,000	6,700,000

-- 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.