

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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**For information, contact:**

Lori E. Apodaca, Sulfur Commodity Specialist  
National Minerals Information Center  
U.S. Geological Survey  
989 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192  
Telephone: (703) 648-7724, Fax: (703) 648-7757  
Email: lapodaca@usgs.gov

Sheema Merchant (Data)  
Telephone: (703) 659-9944  
Fax: (703) 648-7975  
Email: smerchant@usgs.gov

**Internet:** <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>

## SULFUR IN JANUARY 2016

During January 2016, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 758,000 metric tons (t), which was 8% lower than that of December 2015 and 3% higher than that of January 2015. Shipments were 756,000 t, which was 10% lower than those of December 2015. Producers' ending stocks for January 2016 were 140,000 t.

Imports of recovered sulfur for January 2016 were estimated to be 157,000 t; exports were 225,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for January 2016 were 277,000 t; exports were 9,000 t.

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus exports plus imports, was 688,000 t in January 2016. This was 9% lower than that of December 2015 and 19% lower than that of January 2015.

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TABLE 1  
SALIENT SULFUR STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production			Shipments, all sources	Stocks, end of period <sup>3</sup>
	Petroleum <sup>2</sup>	Natural gas	Total		
2015:					
January	651	83	734	741	137
February	591	81	672	674	137
March	646	82	728	732	137
April	634	81	716	728	127
May	651	81	732	714	148
June	671	78	749	755	143
July	691	83	774	784	134
August	653	81	734	729	142
September	639	85	723	735	131
October	642	80	723	706	148
November	680	81	761	752	159
December	737 <sup>r</sup>	87	824 <sup>r</sup>	844 <sup>r</sup>	139 <sup>r</sup>
January–December	7,890 <sup>r</sup>	984	8,870 <sup>r</sup>	8,890 <sup>r</sup>	139 <sup>r</sup>
2016, January <sup>p</sup>	676	82	758	756	140

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes a small quantity from coking operations.

<sup>3</sup>Subject to inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SULFUR<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Canada		Mexico		Venezuela		Total, all countries <sup>2</sup>	
	Quantity <sup>e</sup>	Value <sup>3</sup>	Quantity	Value <sup>3</sup>	Quantity <sup>e</sup>	Value <sup>3</sup>	Quantity <sup>e</sup>	Value <sup>3</sup>
2015:								
January	160	6,860	15	658	--	--	177	8,460
February	150	6,780	15	1,790	--	--	166	9,260
March	160	7,960	29	1,750	--	--	190	9,980
April	140	6,790	15	1,940	11	279	194	14,800
May	140	5,730	29	719	9	147	232	16,100
June	140	6,760	15	358	--	--	155	7,310
July	140	6,900	15	2,270	--	--	155	9,780
August	140	7,630	15	3,030	--	--	188	16,400
September	140	7,520	--	--	--	--	141	7,870
October	140	7,860	29	1,640	--	--	216	16,000
November	140	8,840	--	--	--	--	141	9,420
December	140	7,800	14	2,310	--	--	154	10,500
January–December	1,730	87,400	191	16,500	20	426	2,110	136,000
2016, January	140	8,050	15	471	(4)	33	157	9,530

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>May include other countries not listed.

<sup>3</sup>Declared customs valuation.

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

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 ACID<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Canada			Mexico			Total, all countries <sup>2</sup>		
	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value <sup>3</sup>	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value <sup>3</sup>	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value <sup>3</sup>
2015:									
January	161	53	9,670	56	18	2,980	261	85	16,100
February	140	46	7,890	56	18	3,010	277	91	14,700
March	182	59	10,100	62	20	3,320	293	96	18,000
April	160	52	10,100	58	19	3,100	293	96	17,300
May	177	58	11,800	51	17	2,720	293	96	19,900
June	183	60	11,500	60	20	3,160	272	89	17,000
July	186	61	10,700	64	21	3,410	284	93	16,900
August	165	54	10,100	75	25	3,980	378	124	22,000
September	167	55	9,600	70	23	3,700	275	90	14,600
October	186	61	11,000	73	24	3,920	310	101	17,400
November	187	61	11,100	73	24	3,940	328	107	18,100
December	175	57	9,970	69	23	3,810	273	89	15,700
January–December	2,070	677	124,000	767	252	41,000	3,540	1,160	208,000
2016, January	157	51	7,640	60	20	2,540	277	91	12,900

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

<sup>2</sup>May include other countries not listed.

