

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SULFUR IN SEPTEMBER 2007

During the month, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 671,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. September 2007 production was 4% lower than that of August 2007 and 5% lower than that of September 2006. Sulfur production from January through September 2007 was 2% lower than that in the same period of 2006. Shipments were 8% lower than those of August 2007. Producers' ending stocks for September 2007 were 181,000 t.

Import and export data for September 2007 were not available at the time of publication and will be published in the Sulfur in

October 2007 Mineral Industry Surveys along with apparent consumption. Imports of recovered sulfur for August 2007 were estimated to be 239,000 t; exports were 83,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for August 2007 were 237,000 t; exports were 39,000 t.

Significant adjustments have been made to the sulfur import data. Reports from the U.S. Census Bureau appear to underreport sulfur imports, especially material from Canada. The revised figures are based on Census information and data from personal communications with industry experts.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SULFUR STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production			Shipments, all sources	Ending stocks ³
	Petroleum ²	Natural gas	Total		
2006:					
January-December	6,960	1,430	8,390	8,290	XX
January-September ^r	5,160	1,050	6,210	6,180	XX
September	592 ^r	112 ^r	704 ^r	721 ^r	168
October	587	127	713	684	196
November	570	124	694	684	205
December	630	122	752	728	221
2007:					
January	603	119	721	749	185
February	501	110	612	582	211
March	591	97	688	705	207
April	555	98	656 ^r	674 ^r	164 ^r
May	565	101 ^r	679 ^r	674 ^r	163 ^r
June	558	115 ^r	676 ^r	681 ^r	159
July	605	106	712 ^r	689	182
August ^r	607	107	714	740	184
September ^p	577	102	679	677	184
Total	5,160	955	6,140	6,170	XX

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes a small quantity from coking operations.

³Subject to inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF SULFUR¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Canada		Mexico		Venezuela		Total, all countries ²	
	Quantity ^e	Value ³	Quantity	Value ³	Quantity ^e	Value ³	Quantity ^e	Value ³
2006:								
January-December	2,100	33,100	476	20,100	359	15,100	2,950	70,400
January-August	1,430 ^r	26,900	334	14,800	242	10,700	2,010 ^r	53,400
August	165	2,330	43	1,770	20	824	229	4,940
September	160	1,970	43	1,730	31	1,240	245	4,970
October	170	1,960	43	1,710	32	1,270	246	4,990
November	165	1,210	14	577	18	725	198	2,620
December	170	1,020	43	1,350	36	1,140	250	4,410
2007:								
January	170	2,480	44	1,300	23	695	236	4,600
February	145	1,670	30	1,090	20	503	195	3,290
March	170	2,010	29	661	17	376	216	3,120
April	165	2,260	41	891	22	1,320	230	4,630
May	165 ^r	2,170	58	1,460	20	1,360	243 ^r	5,030
June	165	1,740	43	1,390	22	714	230	5,420
July	190	4,480 ^r	29	1,030	35	807	254	4,420 ^r
August	190	4,940	29	1,000	20	1,010	239	4,520
Total	1,360	21,700	303	8,820	179	6,790	1,840	35,000

^eEstimated. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²May include other countries not listed.

³Declared customs valuation.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau data as adjusted by U.S. Geological Survey and PentaSul North America Sulphur Service.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SULFURIC ACID¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Canada			Mexico			Total, all countries ²		
	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value ³	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value ³	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value ³
2006:									
January-December	1,980	647	79,200	200	64	5,100	2,430	795	91,100
January-August	1,760 [†]	575 [†]	65,800 [†]	118	38	2,850 [†]	1,840	602 [†]	66,000
August	212	69	7,330	22	7	624	245	80	8,070
September	178	58	6,850	23	8	557	201	66	7,490
October	93	30	4,650	19	6	464	122	40	5,320
November	93	31	5,440	21	7	512	154	50	6,740
December	65	21	3,710	18	6	713	109	36	5,530
2007:									
January	216	71	8,930	22	7	510	238	78	9,440
February	160	52	6,600	23	8	548	182	60	7,150
March	208	68	8,320	33	11	874	240	79	9,200
April	203	66	8,580	25	8	678	228	74	9,260
May	193	45	8,740	30	10	1,090	223	55	9,820
June	208	68	9,050	7	2	204	216	71	9,360
July	190	62	9,260	33	11	879	240	78	12,600
August	194	14	8,350	22	7	581	237	77	9,820
Total	1,570	446	67,800	195	64	5,360	1,800	572	76,700

[†]Revised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²May include other countries not listed.

