

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SULFUR IN MAY 2013

During May 2013, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 711,000 metric tons (t), which was 5% higher than that of April 2013 and slightly lower than that of May 2012. Shipments were 700,000 t, which was slightly more than those of April 2013. Producers' ending stocks for May 2013 were 133,000 t.

Imports of recovered sulfur for May 2013 were estimated to be 241,000 t; exports were 64,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for May 2013 were 286,000 t; exports were 17,000 t.

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus exports plus imports, was 877,000 t in May 2013. This was about 24% more than that of April 2013 and 10% more than that of May 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–December	7,360	1,040	8,400	8,430	132
January–May	2,950	474 ^r	3,420	3,460	143 ^r
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	677	666	136
April	593	81	674	685	125
May ^p	627	84	711	700	133
January–May	2,950	415	3,370	3,360	133

^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–May	1,090 ^r	67,200	178 ^r	26,800	47 ^r	6,580	1,320 ^r	102,000
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 ^r	--	--	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
May	190	10,600	51	6,530	--	--	241	17,800
January–May	930	67,100	177	22,100	50	5,100	1,160	96,900

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. -- 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–May	830	271 ^r	67,700	192	63 ^r	14,100	1,190	390	103,000
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
May	173	57	10,900	47	15	2,870	286	93	16,700
January–May	870	284	64,200	220	72	13,900	1,270	416	87,400

^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.

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–May	705 ^r	156,000	62 ^r	20	12,000
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
May	64	14,400	17	6	3,100
January–May	653	118,000	71	23	13,200

^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–May	2,760	1,320 ^r	4,080 ^r
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	222	733
April	458	251	709
May ^p	636	241	877
January–May	2,710	1,160	3,870

^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–May 2012 ²		April 2013		May 2013 ^p		January–May 2013 ^{p,2}	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:								
Petroleum and coke	38	42	15	15	14	14	73	73
Natural gas	5	5	1	1	1	1	5	5
Total	43	48	16	16	15	15	78	79
PAD 2:								
Petroleum and coke	455 ^r	455 ^r	80	83	88	88	432	433
Natural gas	8	8	1	1	1	1	6	6
Total	462 ^r	463 ^r	81	84	90	89	438	439
PAD 3: ³								
Petroleum and coke	1,940	1,970	393	400	417	417	1,930	1,930
Natural gas	192	193	34	34	37	34	180	174
Total	2,130 ^r	2,160	427	434	454	451	2,110	2,100
PAD 4 and 5								
Petroleum and coke	517 ^r	523 ^r	105	102	108	106	518	520
Natural gas	269	267	45	48	45	39	224	222
Total	786 ^r	790 ^r	149	150	153	144	742	742
Grand total	3,420	3,460	674	685	711	700	3,370	3,360

^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)

	2013			
	2012	April	May	January– May
Production	8.40	8.20	8.37 ^P	8.14
Shipments	8.43	8.33	8.24 ^P	8.13
Exports of sulfur	1.85	2.76	0.75	1.58
Imports of sulfur:				
Canada ^c	2.44	2.31	2.24	2.25
Mexico	0.37	0.38	0.60	0.43
Venezuela ^c	0.12	0.37	--	0.12
Total ^{c, 2}	2.93	3.05	2.84	2.81
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	0.16	0.13	0.20	0.17
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :				
Canada	1.98	2.18	2.04	2.10
Mexico	0.47	0.62	0.55	0.53
Total ²	2.85	3.41	3.37	3.07
Consumption:				
Domestic sources	6.58	5.57 ^r	7.49	6.55
Imports ^c	2.93	3.05	2.84	2.81
Total	9.51	8.63 ^r	10.30	9.36
Sulfur export values ³	198	155	225	181
Sulfur import values: ³				
Canada	67	81	56	72
Mexico	153	118	128	125
Venezuela	123	84	--	102
Average ²	81	87	74	83
H ₂ SO ₄ export values ³	205	208	182	186
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: ³				
Canada	79	68	63	74
Mexico	72	62	61	63
Average ²	84	63	59	69

^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.