

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SULFUR IN APRIL 2013

During April 2013, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 674,000 metric tons (t), which was slightly lower than that of March 2013 and slightly higher than that of April 2012. Shipments were 685,000 t, which was 3% more than those of March 2013. Producers' ending stocks for April 2013 were 125,000 t.

Imports of recovered sulfur for April 2013 were estimated to be 251,000 t; exports were 227,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for April 2013 were 280,000 t; exports were 11,000 t.

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus exports plus imports, was 709,000 t in April 2013. This was about 3% less than that of March 2013 and 16% less than that of April 2013.

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–December	7,360	1,040	8,400	8,430	132
January–April	2,310	387	2,700	2,740	138
April	574	96	670	685	138
May	638	87	725	722	143
June	618	76	694	680	159
July	672	95	768	772	152
August	637	98	735	732	153
September	607	82	689	695	141
October	612	76	688	697	129
November	622	61	683	675	135
December	642	76	718	718	132
2013:					
January	615	85	700	701	129
February	526	81	607	612	123
March	592	85 ^r	677 ^r	666 ^r	136 ^r
April ^p	593	81	674	685	125
January–April	2,330	331	2,660	2,660	125

^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–December	2,440	163,000	366	56,000	115	14,200	2,930	238,000
January–April	890	54,200	136	20,600	38	5,220	1,070	81,100
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	2,870	--	--	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
2013:								
January	190	15,300	2	122	--	--	193	16,000
February	170	11,800	63	8,040	20	2,580	254	22,700
March	190	14,100	30	3,730	--	--	222	18,500
April	190	15,300	31	3,660	30	2,520	251	21,800
January–April	740	56,500	126	15,500	50	5,100	920	79,100

^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–December	1,980	646	155,000	471	154	33,700	2,850	933	239,000
January–April	674	220	56,200	155	50	11,400	991	324	86,300
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
2013:									
January	170	56	13,500	38	12	2,500	236	77	18,000
February	162	53	13,000	39	13	2,460	201	66	15,500
March	186	61	14,700	45	15	2,930	269	88	19,500
April	179	59	12,100	51	17	3,170	280	92	17,600
January–April	697	229	53,300	173	57	11,100	986	323	70,700

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–December	1,850	366,000	161	53	33,000
January–April	526	122,000	47 ^r	15	9,140
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
2013:					
January	77	15,900	15	5	2,900
February	130	22,600	8	3	1,820
March	155	30,000	20	7	3,090
April	227	35,200	11	4	2,290
January–April	589	104,000	54	19	10,100

^rRevised.

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 ^c	Consumption
2012:			
January–December	6,580	2,930	9,510
January–April	2,210	1,070	3,280 ^r
April	596	252	848
May	544	253	797
June	490	225	715
July	661	226	887
August	591	241	832
September	503	233	736
October	465	231	696
November	571	220	791
December	544	233	777
2013:			
January	624	193	817
February	482	254	736
March	511 ^r	222	733 ^r
April ^p	458	251	709
January–April	2,080	920	3,000

^cEstimated. ^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–April 2012 ²		March 2013		April 2013 ^p		January–April 2013 ^{p, 2}	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:								
Petroleum and coke	20	25	14	14	15	15	59	59
Natural gas	3	3	1	1	1	1	4	4
Total	23	28	15	15	16	16	64	63
PAD 2:								
Petroleum and coke	275	275	79	80	80	83	344	345
Natural gas	4	4	1	1	1	1	5	5
Total	279	280	80	81	81	84	349	350
PAD 3: ³								
Petroleum and coke	1,130	1,150	389	377	393	400	1,510	1,510
Natural gas	117	117	37	35	34	34	143	139
Total	1,240	1,270	426	411	427	434	1,660	1,650
PAD 4 and 5								
Petroleum and coke	316	314	111	114	105	102	410	414
Natural gas	167	166	45 ^r	44 ^r	45	48	179	183
Total	483	480	156 ^r	159 ^r	149	150	589	597
Grand total	2,030	2,060	677 ^r	666 ^r	674	685	2,660	2,660

^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		
		March	April	January–April
Production	8.40	7.97 ^r	8.20 ^p	8.08
Shipments	8.43	7.84 ^r	8.33 ^p	8.10
Exports of sulfur	1.85	1.83	2.76	1.79
Imports of sulfur:				
Canada ^c	2.44	2.24	2.31	2.25
Mexico	0.37	0.35	0.38	0.38
Venezuela ^c	0.12	--	0.37	0.15
Total ^{c, 2}	2.93	2.61	3.05	2.80
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	0.16	0.24	0.13	0.16
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :				
Canada	1.98	2.19	2.18	2.12
Mexico	0.47	0.53	0.62	0.52
Total ²	2.85	3.17	3.41	3.00
Consumption:				
Domestic sources	6.58	6.02 ^r	5.57	6.31
Imports ^c	2.93	2.61	3.05	2.80
Total	9.51	8.63 ^r	8.63	9.11
Sulfur export values ³	198	194	155	176
Sulfur import values: ³				
Canada	67	74	81	76
Mexico	153	124	118	123
Venezuela	123	--	84	102
Average ²	81	83	87	86
H ₂ SO ₄ export values ³	205	155	208	187
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: ³				
Canada	79	79	68	76
Mexico	71	65	62	64
Average ²	84	73	63	72

^cEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. -- 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.