

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SULFUR IN APRIL 2012

During April 2012, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 670,000 metric tons (t), which was slightly lower than that of March 2012 and 4% higher than that of April 2011. Shipments were 684,000 t, which was slightly lower than those of March 2012. Producers' ending stocks for April 2012 were 137,000 t.

Imports of recovered sulfur for April 2012 were estimated to be 292,000 t; exports were 89,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for April 2012 were 225,000 t; exports were 11,000 t.

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus exports plus imports, was 887,000 t in April 2012. This was 17% higher than that of March 2012 and about 12% higher than that of April 2011.

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 data from personal communications with industry experts.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SULFUR STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production			Shipments, all sources	Stocks, end of period ³
	Petroleum ²	Natural gas	Total		
2011:					
January–December	7,080	1,130	8,210	8,190	176
January–April	2,210	392 ^r	2,600 ^r	2,610	144
April	545	98	644	650	144
May	585	96	681	682	143
June	620	76	697	698	140
July	614	92	705	681	164
August	623	98	720	731	159
September	586	93	678	676	156
October	602	86	688	687	161
November	590	94	684	689	157
December	656	101	756	738	176
2012:					
January	584	98	682	696	161
February	564	97	661	661 ^r	162
March	584	96	680	692	151
April ^p	573	97	670	684	137
January–April	2,310	388	2,690	2,730	137

^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
2011:								
January–December	2,700	188,000	303	54,500	99	16,400	3,270	301,000
January–April	860 ^r	59,600	116	17,200	31	5,030	1,070 ^r	95,200
April	220	13,800	29	4,940	18	3,430	268	22,700
May	230	14,700	29	6,190	--	--	260	21,600
June	220	14,400	14	2,760	15	2,750	315	37,300
July	240	18,100	29	5,910	--	--	270	24,500
August	240	17,800	14	3,330	15	2,720	308	33,500
September	230	15,600	29	5,400	8	1,510	267	22,900
October	230	16,300	14	3,240	--	--	245	19,800
November	220	13,700	29	5,420	10	1,370	259	20,800
December	230	17,600	29	5,010	20	2,970	279	25,800
2012:								
January	240	13,700	29	5,230	--	--	269	19,200
February	220	12,800	29	3,930	13	1,820	263	18,900
March	240	15,400	29	3,410	12	1,610	281	20,700
April	230	12,300	49	7,990	13	1,790	292	22,300
January–April	930	54,200	136	20,600	38	5,220	1,110	81,100

^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
2011:									
January–December	1,820	596	158,000	433	142	29,400	2,670	871	244,000
January–April	593	194	43,400	146	48	9,310	923	302	77,600
April	145	47	8,780	47	15	3,400	229	75	18,100
May	135	44	7,460	40	13	2,950	229	75	17,000
June	116	38	7,670	39	13	2,750	221	72	18,100
July	157	51	16,000	23	8	1,570	205	68	23,800
August	169	55	18,500	46	15	3,250	237	78	25,600
September	141	46	15,600	30	10	2,130	175	57	19,600
October	179	59	17,600	35	11	2,440	230	75	21,600
November	155	51	14,600	31	10	2,180	188	61	17,100
December	178	58	16,900	43	14	2,860	257	84	23,200
2012:									
January	192	63	16,600	32	10	2,320	291	95	26,500
February	146	48	12,300	39	13	2,870	203	66	17,800
March	167	55	14,000	47	15	3,540	272	89	22,400
April	169	55	13,400	37	12	2,670	225	74	19,600
January–April	674	221	56,200	155	50	11,400	991	324	86,300

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
2011:					
January–December	1,310	266,000	332	109	41,500
January–April	445	81,400	110	36	12,900
April	123	26,100	40	13	3,840
May	52	11,400	27	9	3,180
June	189	34,500	26	8	3,410
July	61	15,600	30	10	3,790
August	116	24,900	68	22	5,100
September	160	30,100	24	8	3,740
October	79	17,900	11	4	1,830
November	117	26,500	23	8	5,510
December	90	23,400	13	4	2,080
2012:					
January	155	32,900	15	5	2,760
February	66	11,000	10	3	2,030
March	216	60,200	10	3	1,950
April	89	17,800	11	4	2,410
January–April	526	122,000	46	15	9,140

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
2011:			
January–December	6,880	3,270	10,100
January–April ^f	2,160	1,070	3,230
April	527	268	795
May	630	260	890
June	509	315	824
July	620	270	890
August	615	308	923
September	516	267	783
October	608	245	853
November	572	259	831
December	648	279	927
2012:			
January	541	269	810
February	595 ^r	263	858 ^r
March	476	281	757
April	595 ^p	292	887
January–April	2,210	1,110	3,310

^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–April 2011 ²		March 2012		April 2012 ^p		January–April 2012 ^{p, 2}	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:								
Petroleum and coke	21	21	8	8	8	8	28	33
Natural gas	4	4	1	1	1	1	4	4
Total	25	25	10	9	9	9	33	37
PAD 2:								
Petroleum and coke	323	333	92	92	89	89	359	359
Natural gas	7	7	1	1	1	1	6	6
Total	330	340	94	94	91	91	365	365
PAD 3: ³								
Petroleum and coke	1,460	1,460	376	393	381	388	1,510	1,540
Natural gas	152	152	40	39	38	39	155	155
Total	1,620	1,610	416	432	419	427	1,660	1,690
PAD 4 and 5:								
Petroleum and coke	400	397	107	103	95	101	411	416
Natural gas	229	229	54	55	56	57	222	222
Total	629	627	161	157	150	158	633	638
Grand total	2,600	2,610	680	692	670	684	2,690	2,730

^pPreliminary.

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

³Includes the U.S. Virgin Islands.

TABLE 7
COMPARATIVE SULFUR AND SULFURIC ACID STATISTICS¹

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

	2011	2012		
		March	April	Total
Production	8.21	8.01	8.15 ^P	8.12
Shipments	8.19	8.15	8.32 ^P	8.24
Exports of sulfur	1.31	2.54	1.08	1.59
Imports of sulfur:				
Canada ^c	2.70	2.83	2.80	2.81
Mexico	0.30	0.34	0.60	0.41
Venezuela ^c	0.10	0.14	0.16	0.11
Total ^{c,2}	3.27	3.31	3.55	3.33
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	0.33	0.12	0.13	0.14
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :				
Canada	1.82	1.97	2.06	2.03
Mexico	0.43	0.55	0.45	0.47
Total ²	2.67	3.20	2.74	2.99
Consumption:				
Domestic sources	6.88	5.60	7.24	6.66
Imports ^c	3.27	3.31	3.55	3.33
Total	10.20	8.91	10.80	9.99
Sulfur export values ³	203	279	200	232
Sulfur import values: ³				
Canada	70	64	53	58
Mexico	180	117	163	151
Venezuela	165	134	138	137
Average ²	92	74	77	73
H ₂ SO ₄ export values ³	125	195	219	199
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: ³				
Canada	86	84	79	83
Mexico	68	75	72	74
Average ²	91	82	87	87

^cEstimated. ^PPreliminary.

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.