

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2023

Producers mined 5.45 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum during the third quarter of 2023, slightly less than that in the second quarter of 2023 and 5% less than that in the third quarter of 2022. Synthetic gypsum utilized was estimated to be 3.63 Mt in the third quarter of 2023, which was unchanged from that in the second quarter of 2023 and the third quarter of 2022. During the third quarter of 2023, synthetic gypsum accounted for approximately 33% of the 10.9-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 third quarter of 2023 was 4.61 Mt, which was 3% less than that in the second quarter of 2023 and 4% less than that in the third quarter of 2022 (table 1). Sales of board products were 3.89 Mt, equivalent to approximately 626 million square meters (6.74 billion square feet), slightly less than those in the second quarter of 2023, and 5% less than those in the third quarter of 2022 (table 2).

Sales of uncalcined gypsum in the third quarter of 2023, primarily for portland cement and agricultural uses, were estimated to be 4.95 Mt, unchanged from those in the second quarter of 2023 and essentially unchanged from those in the third 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 third quarter of 2023 were 1.86 Mt, 16% less than

those in the second quarter of 2023 but 14% more than those in the third quarter of 2022. Spain was the leading source with 43% of total crude imports, followed by Mexico with 32%, and Canada with 24% (table 3).

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, gypsum wallboard imports from 9 countries or localities in the third quarter of 2023 were 209,000 t, equivalent to about 23.3 million square meters (250 million square feet). These imports were 3% less than those in the second quarter of 2023 but 4% more than those in the third quarter of 2022. Mexico was the source of 98% of wallboard imports, followed by Canada with 2%.

Wallboard exports to 33 countries or localities in the third quarter of 2023 were 170,000 t, equivalent to 18.9 million square meters (203 million square feet). These were 5% less than those in the second quarter of 2023 but 10% more than those in the third quarter of 2022. Most wallboard exports were shipped to Canada, which accounted for 95% 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^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	2022			2023			
	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Crude:							
Mined ³	5,710,000	5,950,000	22,300,000	5,360,000	5,530,000 ^r	5,450,000	16,300,000
Imported ⁴	1,630,000	1,780,000	6,870,000	1,840,000	2,200,000	1,860,000	5,910,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁵	3,630,000	3,630,000	14,500,000	3,630,000	3,630,000	3,630,000	10,900,000
Total supply	11,000,000	11,400,000	43,700,000	10,800,000	11,400,000 ^r	10,900,000	33,100,000
Crude, exported ⁴	8,660	8,950	39,000	10,500	11,500	13,400	35,400
Consumption	11,000,000	11,300,000	43,700,000	10,800,000	11,400,000 ^r	10,900,000	33,100,000
Calcined:							
Produced	4,820,000	4,860,000	18,700,000	4,680,000	4,740,000 ^r	4,610,000	14,000,000
Imported ⁶	7,340	7,930	29,200	10,700	14,900	12,900	38,400
Total supply	4,830,000	4,860,000	18,700,000	4,690,000	4,750,000 ^r	4,630,000	14,100,000
Exported ⁶	27,400	27,200	106,000	29,300	34,800	28,200	92,300
Consumption	4,800,000	4,840,000	18,600,000	4,660,000	4,720,000 ^r	4,600,000	14,000,000

^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)

	2022			2023			
	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Uncalcined: ^{6, 3}							
Portland and masonry cement	1,375,000	1,375,000	5,500,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	4,200,000
Agriculture and other ⁴	3,600,000	3,600,000	14,400,000	3,550,000	3,550,000	3,550,000	10,650,000
Total	4,975,000	4,975,000	19,900,000	4,950,000	4,950,000	4,950,000	14,850,000
Calcined:							
Board products ⁵	4,100,000	3,850,000	15,900,000	3,860,000	3,960,000	3,890,000	11,700,000
Plaster	19,100	17,100	75,600	19,700	19,900	16,600	56,200
Total	4,120,000	3,870,000	16,000,000	3,880,000	3,980,000	3,900,000	11,800,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) ⁶							
Regular board	4,220,000	3,850,000	16,300,000	3,600,000	3,640,000	3,620,000	10,900,000
Type X board	2,120,000	2,030,000	8,290,000	2,160,000	2,300,000	2,210,000	6,660,000
Other	921,000	903,000	3,620,000	946,000	912,000	916,000	2,770,000
Total supply	7,270,000	6,780,000	28,200,000	6,700,000	6,850,000	6,740,000	20,300,000

⁶Estimated.

