

# Mineral Industry Surveys

---

**For information, contact:**

Robert D. Crangle, Jr., Gypsum Commodity Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
989 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192  
Telephone: (703) 648-6410, Fax: (703) 648-7757  
E-mail: rcrangle@usgs.gov

Paula R. Neely (Data)  
Telephone: (703) 648-7949  
Fax: (703) 648-7975  
E-mail: pneely@usgs.gov

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

## GYPSUM IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2011

As a result of data reporting changes in the gypsum-producing community, the Mineral Industry Surveys for gypsum will be issued on a quarterly basis, beginning with this report.

Producers mined 2.12 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum during the first quarter of 2011 (table 1). This amount was 5% more than that of the fourth quarter of 2010 and slightly more than that for the first quarter of 2010. Synthetic gypsum production was 1.86 Mt in the first quarter of 2011 (table 1), which was 9% more than that of the fourth quarter of 2010 and slightly less than that of the first quarter of 2010. Both mined and synthetic gypsum are used as raw material for wallboard. The wallboard industry is the leading domestic consumer of gypsum. During the first quarter of 2011, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 39% of the 4.78 Mt total supply of gypsum in the United States. Sales of uncalcined gypsum in the first quarter of 2011, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 621,000 metric tons (t) (table 2), which was 20% less than those of the fourth quarter of 2010 and 4% more than those of the first quarter of 2010.

Output of calcined gypsum for the first quarter of 2011 (table 1) was 3.06 Mt, which was 13% more than that of the fourth quarter of 2010 and 3% less than that of the first quarter of 2010. Sales of board products (table 2) were 3.49 Mt, equivalent to approximately 389 million square meters (4.19 billion square feet), which was 6% more than those of the fourth quarter of 2010 and 7% less than those of the first quarter of 2010.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in the first quarter of 2011 were 799,000 t (table 3), a decrease of 5% from those of the fourth quarter of 2010 and 7% less than those of the first quarter of 2010. The United States imported crude gypsum from ten countries in the first quarter of 2011. Of these imports, Canada accounted for 48%, followed by Mexico with 38%, and Spain with 14%. Imports from China, Germany, Hong Kong, Morocco, Taiwan, Thailand, and the United Kingdom were negligible.

Gypsum wallboard imports for the first quarter of 2011 were 48,200 t, equivalent to 5.36 million square meters (57.7 million square feet). These imports were down 8% from those of the fourth quarter of 2010 and 25% less than those of the first quarter of 2010. The United States imported wallboard products from four countries in the first quarter of 2011. Mexico accounted for 53% of these imports, followed by Canada with 46%. Imports from Colombia and India were negligible.

Wallboard exports to 39 countries and territories in the first quarter of 2011 were 192,000 t, equivalent to 21.4 million square meters (230 million square feet). This amount was 7% more than that of the fourth quarter of 2010 and 17% more than that of the first quarter of 2010. Most wallboard exports were shipped to 28 western hemisphere countries, with Canada accounting for 95%.

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

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

(Metric tons)

	2010					2011
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First quarter–Fourth quarter	First quarter
Crude:						
Mined <sup>3</sup>	2,110,000	2,320,000	2,120,000	2,020,000	8,580,000	2,120,000
Imported <sup>4</sup>	854,000	874,000	758,000	844,000	3,330,000	799,000
Synthetic gypsum <sup>5</sup>	1,870,000	1,930,000	1,810,000	1,700,000	7,320,000	1,860,000
Total supply	4,840,000	5,130,000	4,690,000	4,570,000	19,200,000	4,780,000
Crude, exported <sup>5</sup>	79,900	76,600	115,000	88,000	360,000	70,100
Consumption	4,760,000	5,050,000	4,580,000	4,480,000	18,900,000	4,710,000
Calcined:						
Produced	3,160,000	3,270,000	3,030,000	2,710,000	12,200,000	3,060,000
Imported <sup>6</sup>	3,210	3,920	4,430	3,520	15,100	3,060
Total supply	3,170,000	3,270,000	3,030,000	2,710,000	12,200,000	3,060,000
Exported <sup>6</sup>	33,900	68,000	50,600	37,900	190,000	54,900
Consumption	3,130,000	3,210,000	2,980,000	2,670,000	12,000,000	3,010,000

