

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## GYPSUM IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2016

Producers mined 2.96 million metric tons (Mt) of gypsum during the first quarter of 2016 (table 1). This was unchanged from that of the fourth quarter of 2015 and 12% more than that of the first quarter of 2015. Synthetic gypsum used was 2.46 Mt in the first quarter of 2016 (table 1), which was 40% more than that of the fourth quarter of 2015 and 23% more than the first quarter of 2015. The large growth in consumption resulted from an increase by a single large synthetic gypsum consumer, which followed a similarly-sized decrease from the preceding quarterly report. During the first quarter of 2016, synthetic gypsum accounted for 39% of the 6.36 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 first quarter of 2016, mainly for portland cement manufacture and for agricultural uses, were 729,000 metric tons (t) (table 2), which were 4% more than those of the fourth quarter of 2015 and 28% more than those of the first quarter of 2015.

The supply of calcined gypsum for the first quarter of 2016 (table 1) was 4.13 Mt, which was 12% more than that of the fourth quarter of 2015 and 23% more than that of the first quarter of 2015. Sales of board products (table 2) were 5.11 Mt, equivalent to approximately 570 million square meters (6.14 billion square feet), which were 7% more than those of the fourth quarter of 2015 and 27% more those of the first quarter of 2015.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports of crude gypsum in the first quarter of 2016 were 945,000 t (table 3), 9% less than those of the fourth quarter of 2015 and 7% more than those of the first quarter of 2015. Mexico was the source of 56% of crude imports, followed by Spain with 24%, and Canada with 20%.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, gypsum wallboard imports for the first quarter of 2016 were 91,000 t, equivalent to about 10.1 million square meters (109 million square feet). These imports were 14% more than those of the fourth quarter of 2015 and 25% more than those of the first quarter of 2015. Mexico was the source of 52% of wallboard imports, followed by Canada with 47%.

Wallboard exports to 42 countries and territories in the first quarter of 2016 were 181,000 t, equivalent to 20.1 million square meters (216 million square feet). These were slightly more than those of the fourth quarter of 2015 and 13% less than those of the first quarter of 2015. Most wallboard exports were shipped to 31 Western Hemisphere countries, with Canada accounting for 93%.

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

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

(Metric tons)

	2015					2016
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter <sup>3</sup>	1st quarter
<b>Crude:</b>						
Mined <sup>4</sup>	2,640,000	2,720,000	2,750,000	2,960,000	11,100,000	2,960,000
Imported <sup>5</sup>	879,000	1,070,000	1,040,000	1,040,000	4,030,000	945,000
Synthetic gypsum <sup>6</sup>	2,000,000	2,320,000	2,410,000	1,760,000	8,490,000	2,460,000
Total supply	5,520,000	6,110,000	6,200,000	5,760,000	23,600,000	6,360,000
Crude, exported <sup>5</sup>	13,700	16,700	17,200	15,300	62,900	11,700
Consumption	5,510,000	6,090,000	6,180,000	5,750,000	23,500,000	6,350,000
<b>Calcined:</b>						
Produced	3,360,000	3,930,000	3,990,000	3,690,000	15,000,000	4,120,000
Imported <sup>7</sup>	5,540	5,090	5,800	4,680	21,100	4,490
Total supply	3,360,000	3,930,000	4,000,000	3,690,000	15,000,000	4,130,000
Exported <sup>7</sup>	24,400	26,200	22,400	21,700	94,600	22,000
Consumption	3,340,000	3,900,000	3,970,000	3,670,000	14,900,000	4,110,000

<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>May include revisions to previously published data.

<sup>4</sup>Some data were estimated from semiannual reports.

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

<sup>6</sup>Reported production only.

<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)

	2015					2016
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter <sup>3</sup>	1st quarter
<b>Uncalcined:<sup>4</sup></b>						
Portland cement	204,000	221,000	258,000	255,000	938,000	217,000
Agriculture and miscellaneous	365,000 <sup>r</sup>	455,000 <sup>r</sup>	478,000 <sup>r</sup>	448,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,750,000 <sup>r</sup>	513,000
Total	569,000 <sup>r</sup>	676,000 <sup>r</sup>	735,000 <sup>r</sup>	703,000 <sup>r</sup>	2,680,000 <sup>r</sup>	729,000
<b>Calcined:</b>						
Board products <sup>5</sup>	4,040,000	4,720,000	4,850,000	4,790,000	18,400,000	5,110,000
Plaster	18,500	21,200	20,400	19,400	79,500	20,700
Total	4,060,000	4,740,000	4,870,000	4,810,000	18,500,000	5,130,000
<b>Board products: (thousand square feet)<sup>6</sup></b>						
Regular board	2,630,000	2,980,000	3,090,000	3,090,000	11,800,000	3,220,000
Type X board	1,590,000	1,980,000	2,020,000	1,950,000	7,530,000	2,150,000
Other	626,000	707,000	716,000	714,000	2,760,000	775,000
Total supply	4,850,000	5,660,000	5,820,000	5,750,000	22,100,000	6,140,000

<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>Does not include synthetic gypsum from electric powerplants.

<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</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country of origin	2015					2016
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter <sup>2</sup>	1st quarter
Canada	283,000	270,000	335,000	355,000	1,240,000	185,000
China	--	4	--	1	5	--
France	38	19	--	--	57	--
Germany	120	192	468	124	904	156
Japan	1	1	3	--	5	--
Mexico	360,000	486,000	520,000	353,000	1,720,000	529,000
Morocco	20	--	333	6	359	--
Spain	236,000	313,000	183,000	332,000	1,060,000	230,000
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	1
United Kingdom	--	2	5	--	7	4
Total	879,000	1,070,000	1,040,000	1,040,000	4,030,000	945,000

-- 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>
2015:				
1st quarter	3,510	2,640	879	14
2d quarter	3,770	2,720	1,070	16
3d quarter	3,770	2,750	1,040	17
4th quarter	3,980	2,960	1,040	15
1st quarter–4th quarter	15,000	11,100	4,030	62
2016, 1st quarter	3,890	2,960	945	12

<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 the production and imports shown in this table and subtracting exports shown in this table. Quarterly 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 quarterly 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 2016<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	50,400	3,550	11,900	515	7,000	17	13	181	1,100	126	74,700
Sheathing	2,690	9,880	8,620	8,410	21,600	5,640	21,600	6,840	19,200	14,200	119,000
Regular gypsum board	60,800	270,000	367,000	233,000	790,000	238,000	535,000	292,000	282,000	148,000	3,220,000
Type X gypsum board	68,300	229,000	240,000	154,000	346,000	83,600	373,000	207,000	374,000	69,900	2,150,000
Liner panel	1,980	8,940	3,340	1,390	18,000	1,120	4,650	3,470	3,930	1,230	48,000
Predecorated board	594	1,600	2,190	1,060	3,010	1,040	2,650	970	1,740	207	15,100
5/16 Mobile home board	--	1,190	4,280	--	457	3,740	1,260	339	123	71	11,500
Water/moisture resistant board	24,400	110,000	59,200	30,100	100,000	22,700	58,200	25,800	53,900	21,900	507,000
Total	209,000	634,000	696,000	429,000	1,290,000	356,000	996,000	537,000	736,000	256,000	6,140,000

-- 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.

4 Source: Gypsum Association.