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	2022			2023			
	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
Canada	501,000	557,000	2,120,000	484,000	627,000	450,000	1,560,000
China	466	91	821	80	41	755	876
Dominican Republic	--	7,520	34,400	--	9,130	36	9,160
Germany	3	21	42	18	244	1	263
India	--	2,840	2,840	1	--	--	1
Mexico	569,000	479,000	1,980,000	455,000	650,000	595,000	1,700,000
Morocco	288	320	923	101	25	4,450	4,580
Spain	537,000	611,000	2,510,000	811,000	782,000	807,000	2,400,000
Taiwan	--	2	4	23	--	--	23
Thailand	48	--	103	--	80	--	80
Turkey	20,300	123,000	225,000	58,600	136,000	--	195,000
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	34,500	--	--	34,500
United Kingdom	91	--	116	132	--	38	170
Other	15	19	35	--	--	32	32
Total	1,630,000	1,780,000	6,870,000	1,840,000	2,200,000	1,860,000	5,910,000

-- 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
2022:				
3d quarter	7,330	5,710	1,630	9
4th quarter	7,720	5,950	1,780	9
1st quarter–4th quarter	29,200	22,300	6,870	39
2023:				
1st quarter	7,200	5,360	1,840	10
2d quarter	7,730 ^r	5,530 ^r	2,200	12
3d quarter	7,290	5,450	1,860	13
1st quarter–3d quarter	22,200	16,300	5,910	35

^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 2023^{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	46,700	1,220	10,800	257	4,070	6	--	225	1,180	1	64,500
Sheathing	3,850	10,700	7,540	8,120	21,700	4,610	20,700	9,640	21,100	13,400	121,000
Regular gypsum board	61,700	242,000	358,000	219,000	1,130,000	311,000	618,000	319,000	309,000	57,300	3,620,000
Type X gypsum board	66,500	222,000	244,000	164,000	444,000	93,000	266,000	279,000	396,000	32,500	2,210,000
Liner panel	1,680	8,220	4,650	1,760	34,600	3,740	6,370	7,660	3,260	553	72,500
Predecorated board	544	1,650	1,810	874	2,830	1,060	2,100	1,250	1,540	413	14,100
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,720	3,430	--	740	5,310	731	--	--	91	12,000
Water/moisture resistant board	26,600	128,000	60,000	29,200	165,000	32,300	70,100	38,600	63,900	17,400	631,000
Total	208,000	615,000	690,000	423,000	1,800,000	451,000	984,000	655,000	796,000	122,000	6,740,000
1st quarter-3d quarter:											
Veneer base	152,000	4,920	31,300	801	13,500	6	82	422	3,190	25	206,000
Sheathing	10,900	33,000	22,100	23,500	60,200	14,700	61,600	27,900	67,700	50,600	372,000
Regular gypsum board	185,000	756,000	1,070,000	654,000	3,470,000	923,000	1,780,000	946,000	873,000	201,000	10,900,000
Type X gypsum board	201,000	698,000	743,000	487,000	1,390,000	284,000	779,000	827,000	1,140,000	110,000	6,660,000
Liner panel	5,160	25,300	13,300	4,520	94,600	9,860	17,700	19,000	9,170	2,230	201,000
Predecorated board	1,750	4,950	5,810	2,750	9,020	2,870	6,300	3,050	4,220	1,030	41,700
5/16 Mobile home board	--	5,590	11,300	--	2,270	13,300	1,860	--	--	181	34,400
Water/moisture resistant board	82,200	382,000	182,000	89,300	511,000	95,300	207,000	115,000	188,000	65,900	1,920,000
Total	638,000	1,910,000	2,080,000	1,260,000	5,550,000	1,340,000	2,860,000	1,940,000	2,290,000	431,000	20,300,000

-- 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.