

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SULFUR IN SEPTEMBER 2014

During September 2014, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 717,000 metric tons (t), which was 9% lower than that of August 2014 and slightly lower than that of September 2013. Shipments were 723,000 t, which was 6% lower than those of August 2014. Producers' ending stocks for September 2014 were 140,000 t.

Imports of recovered sulfur for September 2014 were estimated to be 207,000 t; exports were 110,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for September 2014 were 266,000 t; exports were 14,000 t.

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus exports plus imports, was 820,000 t in September 2014. This

was 16% higher than that of August 2014 and 5% higher than that of September 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–September	5,530 ^r	756 ^r	6,290 ^r	6,280 ^r	144
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	661 ^r	89	750 ^r	784 ^r	127 ^r
February	579 ^r	82	660 ^r	658 ^r	132
March	670 ^r	87	757	760 ^r	132
April	680	86 ^r	766 ^r	775 ^r	125 ^r
May	678 ^r	81	759 ^r	737 ^r	148 ^r
June ^r	669	76	745	753	142
July ^r	716	83	799	796	145
August	702 ^r	87	789 ^r	770 ^r	165 ^r
September ^p	646	72	717	723	140
January–September	6,000	742	6,740	6,760	140

^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	448	48,200	115	13,400	2,990	202,000
January–September	1,830 ^r	116,000	336 ^r	41,200	86	9,210	2,260 ^r	171,000
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	6,130	39	3,320	28	1,360	219	11,400
February	130	3,990	45	4,130	--	--	176	8,570
March	150	5,270	18	4,950	14	1,030	183	11,800
April	150	7,030	36	4,570	19	1,630	207	13,800
May	150	6,600	44	3,560	--	--	195	10,700
June	150	7,770	1 ^r	49 ^r	--	--	174	8,980
July	170	9,140	45	2,650	14	1,210	256	16,900
August	170	7,930	16	571	--	--	186	8,630
September	160	7,670	6	222	12	1,090	207	13,300
January–September	1,380	61,500	250	24,000	87	6,310	1,800	104,000

^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	671 ^r	145,000	555	181	34,800	2,980	973	211,000
January–September	1,570	512	112,000	442	145	28,000	2,290	750	164,000
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
September	171	56	9,240	52	17	2,830	266	87	16,400
January–September	1,510	495	93,500	496	162	27,000	2,420	794	148,000

^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	55	30,100
January–September	1,300	188,000	124 ^r	41 ^r	24,300
September	161	14,200	14	5	2,500
October	94	8,960	16	5	2,100
November	96	7,900 ^r	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
September	110	18,800	14	5	2,010
January–September	1,530	238,000	118	39	17,400

^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–September ^r	4,970		2,260	7,230
September	548		234	782
October	655		235	890
November	668		239	907
December	541		260	801
2014:				
January	578 ^r		219	797 ^r
February	424 ^r		176	600 ^r
March	562 ^r		183	745 ^r
April	623 ^r		207	830 ^r
May	630 ^r		195	825 ^r
June	563 ^r		174	737 ^r
July	709 ^r		256	965 ^r
August	523 ^r		186	709 ^r
September ^p	613		207	820
January–September	5,230		1,800	7,030

^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–September 2013 ²		August 2014 ²		September 2014 ^p		January–September 2014 ^{p,2}	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:								
Petroleum and coke	142	143	20	14	19	14	158	146
Natural gas	10	10	1	1	1	1	10	10
Total	152	153	21	15	20	15	168	156
PAD 2:								
Petroleum and coke	785	783	111	91	107	109	936	914
Natural gas	11	11	1	1	1	1	5	4
Total	796	794	112	92	108	110	941	918
PAD 3:								
Petroleum and coke	3,570	3,560	452	461	405	410	3,920	3,930
Natural gas	326	327	34	33	33	34	308	309
Total	3,900	3,890	486	494	439	443	4,220	4,240
PAD 4 and 5:								
Petroleum and coke	1,030	1,040	120	120	114	119	991	1,020
Natural gas	408	408	51	48	36	35	419	419
Total	1,440	1,440	171	169	150	154	1,410	1,440
Grand total	6,290	6,280	789	770	717	723	6,740	6,760

^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		
		August	September	January– September
Production	8.60 ^P	9.29 ^r	8.72 ^P	9.02
Shipments	8.59 ^P	9.07 ^r	8.80 ^P	9.03
Exports of sulfur	1.75	2.91	1.34	2.05
Imports of sulfur:				
Canada ^c	2.42	2.00	1.83	1.83
Mexico	0.45	0.19	0.07	0.33
Venezuela ^e	0.12	--	0.15	0.12
Total ^{e,2}	2.99	2.19	2.52	2.41
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	0.17	0.14	0.17	0.16
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :				
Canada	2.05	2.10	2.08	2.02
Mexico	0.56	0.46	0.63	0.66
Total ²	2.98	3.20	3.24	3.24
Consumption:				
Domestic sources	6.84	6.16 ^r	7.46	6.99
Imports ^e	2.99	2.19	2.52	2.41
Total	9.83	8.35 ^r	9.98	9.40
Sulfur export values ³	134	176	171	155
Sulfur import values: ³				
Canada	56	47	51	45
Mexico	108	36 ^r	37	96
Venezuela	117	XX	91	72
Average ²	68	46	64	58
H ₂ SO ₄ export values ³	200	127	144	147
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: ³				
Canada	71	54	54	62
Mexico	63	55 ^r	54	54
Average ²	71	60 ^r	62	61

^cEstimated. ^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.