

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SULFUR IN AUGUST 2014

During August 2014, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 786,000 metric tons (t), which was 2% lower than that of July 2014 and 4% higher than that of August 2013. Shipments were 761,000 t, which was 3% lower than those of July 2014. Producers' ending stocks for August 2014 were 185,000 t.

Imports of recovered sulfur for August 2014 were estimated to be 186,000 t; exports were 247,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for August 2014 were 272,000 t; exports were 12,000 t.

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus exports plus imports, was 700,000 t in August 2014. This was

27% lower than that of July 2014 and 9% lower than that of August 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.

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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 ^p	7,580	1,020	8,600	8,590	161
January–August	4,890 ^r	680	5,570 ^r	5,570 ^r	132 ^r
August	674	80	754	765	132
September	644	75	719	709	144
October	660	89	749	749	147
November	661	92	752	764	137
December	725	85	810	799	161
2014:					
January	664	89	752	786	128
February	581	82	663	660	132
March	671	87	757	761	132
April	680	88	768	776	126 ^r
May	679	81	761	739	149
June	671	77	748	756	143
July	725	76	802 ^r	786 ^r	159 ^r
August ^p	699	87	786	761	185
January–August	5,370	666	6,040	6,030	185

^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 ^c	Value ³	Quantity	Value ³	Quantity ^c	Value ³	Quantity ^c	Value ³
2013:								
January–December	2,420	135,000	448	48,200	115	13,400	2,990	202,000
January–August	1,630	109,000	302 ^r	38,100	86	9,210	2,020 ^r	160,000
August	200	12,600	44	4,040	14	1,550	259	18,700
September	200	6,760	34	3,170	--	--	234	10,600
October	200	7,210	35	2,600	--	--	235	10,100
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	150 ^r	6,130	39	3,320	28	1,360	219 ^r	11,400
February	130 ^r	3,990	45	4,130	--	--	176 ^r	8,570
March	150 ^r	5,270	18	4,950	14	1,030	183 ^r	11,800
April	150 ^r	7,030	36	4,570	19	1,630	207 ^r	13,800
May	150 ^r	6,600	44	3,560	--	--	195 ^r	10,700
June	150 ^r	7,770	23 ^e	1,350 ^e	--	--	174 ^r	8,980
July	170 ^r	9,140	45	2,650	14	1,210	256 ^r	16,900
August	170	7,930	16	571	--	--	186	8,630
January–August	1,220	53,900	266	25,100	75	5,220	1,600	90,700

^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	145,000	555	181 ^r	34,800	2,980	973	211,000
January–August	1,380	452 ^r	99,300 ^r	397	130	25,200	2,020	662	143,000
August	187	61	13,100	55	18	3,500	254	83	19,600
September	183	60	12,700	45	15	2,800	270	88	20,600
October	160	52	10,800	48	16	2,950	257	84	17,800
November	173	57	11,600	40	13	2,500	245	80	16,000
December	154	50	10,500	25	8	1,330	180	59	13,300
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
April	156	51	10,900	54	18	2,890	228	75	15,400
May	149	49	11,200	54	18	2,920	250	82	18,400
June	165	54	11,600	49	16	2,870	286	94	17,400
July	199	65	11,500	62	20	3,110	314	103	18,600
August	178	58	9,680	39	13	2,160	272	89	16,400
January–August	1,340	439	84,300	444	145	24,200	2,160	707	132,000

^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
2013:					
January–December	1,750	234,000	165 ^r	55 ^r	30,100
January–August	1,140	174,000	110 ^r	36 ^r	21,800
August	257	18,100	12	4	2,790
September	161	14,200	14	5	2,500
October	94	8,960	16	5	2,100
November	96	7,910	11	4	1,830
December	258	28,800	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
April	152	31,300	20	7	2,450
May	107	17,600	11	4	1,610
June	190	29,000	13	4	1,910
July	87	15,000	16	5	2,290
August	247	43,500	12	4	1,520
January–August	1,420	219,000	104	34	15,400

^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 ^e	Consumption
2013:			
January–December ^p	6,840	2,990	9,830
January–August ^r	4,430	2,020	6,450
August	508	259	767
September	548	234	782
October	655	235	890
November	668	239	907
December	541	260	801
2014:			
January	580	219 ^r	799 ^r
February	426	176 ^r	602 ^r
March	563	183 ^r	746 ^r
April	624	207 ^r	831 ^r
May	632	195 ^r	827 ^r
June	566	174 ^r	740 ^r
July	699 ^r	256 ^r	955 ^r
August ^p	514	186	700
January–August	4,600	1,600	6,200

^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–August 2013 ²		July 2014 ²		August 2014 ^p		January–August 2014 ^{p,2}	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:								
Petroleum and coke	125	125	18	16	20	14	139	132
Natural gas	9	9	1	1	1	1	9	9
Total	134	135	19	17	21	15	148	140
PAD 2:								
Petroleum and coke	696	693	119	121	115	94	844	820
Natural gas	10	10	1	1	1	1	4	4
Total	706	703	120	121	115	95	848	824
PAD 3:								
Petroleum and coke	3,150	3,150	473	453	445	449	3,510	3,510
Natural gas	291	292	35	36	34	34	276	278
Total	3,450	3,440	508	488	480	482	3,790	3,780
PAD 4 and 5:								
Petroleum and coke	910	914	116	121	120	120	877	898
Natural gas	370	373	40	38	51	48	377	378
Total	1,280	1,290	155	160	171	169	1,250	1,280
Grand total	5,570	5,570	802	786	786	761	6,040	6,030

^pPreliminary.

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		
		July	August	January– August
Production	8.60 ^P	9.44 ^r	9.25 ^P	9.07
Shipments	8.59 ^P	9.25 ^r	8.96 ^P	9.05
Exports of sulfur	1.75	1.02	2.91	2.13
Imports of sulfur:				
Canada ^e	2.42	2.00 ^r	2.00	1.83
Mexico	0.45	0.53	0.19	0.40
Venezuela ^e	0.12	0.16	--	0.11
Total ^{e,2}	2.99	3.01 ^r	2.19	2.40
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	0.17	0.19	0.14	0.16
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :				
Canada	2.05	2.34	2.10	2.01
Mexico	0.56	0.73	0.46	0.67
Total ²	2.98	3.70	3.20	3.24
Consumption:				
Domestic sources	6.84	8.23 ^r	6.05	6.91
Imports ^e	2.99	3.01 ^r	2.19	2.40
Total	9.83	11.24 ^r	8.24	9.31
Sulfur export values ³	134	172	176	154
Sulfur import values: ³				
Canada	56	54 ^r	47	44
Mexico	108	59	37	94
Venezuela	117	86	--	70
Average ²	68	66 ^r	46	57
H ₂ SO ₄ export values ³	200	143	127	148
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: ³				
Canada	71	58	54	63
Mexico	63	50	50	54
Average ²	71	59	59	61

^eEstimated. ^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.