<sup>3</sup>Declared customs valuation.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SULFUR AND SULFURIC ACID<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Sulfur		Sulfuric acid		
	Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value <sup>2</sup>
2015:					
January	66	11,500	9	3	1,390
February	162	29,000	11	4	1,680
March	131	23,800	17	6	2,840
April	142	24,900	12	4	1,910
May	201	32,800	16	5	2,110
June	144	21,200	21	7	3,000
July	93	14,700	13	4	5,540
August	131	21,700	17	6	2,770
September	209	32,200	11	4	2,070
October	166	15,700	15	5	2,100
November	128	16,500	9	3	2,440
December	244	34,500	8	3	2,560
January–December	1,820	279,000	159	54	30,400
2016, January	225	28,900	9	3	2,480

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

<sup>2</sup>Declared f.a.s. (free alongside ship) valuation.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
U.S. CONSUMPTION OF SULFUR<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Domestic sources <sup>2</sup>	Imports <sup>e</sup>	Consumption
2015:			
January	675	177	852
February	512	166	678
March	601	190	791
April	586	194	780
May	513	232	745
June	611	155	766
July	691	155	846
August	598	188	786
September	526	141	667
October	540	216	756
November	624	141	765
December	600 <sup>r</sup>	154	754
January–December	7,080	2,110	9,190
2016, January <sup>p</sup>	531	157	688

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Calculated as shipments minus exports.

TABLE 6  
RECOVERED SULFUR PRODUCED AND SHIPPED IN THE UNITED STATES,  
BY PAD (PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION FOR DEFENSE) DISTRICT<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

District and source	January 2015 <sup>2</sup>		December 2015 <sup>2</sup>		January 2016 <sup>p</sup>	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:						
Petroleum and coke	18	18	17	18	16	16
Natural gas	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	19	19	18	19	17	17
PAD 2:						
Petroleum and coke	108	110	120	124	130	122
Natural gas	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	109	112	121	125	131	123
PAD 3:						
Petroleum and coke	410	412	488 <sup>r</sup>	501 <sup>r</sup>	420	422
Natural gas	33	33	37	37	31	31
Total	443	445	525 <sup>r</sup>	538 <sup>r</sup>	451	453
PAD 4 and 5:						
Petroleum and coke	115	116	112	115	111	113
Natural gas	48	48	48	46	49	51
Total	163	165	160	162 <sup>r</sup>	159	163
Grand total	734	741	824 <sup>r</sup>	844 <sup>r</sup>	758	756

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to previously published data.

TABLE 7  
COMPARATIVE SULFUR AND SULFURIC ACID STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

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

	2015		2016
	December	Total	January
Production	9.70 <sup>r</sup>	8.87 <sup>r</sup>	8.92 <sup>p</sup>
Shipments	9.94 <sup>r</sup>	8.89 <sup>r</sup>	8.90 <sup>p</sup>
Exports of sulfur	2.87	1.82	2.65
Imports of sulfur:			
Canada <sup>e</sup>	1.65	1.73	1.65
Mexico	0.16	0.19	0.18
Venezuela <sup>o</sup>	--	0.02	--
Total <sup>e,2</sup>	1.81	2.11	1.85
Exports of H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	0.09	0.16	0.11
Imports of H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> :			
Canada	2.06	2.07	1.85
Mexico	0.81	0.77	0.71
Total <sup>2</sup>	3.21	3.54	3.26
Consumption:			
Domestic sources	7.06 <sup>r</sup>	7.08 <sup>r</sup>	6.25
Imports <sup>e</sup>	1.81	2.11	1.85
Total	8.88 <sup>r</sup>	9.19 <sup>r</sup>	8.10
Sulfur export values <sup>3</sup>	141	153	128
Sulfur import values: <sup>3</sup>			
Canada	56	51	58
Mexico	165	86	31
Venezuela	XX	21	XX
Average <sup>2</sup>	68	64	61
H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> export values <sup>3</sup>	320	191	275
H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> import values: <sup>3</sup>			
Canada	57	60	49
Mexico	55	54	42
Average <sup>2</sup>	58	59	46

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. XX not applicable. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes other countries not listed.

<sup>3</sup>Average value per ton.