

Mineral Industry Surveys

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GYPSUM IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 2012

Producers mined 2.62 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum during the fourth quarter of 2012 (table 1). This was 5% more than that of the third quarter of 2012 and 20% more than that of the fourth quarter of 2011. Synthetic gypsum production was 2.03 Mt in the fourth quarter of 2012 (table 1), which was 8% less than that of the third quarter of 2012 and 15% more than that of the fourth quarter of 2011. During the fourth quarter of 2012, synthetic gypsum accounted for about 38% of the 5.38 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 fourth quarter of 2012, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 298,000 metric tons (t) (table 2), which was 33% less than those of the third quarter of 2012 and 21% less than those of the fourth quarter of 2011.

Sales of calcined gypsum for the fourth quarter of 2012 (table 1) were 3.33 Mt, which was slightly lower than that of the third quarter of 2012 and 14% more than that of the fourth quarter of 2011. Sales of board products (table 2) were 4.33 Mt, equivalent to approximately 482 million square meters (5.19 billion square feet), which was 5% more than those of the third quarter of 2012 and 16% more than those of the fourth quarter of 2011.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in the fourth quarter of 2012 were 721,000 t (table 3), a decrease of 22% from those of the third quarter of 2012 and 17% less than those of the fourth quarter of 2011. Mexico was the source of 52% of crude gypsum imports, followed by Canada with 41%, and Spain with 6%.

Gypsum wallboard imports for the fourth quarter of 2012 were 84,000 t, equivalent to 9.3 million square meters (100.4 million square feet). These imports were 6% more than those of the third quarter of 2012 and 17% more than those of the fourth quarter of 2011. Mexico was the source of 63% of wallboard imports, followed by Canada with 36%.

Wallboard exports to 38 countries and territories in the fourth quarter of 2012 were 204,000 t, equivalent to 22.7 million square meters (244 million square feet). This was 5% less than that of the third quarter of 2012 and slightly more than that of the fourth quarter of 2011. Most wallboard exports were shipped to 27 western hemisphere countries, with Canada accounting for 94%.

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

TABLE 1
GYPSUM SUPPLY^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	2011		2012				
	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter ³
Crude:							
Mined ⁴	2,180,000	8,900,000	2,380,000	2,330,000	2,510,000	2,620,000	9,840,000
Imported ⁵	864,000	3,330,000	751,000	857,000	921,000	721,000	3,250,000
Synthetic gypsum ⁶	1,770,000	7,080,000	1,880,000	2,100,000	2,210,000	2,030,000	8,230,000
Total supply	4,810,000	19,300,000	5,010,000	5,280,000	5,640,000	5,380,000	21,300,000
Crude, exported ⁵	92,700	316,000	171,000	80,200	76,000	80,700	408,000
Consumption	4,720,000	19,000,000	4,840,000	5,200,000	5,570,000	5,300,000	15,600,000
Calcined:							
Produced	2,930,000	11,900,000	2,990,000	3,080,000	3,370,000	3,330,000	12,800,000
Imported ⁷	3,290	14,000	3,930	4,670	4,390	3,560	16,600
Total supply	2,940,000	11,900,000	3,000,000	3,080,000	3,370,000	3,330,000	12,800,000
Exported ⁷	89,800	307,000	35,100	30,300	43,300	30,800	140,000
Consumption	2,850,000	11,600,000	2,960,000	3,050,000	3,330,000	3,300,000	12,600,000

¹Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Some data were estimated from semiannual reports.

⁵Import and export data are for "Gypsum; anhydrite," Harmonized Tariff Schedule 2520.10.0000.

⁶Reported production only.

⁷Import 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)

	2011		2012				
	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter ³
Uncalcined: ⁴							
Portland cement	251,000	863,000	223,000	233,000	297,000	255,000	1,010,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	126,000	517,000	128,000	166,000	148,000	42,800	485,000
Total	376,000	1,380,000	351,000	398,000	445,000	298,000	1,490,000
Calcined:							
Board products ⁵	3,730,000	14,300,000	3,580,000	3,730,000	4,140,000	4,330,000	15,800,000
Plaster	17,400	75,100	21,700	17,900	18,800	17,100	75,500
Total	3,750,000	14,400,000	3,600,000	3,750,000	4,160,000	4,340,000	15,800,000
Board products: (thousand square feet) ⁶							
Regular board	2,440,000	9,380,000	2,340,000	2,440,000	2,760,000	2,840,000	10,400,000
Type X board	1,510,000	5,740,000	1,430,000	1,500,000	1,610,000	1,700,000	6,240,000
Other	526,000	2,050,000	521,000	538,000	599,000	650,000	2,310,000
Total supply	4,480,000	17,200,000	4,290,000	4,470,000	4,970,000	5,190,000	18,900,000

¹Includes data from the Gypsum Association.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Does not include synthetic gypsum from electric powerplants.

