

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SULFUR IN JANUARY 2012

During January 2012, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 680,000 metric tons (t), which was 10% lower than that of December 2011 and 7% lower than that of January 2011. Shipments were 694,000 t, which was 6% lower than those of December 2011. Producers' ending stocks for January 2012 were 161,000 t.

Imports of recovered sulfur for January 2012 were estimated to be 259,000 t; exports were 155,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for January 2012 were 291,000 t; exports were 15,000 t.

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus

exports plus imports, was 798,000 t in January 2012. This was 14% lower than that of December 2011 and about 13% lower than that of January 2011.

Significant adjustments have been made to the sulfur import data. The U.S. Census Bureau appears 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	Stocks, end of period ³
	Petroleum ²	Natural gas	Total		
2010, January–December	7,120	1,170	8,290	8,350	167
2011:					
January	624	104	729 ^r	732	148
February	474	93	568	577	137
March	564	96	659	647	150
April	545	98	644	650	144
May	585	96	681	682	143
June	620	76	697	698	140
July	614	92	705	681	164
August	623	98	720	731	159
September	586	93	678	676	156
October	602	86	688	687	161
November	590	94	684	689	157
December ^f	656	101	756	738	176
Total	7,080	1,130	8,210 ^r	8,190 ^r	176
2012, January ^p	582	98	680	694	161

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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
2010, January–December	2,320	122,000	379	37,400	41	4,200	2,950	214,000
2011:								
January	220	10,000	29	3,620	13	1,600	272	17,600
February	200	10,700	14	2,750	--	--	252	21,400
March	220	25,100	44	5,940	--	--	275	33,500
April	220	13,800	29	4,940	18	3,430	268	22,700
May	230	14,700	29	6,190	--	--	260	21,600
June	220	14,400	14	2,760	15	2,750	315	37,300
July	240	18,100	29	5,910	--	--	270	24,500
August	240	17,800	14	3,330	15	2,720	308	33,500
September	230	15,600	29	5,400	8	1,510	267	22,900
October	230	16,300	14	3,240	--	--	245	19,800
November	220	13,700	29	5,420	10	1,370	259	20,800
December	230	17,600	29	5,010	20	2,970	279	25,800
Total	2,700	188,000	303	54,500	99	16,400	3,270	301,000
2012, January	230	13,700	29	5,230	--	--	259	19,200

^eEstimated. -- Zero.

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 ICIS 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
2010, January–December	1,150	378	79,100	198	65	11,100	2,110	690	139,000
2011:									
January	150	49	11,500	27	9	1,620	206	67	17,500
February	152	50	11,400	14	5	989	234	76	19,800
March	146	48	11,700	58	19	3,310	254	83	22,200
April	145	47	8,780	47	15	3,400	229	75	18,100
May	135	44	7,460	40	13	2,950	229	75	17,000
June	116	38	7,670	39	13	2,750	221	72	18,100
July	157	51	16,000	23	8	1,570	205	68	23,800
August	169	55	18,500	46	15	3,250	237	78	25,600
September	141	46	15,600	30	10	2,130	175	57	19,600
October	179	59	17,600	35	11	2,440	230	75	21,600
November	155	51	14,600	31	10	2,180	188	61	17,100
December	178	58	16,900	43	14	2,860	257	84	23,200
Total	1,820	596	158,000	433	142	29,400	2,670	871	244,000
2012, January	192	63	16,600	32	10	2,320	291	95	26,500

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
2010, January–December	1,450	171,000	216	71	26,400
2011:					
January	86	13,900	20	7	2,320
February	122	20,900	28	9	3,470
March	114	20,500	22	7	3,220
April	123	26,100	40	13	3,840
May	52	11,400	27	9	3,180
June	189	34,500	26	8	3,410
July	61	15,600	30	10	3,790
August	116	24,900	68	22	5,100
September	160	30,100	24	8	3,740
October	79	17,900	11	4	1,830
November	117	26,500	23	8	5,510
December	90	23,400	13	4	2,080
Total	1,310	266,000	332	109	41,500
2012, January	155	32,900	15	5	2,760

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
2010, January–December	6,900	2,950	9,850
2011:			
January	646	272	918
February	455	252	707
March	533	275	808
April	527	268	795
May	630	260	890
June	509	315	824
July	620	270	890
August	615	308	923
September	516	267	783
October	608	245	853
November	572	259	831
December	648 ^r	279	927 ^r
Total	6,880 ^r	3,270	10,100
2012, January	539 ^p	259	798

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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	January 2011 ²		December 2011		January 2012 ^p	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:						
Petroleum and coke	8	3	7	2	7	8
Natural gas	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	9	4	8	3	8	9
PAD 2:						
Petroleum and coke	86	88	91 ^r	92 ^r	86	87
Natural gas	2	2	2	1	2	1
Total	87	90	92 ^r	93 ^r	87	88
PAD 3: ³						
Petroleum and coke	426	432	448	437	389	399
Natural gas	39	38	40	40	39	39
Total	465	470	489	477	429	438
PAD 4 and 5						
Petroleum and coke	105	103	109 ^r	106 ^r	100	104
Natural gas	63	63	58	58	56	56
Total	167	167	167	164 ^r	156	160
Grand total	729	732	756 ^r	738 ^r	680	694

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Includes the U.S. Virgin Islands.

TABLE 7
COMPARATIVE SULFUR AND SULFURIC ACID STATISTICS¹

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

	2011		2012
	December	Total	January
Production	8.90 ^r	8.21 ^r	8.01 ^p
Shipments	8.69 ^r	8.19 ^r	8.17 ^p
Exports of sulfur	1.06	1.31	1.83
Imports of sulfur:			
Canada ^e	2.71	2.70	2.71
Mexico	0.34	0.30	0.34
Venezuela ^e	0.24	0.10	--
Total ^{e,2}	3.29	3.27	3.05
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	0.15	0.33	0.18
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :			
Canada	2.10	1.82	2.26
Mexico	0.51	0.43	0.38
Total ²	3.03	2.67	3.43
Consumption:			
Domestic sources	7.63 ^r	6.88 ^r	6.35
Imports ^e	3.29	3.27	3.05
Total	10.90 ^r	10.20 ^r	9.40
Sulfur export values ³	260	203	212
Sulfur import values: ³			
Canada	76	70	60
Mexico	173	180	180
Venezuela	149	165	XX
Average ²	92	92	74
H ₂ SO ₄ export values ³	160	125	184
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: ³			
Canada	95	86	86
Mexico	67	68	72
Average ²	90	91	91

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

²Includes other countries not listed.

³Average value per ton.