

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SULFUR IN MARCH 2014

During March 2014, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 753,000 metric tons (t), which was 12% higher than that of February 2014 and 10% higher than that of March 2013. Shipments were 755,000 t, which was 13% higher than those of February 2014. Producers' ending stocks for March 2014 were 134,000 t.

Imports of recovered sulfur for March 2014 were estimated to be 133,000 t; exports were 198,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for March 2014 were 284,000 t; exports were 10,000 t.

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus exports plus imports, was 690,000 t in March 2014. This was 20% higher than that of February 2014 and 8% less than that of March 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		
2013:					
January–December	7,640	1,020	8,660	8,650	161
January–March ^r	1,740	266	2,000	2,000	134
March	593	92	685	677	134
April	595	91	686	696	124
May	629	85	714	707	130
June	603	73	676	667	137
July	679	85	764	757	148
August	684	80	764	775	136
September	654	75	729	718	148
October	669	89	758	758	151
November	669	92	761	774	140
December	718 ^r	85	803 ^r	793 ^r	161
2014:					
January	669	89	758	791	129
February	591 ^r	82	672 ^r	671 ^r	133 ^r
March ^p	666	86	753	755	134
January–March	1,930	257	2,180	2,220	134

^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
2013:								
January–December	2,420	135,000	468	48,200	115	13,400	3,010	202,000
January–March	590 ^r	41,200	95	11,900	20	2,580	706 ^r	57,300
March	200	14,100	30	3,730	--	--	232	18,500
April	210	15,300	31	3,660	30	2,520	271	21,800
May	220	10,600	51	6,530	--	--	271	17,800
June	210	13,800	51	6,530	14	1,600	275	22,200
July	200	15,400	50	5,420	8	967	260	22,400
August	200	12,600	44	4,040	14	1,550	259	18,900
September	200	6,760	34	3,170	--	--	234	10,300
October	200	7,210	35	2,600	--	--	235	10,400
November	190	6,820	48	2,880	1	43	239	9,940
December	200	5,340	29	1,460	28	4,150	260	11,400
2014:								
January	100 ^r	6,130	39	3,320	28	1,360	169 ^r	11,400
February	90 ^r	3,990	45	4,130	--	--	136 ^r	8,570
March	100	5,270	18	4,950	14	1,030	133	11,800
January–March	290	15,400	102	12,400	42	2,380	438	31,700

^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
2013:									
January–December	2,050	673	144,000	555	182	34,800	2,980	973	210,000
January–March	518	170	41,200	122	40	7,890	706	231	53,000
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
June	149	49	9,380	62	20	3,950	232	76	16,100
July	178	58	12,600	60	20	3,810	265	87	20,100
August	187	61	12,900	55	18	3,500	254	83	19,500
September	183	60	12,500	45	15	2,800	270	88	20,500
October	160	52	10,700	48	16	2,950	257	84	17,700
November	173	57	11,400	40	13	2,500	245	80	15,900
December	154	50	10,400	25	8	1,330	180	59	13,200
2014:									
January	152	50	9,110	62	20	3,610	277	91	16,100
February	168	55	9,940	59	19	3,170	245	80	14,100
March	173	57	10,400	65	21	3,450	284	93	15,600
January–March	493	162	29,500	186	60	10,200	806	264	45,900

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
2013:					
January–December	1,750	235,000	168	58	30,100
January–March	362	68,500	43	15	7,810
March	155	30,000	20	7	3,090
April	227	35,200	11	4	2,290
May	64	14,400	17	6	3,100
June	116	19,500	12	4	2,430
July	111	18,600	15	5	3,360
August	257	18,100	14	5	2,830
September	161	14,100	15	5	2,520
October	94	8,960	16	5	2,110
November	126	9,700	11	4	1,800
December	236	28,300	14	5	1,860
2014:					
January	206	23,400	9	3	1,840
February	234	33,400	13	4	1,670
March	198	26,100	10	3	2,090
January–March	638	82,900	32	10	5,600

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
2013:			
January–December	6,890	3,010	9,900
January–March ^f	1,640	706	2,350
March	522	232	754
April	469	271	740
May	643	271	914
June	551	275	826
July	646	260	906
August	518	259	777
September	557	234	791
October	664	235	899
November	648	239	887
December	559	260	819
2014:			
January	585	169 ^r	754 ^r
February	437 ^r	136 ^r	573 ^r
March ^p	557	133	690
January–March	1,580	438	2,020

^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–March 2013 ²		February 2014		March 2014 ^p		January–March 2014 ^{p, 2}	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:								
Petroleum and coke	44	44	17	16	18	18	51	50
Natural gas	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	3
Total	47	47	18	17	19	19	54	54
PAD 2:								
Petroleum and coke	263	263	88 ^r	89 ^r	102	97	285	282
Natural gas	4	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	267	267	88 ^r	89 ^r	102	97	285	282
PAD 3:								
Petroleum and coke	1,120	1,120	393 ^r	389 ^r	438	444	1,280	1,300
Natural gas	109	109	33	34	36	34	102	101
Total	1,230	1,220	425 ^r	423 ^r	474	478	1,380	1,400
PAD 4 and 5								
Petroleum and coke	306	312	93	92	108	108	314	329
Natural gas	150	152	48	49	50	52	151	151
Total	456	463	141	141	158	160	466	480
Grand total	2,000	2,000	672 ^r	671 ^r	753	755	2,180	2,220

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

TABLE 7
COMPARATIVE SULFUR AND SULFURIC ACID STATISTICS¹

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

	2013	2014		
		February	March	January– March
Production	8.66	8.76 ^r	8.87 ^p	8.85
Shipments	8.65	8.75 ^r	8.89 ^p	8.99
Exports of sulfur	1.75	3.05	2.33	2.59
Imports of sulfur:				
Canada ^e	2.42 ^r	1.17 ^r	1.18	1.18
Mexico	0.47	0.59	0.21	0.41
Venezuela ^e	0.12	--	0.16	0.17
Total ^{e,2}	3.01 ^r	1.77 ^r	1.57	1.78
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	0.17	0.17	0.12	0.13
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :				
Canada	2.05	2.19	2.04	2.00
Mexico	0.56	0.77	0.77	0.75
Total ²	2.98	3.19	3.34	3.27
Consumption:				
Domestic sources	6.89	5.70 ^r	6.56	6.40
Imports ^e	3.01 ^r	1.77 ^r	1.57	1.78
Total	9.90 ^r	7.47 ^r	8.12	8.18
Sulfur export values ³	134	143	132	130
Sulfur import values: ³				
Canada	56	44 ^r	53	53
Mexico	103	92	275	122
Venezuela	117	XX	73	57
Average ²	67 ^r	63 ^r	89	72
H ₂ SO ₄ export values ³	179	128	209	175
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: ³				
Canada	70	59	60	60
Mexico	63	54	53	55
Average ²	71	58	55	57

^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.