<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)

	2010					2011
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First quarter–Fourth quarter	First quarter
Uncalcined: <sup>3</sup>						
Portland cement	306,000	400,000	421,000	387,000	1,510,000	274,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	343,000	384,000	384,000	393,000	1,500,000	346,000
Total	649,000	784,000	805,000	781,000	3,020,000	621,000
Calcined:						
Board products <sup>4</sup>	3,750,000	3,700,000	3,490,000	3,290,000	14,200,000	3,490,000
Plaster	21,800	19,700	20,400	18,200	80,200	19,100
Total	3,770,000	3,720,000	3,510,000	3,300,000	14,300,000	3,510,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) <sup>5</sup>						
Regular board	2,520,000	2,520,000	2,350,000	2,180,000	9,570,000	2,270,000
Type X board	1,480,000	1,420,000	1,350,000	1,320,000	5,560,000	1,430,000
Other	498,000	501,000	489,000	445,000	1,930,000	483,000
Total supply	4,500,000	4,440,000	4,190,000	3,940,000	17,100,000	4,190,000

<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 power plants.

<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	2010					2011	
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First quarter–Fourth quarter	First quarter	Second quarter
Canada	472,000	561,000	398,000	549,000	1,980,000	383,000	209
China	--	--	--	15	15	--	--
France	--	8	--	42	50	--	--
Germany	1	19	19	--	39	21	--
Hong Kong	--	--	1	--	1	5	--
Italy	--	10	--	--	10	--	--
Mexico	266,000	305,000	326,000	247,000	1,140,000	306,000	8
Morocco	--	--	--	6	6	--	--
South Africa	--	8,010	--	--	8,010	--	--
Spain	116,000	--	34,000	48,400	198,000	109,000	--
Switzerland	--	--	--	1	1	--	--
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	284	--
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	20	--
United Kingdom	--	21	--	12	33	10	--
Total	854,000	874,000	758,000	844,000	3,330,000	799,000	--

-- 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>
2010:				
First quarter	2,890	2,120	854	80
Second quarter	3,120	2,320	874	77
Third quarter	2,770	2,120	758	115
Fourth quarter	2,770	2,020	844	88
First quarter–Fourth quarter	11,500	8,580	3,330	360
2011, first quarter	2,850	2,120	799	70

<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 the exports shown in this table. Monthly 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 monthly 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 2011<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
First quarter:											
Veneer base	25,000	4,110	8,840	1,350	6,890	47	82	275	2,020	161	48,800
Sheathing	1,740	4,740	5,250	4,220	13,500	3,490	17,200	5,350	11,700	8,700	75,900
Regular gypsum board	59,700	242,000	291,000	171,000	519,000	156,000	374,000	165,000	207,000	86,800	2,270,000
Type X gypsum board	49,100	175,000	185,000	115,000	231,000	61,400	216,000	126,000	238,000	37,400	1,430,000
Liner Panel	994	4,350	1,610	931	8,800	568	2,950	1,280	1,660	827	24,000
Predecorated board	676	1,480	1,910	1,040	2,970	929	1,950	880	1,660	144	13,600
5/16 Mobile home board	--	2,680	1,760	--	962	9,770	1,050	363	600	728	17,900
Water/moisture resistant board	14,400	58,800	38,500	19,400	57,200	13,300	34,800	14,400	35,000	16,800	303,000
Total	152,000	493,000	534,000	313,000	840,000	246,000	648,000	313,000	497,000	152,000	4,190,000

-- 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.