⁵Includes weight of paper and other materials.

⁶One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

TABLE 3
CRUDE GYPSUM IMPORTED FOR CONSUMPTION¹

(Metric tons)

Country of origin	2011		2012				1st quarter– 4d quarter ²
	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	
Brazil	--	--	1	--	1	--	2
Canada	327,000	1,470,000	168,000	205,000	348,000	299,000	1,020,000
China	19	242	653	189	--	--	842
France	80	120	76	152	--	57	285
Germany	2	148	23	91	19	19	152
Hong Kong	73	79	--	--	2	--	2
Japan	5	5	1	1	2	1	5
Mexico	346,000	1,230,000	335,000	398,000	310,000	376,000	1,420,000
Morocco	--	8	--	--	--	--	--
Netherlands	19	19	--	--	--	--	--
Spain	191,000	629,000	248,000	254,000	262,000	45,400	809,000
Taiwan	--	284	--	--	--	--	--
Thailand	--	60	--	--	--	--	--
United Kingdom	15	37	5	--	--	--	5
Total	864,000	3,330,000	751,000	857,000	921,000	721,000	3,250,000

-- 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}

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Consumption ³	Production ⁴	Imports ⁵	Exports ⁵
2011:				
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
2d quarter	3,100	2,330	857	80
3d quarter	3,350	2,510	921	76
4th quarter	3,260	2,620	721	81
1st quarter–4d quarter	12,700	9,840	3,250	408

¹Excludes synthetic gypsum.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

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

⁴Production 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.

⁵Data from U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
SALES OF GYPSUM BOARD PRODUCTS, BY SALES REGIONS IN 2012^{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
4th quarter:											
Veneer base	28,500	3,220	11,100	1,280	6,920	12	79	217	2,060	83	53,400
Sheathing	3,550	7,820	8,090	9,290	23,100	5,610	24,000	9,390	17,800	11,400	120,000
Regular gypsum board	56,800	285,000	323,000	215,000	659,000	195,000	471,000	245,000	236,000	157,000	2,840,000
Type X gypsum board	51,000	175,000	205,000	138,000	271,000	75,000	247,000	178,000	298,000	62,500	1,700,000
Liner panel	1,860	6,100	2,710	1,100	13,200	887	4,110	2,590	2,740	708	36,000
Predecorated board	691	1,770	2,150	958	3,010	981	1,900	781	1,520	321	14,100
5/16 Mobile home board	--	3,250	2,970	26	1,340	14,600	1,390	402	288	38	24,300
Water/moisture resistant board	16,200	87,400	53,500	23,000	80,500	21,500	43,200	18,300	38,500	19,900	402,000
Total	159,000	570,000	608,000	389,000	1,060,000	313,000	793,000	454,000	597,000	252,000	5,190,000
1st quarter–4th quarter:											
Veneer base	108,000	12,900	41,300	3,920	25,400	59	232	717	6,590	160	199,000
Sheathing	12,100	26,700	26,300	25,900	71,600	19,000	73,600	24,700	58,100	47,200	385,000
Regular gypsum board	225,000	1,040,000	1,190,000	782,000	2,370,000	722,000	1,710,000	819,000	880,000	636,000	10,400,000
Type X gypsum board	197,000	701,000	756,000	516,000	995,000	267,000	853,000	606,000	1,110,000	237,000	6,240,000
Liner panel	6,360	23,300	9,300	4,090	49,200	3,030	13,400	7,310	9,950	2,200	128,000
Predecorated board	2,780	6,590	8,720	3,960	12,900	3,720	8,180	3,180	6,520	1,380	58,000
5/16 Mobile home board	--	11,100	14,900	134	5,400	56,500	6,360	2,410	897	183	97,900
Water/moisture resistant board	60,300	305,000	190,000	86,200	282,000	75,500	150,000	61,700	142,000	87,000	1,440,000
Total	611,000	2,130,000	2,230,000	1,420,000	3,820,000	1,150,000	2,820,000	1,520,000	2,220,000	1,010,000	18,900,000

-- 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, 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).

³One square meter equals 10.78 square feet.

Source: Gypsum Association.