

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SULFUR IN MAY 2016

During May 2016, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 777,000 metric tons (t), which was 6% higher than that of April 2016 and 6% higher than that of May 2015. Shipments were 744,000 t, which was slightly higher than those of April 2016. Producers' ending stocks for May 2016 were 161,000 t.

Imports of recovered sulfur for May 2016 were estimated to be 166,000 t; exports were 187,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for May 2016 were 258,000 t; exports were 16,000 t.

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus exports plus imports, was 723,000 t in May 2016. This was

slightly higher than that of April 2016 and 3% lower than that of May 2015.

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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		
2015:					
January–December	7,910	984	8,890	8,920	138
January–May	3,180 ^r	409 ^r	3,590 ^r	3,600 ^r	148
May	652	81	734	716	148
June	673	78	751	757	143
July	693	83	776	785	134
August	654	81	735 ^r	731	142
September	641	85	725	737	131
October	644	81	724	708	148
November	682	81	762	754	158
December	739	86	826	846	138
2016:					
January	678	82	759	758	141
February	616	79	695	692	145
March	679	81	761	781	127
April	660 ^r	71	731 ^r	730 ^r	127
May ^p	710	67	777	744	161
January–May	3,340	380	3,720	3,710	161

^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
2015:								
January–December	1,860	87,400	191	16,500	20	426	2,240	136,000
January–May	750 ^r	34,100	103	6,850	20	426	959 ^r	58,600
May	140	5,730	29	719	9	147	232	16,100
June	140	6,760	15	358	--	--	155	7,310
July	170	6,900	15	2,270	--	--	185	9,780
August	170	7,630	15	3,030	--	--	218	16,400
September	160	7,520	--	--	--	--	161	7,870
October	160	7,860	29	1,640	--	--	236	16,000
November	150	8,840	--	--	--	--	151	9,420
December	160	7,800	14	2,310	--	--	174	10,500
2016:								
January	150	8,050	15	471	(4)	33	167	9,530
February	140	4,780	29	795	--	--	171	6,230
March	150	4,430	15	278	(4)	19	166	5,450
April	140	2,400	--	--	--	--	142	3,380
May	150	2,050	15	282	--	--	166	3,400
January–May	730	21,700	74	1,830	(4)	52	812	28,000

^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.

⁴Less 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 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
2015:									
January–December	2,070	677	124,000	767	252	41,000	3,540	1,160	208,000
January–May	820	268 ^r	49,600	283	92	15,100	1,420	464	86,100
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
2016:									
January	157	51	7,640	60	20	2,540	277	91	12,900
February	164	54	7,600	55	18	2,190	247	81	11,400
March	175	57	7,640	62	20	2,720	291	95	13,000
April	186	61	6,900	54	18	2,140	274	90	10,600
May	170	56	5,810	60	20	2,360	258	84	9,560
January–May	852	279	35,600	291	96	11,900	1,350	441	57,500

^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
2015:					
January–December	1,820	279,000	159	54	30,400
January–May	702	122,000	65	22	9,920
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
2016:					
January	225	28,900	9	3	2,480
February	130	16,200	12	4	2,710
March	174	18,700	8	3	1,740
April	165	16,700	14	5	2,200
May	187	17,500	16	5	2,250
January–May	881	98,000	59	20	11,400

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
2015:			
January–December	7,100	2,240	9,340
January–May ^f	2,900	959	3,860
May	515	232	747
June	613	155	768
July	692	185	877
August	600	218	818
September	528	161	689
October	542	236	778
November	626	151	777
December	602	174	776
2016:			
January	533	167	700
February	562	171	733
March	607	166	773
April	565 ^r	142	707 ^r
May ^p	557	166	723
January–May	2,820	812	3,640

^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–May 2015 ²		April 2016		May 2016 ^p		January–May 2016 ^{p,2}	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:								
Petroleum and coke	87	87	13	13	17	17	66	66
Natural gas	5	5	1	1	1	1	5	5
Total	92	93	14	14	19	18	72	71
PAD 2:								
Petroleum and coke	541	541	109	107	114	112	589	584
Natural gas	6	6	1	1	--	(3)	4	4
Total	547	547	110	108	114	113	593	588
PAD 3:								
Petroleum and coke	1,990	1,990	429 ^r	432 ^r	467	436	2,150	2,130
Natural gas	161	160	21	21	22	25	138	141
Total	2,150	2,150	450 ^r	454 ^r	489	461	2,290	2,270
PAD 4 and 5:								
Petroleum and coke	562	565	109	108	111	109	534	543
Natural gas	237	241	48	47	44	43	233	236
Total	799	806	157	155	155	152	767	778
Grand total	3,590	3,600	731 ^r	730 ^r	777	744	3,720	3,710

^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.

³Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 7
COMPARATIVE SULFUR AND SULFURIC ACID STATISTICS¹

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

	2015	2016		
		April	May	January– May
Production	8.89	8.92 ^r	9.17 ^p	8.96
Shipments	8.92	8.91 ^r	8.78 ^p	8.92
Exports of sulfur	1.82	2.01	2.21	2.12
Imports of sulfur:				
Canada ^e	1.86	1.71	1.77	1.76
Mexico	0.19	--	0.18	0.18
Venezuela ^e	0.02	--	--	(2)
Total ^{e,3}	2.24	1.73	1.96	1.96
Exports of H ₃ SO ₄	0.16	0.17	0.19	0.14
Imports of H ₃ SO ₄ :				
Canada	2.07	2.27	2.01	2.05
Mexico	0.77	0.66	0.71	0.70
Total ³	3.54	3.34	3.05	3.24
Consumption:				
Domestic sources	7.10	6.89 ^r	6.58	6.80
Imports ^e	2.24	1.73	1.96	1.96
Total	9.34	8.63 ^r	8.54	8.76
Sulfur export values ⁴	153	101	94	111
Sulfur import values: ⁴				
Canada	47	17	14	30
Mexico	86	XX	19	25
Venezuela	21	XX	XX	XX
Average ³	61	24	20	34
H ₃ SO ₄ export values ⁴	191	157	141	193
H ₃ SO ₄ import values: ⁴				
Canada	60	37	34	42
Mexico	54	40	39	41
Average ³	59	39	37	43

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

³Includes other countries not listed.

⁴Average value per ton.