

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Lori E. Apodaca, Sulfur Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7724, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: lapodaca@usgs.gov

Maria Arguelles (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7990
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: marguell@usgs.gov

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

SULFUR IN JANUARY 2013

During January 2013, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 699,000 metric tons (t), which was 3% less than that of December 2012 and 2% more than that of January 2012. Shipments were 701,000 t, which was 2% less than those of December 2012. Producers' ending stocks for January 2013 were 129,000 t.

Imports of recovered sulfur for January 2013 were estimated to be 203,000 t; exports were 77,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for January 2013 were 236,000 t; exports were 15,000 t.

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus exports plus imports, was 827,000 t in January 2013. This was about 6% more than that of December 2012 and slightly more than that of January 2012.

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 other published data.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SULFUR STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production			Shipments, all sources	Stocks, end of period ³
	Petroleum ²	Natural gas	Total		
2012:					
January	586 ^r	98	684 ^r	698 ^r	162 ^r
February	566 ^r	97	663 ^r	663 ^r	162
March	586 ^r	96	683 ^r	695 ^r	151
April	574 ^r	96	670 ^r	685 ^r	138 ^r
May	638 ^r	87	725 ^r	722 ^r	143
June	618 ^r	76	694 ^r	680 ^r	159 ^r
July	672 ^r	95	768 ^r	772 ^r	152
August	637 ^r	98	735 ^r	732 ^r	153 ^r
September ^r	607	82	689	695	141
October	612 ^r	76 ^r	688 ^r	697	129
November	622 ^r	61	683 ^r	675 ^r	135
December	642 ^r	76	718 ^r	718 ^r	132 ^r
January–December	7,360 ^r	1,040	8,400 ^r	8,430 ^r	132 ^r
2013, January ^p	614	85	699	701	129

^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
2012:								
January	240	13,700	29	5,230	--	--	269	19,200
February	220	12,800	29	3,930	13	1,820	263	18,900
March	240	15,400	29	3,410	12	1,610	281	20,700
April	190	12,300	49	7,990	13	1,790	252	22,300
May	200	13,100	43	6,260	10	1,360	253	21,000
June	190	15,800	35	5,980	--	--	225	22,200
July	190	13,400	16	4,350	20	839	226	18,800
August	190	13,800	30	4,590	20	3,310	241	22,100
September	190	12,100	30	3,920	12	1,620	233	17,800
October	200	13,600	30	3,870	--	--	231	18,100
November	190	14,000	30	3,630	--	--	220	18,000
December	200	13,500	16	2,840	15	1,840	233	18,900
January–December	2,440	163,000	366	56,000	115	14,200	2,930	238,000
2013, January	200	15,300	2	122	--	--	203	16,000

^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
2012:									
January	192	63	16,600	32	10	2,320	291	95	26,500
February	146	48	12,300	39	13	2,870	203	66	17,800
March	167	55	14,000	47	15	3,540	272	89	22,400
April	169	55	13,400	37	12	2,670	225	74	19,600
May	156	51	11,500	37	12	2,740	203	66	16,800
June	162	53	11,800	37	12	2,660	239	78	19,500
July	179	59	13,300	45	15	3,090	241	79	19,900
August	166	54	12,500	34	11	2,350	228	75	17,900
September	151	49	12,000	31	10	2,130	232	76	19,000
October	169	55	13,200	49	16	3,400	279	91	23,200
November	166	54	12,900	43	14	3,060	211	69	17,100
December	153	50	11,900	40	13	2,840	230	75	19,600
January–December	1,980	646	155,000	471	154 [†]	33,700	2,850	933	239,000
2013, January	170	56	13,500	38	12	2,500	236	77	18,000

[†]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
2012:					
January	155	32,900	15	5	2,760
February	66	11,000	10	3	2,030
March	216	60,200	10	3	1,950
April	89	17,800	11	4	2,410
May	178	33,800	15	5	2,850
June	190	33,700	11	4	2,530
July	111	20,900	24	8	4,810
August	141	26,000	11	4	2,480
September	192	38,600	17	6	2,830
October	232	41,100	15	5	3,060
November	104	18,800	10	3	1,810
December	174	31,300	12	4	3,530
January–December	1,850	366,000	161	53 [†]	33,000
2013, January	77	15,900	15	5	2,900

[†]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
2012:			
January	543 ^r	269	812 ^r
February	597 ^r	263	860 ^r
March	479 ^r	281	760 ^r
April	596 ^r	252	848 ^r
May	544 ^r	253	797 ^r
June	490 ^r	225	715 ^r
July	661 ^r	226	887 ^r
August	591 ^r	241	832 ^r
September	503 ^r	233	736 ^r
October	465	231	696
November	571 ^r	220	791 ^r
December	544 ^r	233	777 ^r
January–December	6,580 ^r	2,930	9,510 ^r
2013, January	624 ^p	203	827

^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 2012 ²		December 2012		January 2013 ^p	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:						
Petroleum and coke	7	8	14	15	14	13
Natural gas	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	8	9	15	16	15	14
PAD 2:						
Petroleum and coke	88	88	97 ^r	96 ^r	96	96
Natural gas	2	1	1	2	1	1
Total	89	90	98 ^r	98 ^r	97	98
PAD 3: ³						
Petroleum and coke	389	399	428 ^r	438 ^r	400	398
Natural gas	39	39	31	28 ^r	37	36
Total	429	438	459 ^r	465 ^r	437	434
PAD 4 and 5						
Petroleum and coke	102	106	104	100	105	108
Natural gas	56	56	42	39	45	48
Total	158	161	146	140	150	156
Grand total	684	698	718 ^r	718 ^r	699	701

^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)

	2012		2013
	December	Total	January
Production	8.48 ^r	8.40 ^r	8.23 ^p
Shipments	8.48 ^r	8.43 ^r	8.25 ^p
Exports of sulfur	2.05	1.85	0.91
Imports of sulfur:			
Canada ^e	2.36	2.44	2.35
Mexico	0.19	0.37	0.02
Venezuela ^e	0.18	0.12	--
Total ^{e,2}	2.75	2.93	2.39
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	0.14	0.16	0.18
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :			
Canada	1.81	1.98	2.00
Mexico	0.47	0.47	0.45
Total ²	2.72	2.85	2.78
Consumption:			
Domestic sources	6.42 ^r	6.58 ^r	7.35
Imports ^e	2.75	2.93	2.39
Total	9.17 ^r	9.51 ^r	9.74
Sulfur export values ³	180	198	206
Sulfur import values: ³			
Canada	67	67	76
Mexico	177	153	61
Venezuela	123	123	XX
Average ²	81	81	79
H ₂ SO ₄ export values ³	295	205	193
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: ³			
Canada	78	79	80
Mexico	71	71	66
Average ²	85	84	76

^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.