³Declared customs valuation.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. EXPORTS OF SULFUR AND SULFURIC ACID¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Sulfur		Sulfuric acid		
	Quantity	Value ²	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value ²
2006:					
January-December	635	43,800	249	80	21,800
January-August	403 [†]	30,100	176	58	14,500
August	15	2,380	37	12	2,280
September	15	1,540	11	4	1,320
October	84	4,910	20	6	1,730
November	48	2,980	9	3	1,040
December	85	4,250	32	10	3,270
2007:					
January	82	5,510	15	5	2,960
February	37	3,420	17	6	1,610
March	80	4,750	20	7	2,980
April	83	4,570	24	8	3,290
May	71	5,730	26	8	3,340
June	13	1,720	21	7	2,610
July	87	7,440	34	11	3,660
August	83	8,190	39	13	4,660
Total	536	41,300	196	65	25,100

[†]Revised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Declared f.a.s. (free alongside ship) valuation.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. CONSUMPTION OF SULFUR¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Domestic sources ²	Imports ^e	Consumption
2006:			
January-December	7,660	2,950	10,600
January-August ^f	5,060	2,010	6,210
August ^f	711	229	940
September	711	245	956
October	608	246	854
November	642	198	840
December	638	250	888
2007:			
January	667	236	903
February	545	195	740
March	625	216	841
April	590 ^r	230	820 ^r
May	605 ^r	243 ^r	848 ^r
June	670 ^r	230	900 ^r
July	639 ^r	254	893 ^r
August	586	239	825
Total	4,930	1,840	6,770

^eEstimated. ^fRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Calculated as shipments minus exports.

TABLE 6
RECOVERED SULFUR PRODUCED AND SHIPPED IN THE UNITED STATES,
BY PAD (PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION FOR DEFENSE) DISTRICT¹

(Thousand metric tons)

District and source	September 2007 ^p		August 2007		January-September 2007 ²		January-September 2006 ²	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:								
Petroleum and coke	21	22	22	22	201	203	173 ^r	173
Natural gas	2	2	1	1	11	10	19	19
Total	23	24	23	23	211	213	192 ^r	192
PAD 2:								
Petroleum and coke	75	75	74 ^r	75 ^r	725	726	770 ^r	773 ^r
Natural gas	3	3	3	3	31	30	29	29
Total	78	77	78 ^r	79 ^r	756	756	799 ^r	802 ^r
PAD 3: ³								
Petroleum and coke	397	402	409	435	3,380	3,420	3,200	3,190
Natural gas	38	35	35 ^r	36 ^r	342	344	362 ^r	367 ^r
Total	435	437	443 ^r	471 ^r	3,720	3,770	3,560 ^r	3,560 ^r
PAD 4 and 5: ⁴								
Petroleum and coke	82	81	99	101 ^r	862	849	1,020	981
Natural gas	52	49	68	62	562	564	643	647
California	73	69	82	80	688	663	842	811
Total	135	131	167	163 ^r	1,420	1,410	1,660	1,630
Grand total	671	669	711 ^r	736 ^r	6,110	6,150	6,210 ^r	6,180 ^r

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²May include revisions.

³Includes the U.S. Virgin Islands.

⁴Quantities produced and shipped in California included in petroleum and natural gas. California total shown for information purposes only.

TABLE 7
COMPARATIVE SULFUR AND SULFURIC ACID STATISTICS¹

(Million metric tons per year [annualized basis] and dollars per metric ton for period shown)

	2007			2006
	September	August	Total	total
Production	8.26 ^p	8.41 ^r	8.20 ^r	8.38
Shipments	8.24 ^p	8.71 ^r	8.25 ^r	8.29
Exports of sulfur	NA	0.98	0.81	0.63
Imports of sulfur:				
Canada	NA	2.24	1.82 ^e	2.09 ^e
Mexico	NA	0.35	0.46	0.47
Venezuela	NA	0.23	0.27 ^e	0.36 ^e
Total ²	NA	2.81	2.77 ^e	2.95 ^e
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	NA	0.46	0.29	0.25
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :				
Canada	NA	2.28	2.36	1.98
Mexico	NA	0.26	0.30	0.20
Total ²	NA	2.79	2.71	2.43
Consumption: ³				
Domestic sources	NA	6.90	7.40	7.66
Imports	NA	2.81	2.77 ^e	2.95 ^e
Total	NA	9.71	10.10	10.61
Sulfur export values ⁴	NA	99	77	69
Sulfur import values: ⁴				
Canada	NA	26	35	16
Mexico	NA	35	29	42
Venezuela	NA	51	38	42
Average ²	NA	19	19	24
H ₂ SO ₄ export values ⁴	NA	119	128	88
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: ⁴				
Canada	NA	43	43	40
Mexico	NA	26	27	26
Average ²	NA	41	42	37

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes other countries not listed.

³Because September trade data were not available, September consumption was not determined.

⁴Average value per ton for most recent data available.