

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

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

Rym Ferahtia (Data)
Telephone: (703) 659-9944 (TTY)
Fax: (703) 648-7792
E-mail: rferahtia@usgs.gov

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

SULFUR IN MAY 2012

During May 2012, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 728,000 metric tons (t), which was 9% higher than that of April 2012 and 7% higher than that of May 2011. Shipments were 725,000 t, which was 6% higher than those of April 2012. Producers' ending stocks for May 2012 were 142,000 t.

Imports of recovered sulfur for May 2012 were estimated to be 293,000 t; exports were 178,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for May 2012 were 203,000 t; exports were 15,000 t.

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus exports plus imports, was 840,000 t in May 2012. This was 5% lower than that of April 2012 and about 6% lower than that of May 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–May ^r	2,790	488	3,280	3,290	143
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	162
March	584	96	680	692	151
April	573	96 ^r	669 ^r	685 ^r	136
May ^p	641	87	728	725	142
January–May	2,950	475	3,420	3,460	142

^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–May	1,090 ^r	74,300	145	23,400	31	5,030	1,330 ^r	117,000
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
May	240	13,100	43	6,260	10	1,360	293	21,000
January–May	1,170	67,200	179	26,800	48	6,580	1,400	102,000

^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
2011:									
January–December	1,820	596	158,000	433	142	29,400	2,670	871	244,000
January–May	728	238	50,800	186	61	12,300	1,150	377 ^r	94,700
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
May	156	51	11,500	37	12	2,740	203	66	16,800
January–May	830	272	67,700	192	62	14,100	1,190	390	103,000

^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
2011:					
January–December	1,310	266,000	332	109	41,500
January–May	497	92,800	137	45	16,000
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
May	178	33,800	15	5	2,850
January–May	704	156,000	61	20	12,000

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 ^c	Consumption
2011:			
January–December	6,880	3,270	10,100
January–May	2,790 ^r	1,330 ^r	4,120
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	263	858
March	476	281	757
April	596 ^r	292	888 ^r
May	547 ^p	293	840
January–May	2,760	1,400	4,150

^cEstimated. ^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 2011 ²		April 2012		May 2012 ^p		January–May 2012 ^{p, 2}	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:								
Petroleum and coke	29	24	8	8	10	10	38	42
Natural gas	5	5	1	1	1	1	5	5
Total	34	29	9	9	11	11	43	48
PAD 2:								
Petroleum and coke	404	414	89	89	87	88	446	447
Natural gas	8	8	1	1	2	2	8	8
Total	413	422	91	91	89	90	454	455
PAD 3: ³								
Petroleum and coke	1,860	1,860	381	388	436	433	1,940	1,970
Natural gas	192	193	38	39	37	37	192	193
Total	2,050	2,050	419	427	473	470	2,140	2,160
PAD 4 and 5:								
Petroleum and coke	501	499	95	101	108	109	519	525
Natural gas	282	284	55 ^r	57	48	45	269	267
Total	784	782	149 ^r	158	155	154	788	792
Grand total	3,280	3,290	669 ^r	685 ^r	728	725	3,420	3,460

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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		
		April	May	Total
Production	8.21	8.14 ^r	8.57 ^p	8.21
Shipments	8.19	8.33 ^r	8.54 ^p	8.31
Exports of sulfur	1.31	1.08	2.10	1.69
Imports of sulfur:				
Canada ^e	2.70	2.80	2.83	2.81
Mexico	0.30	0.60	0.51	0.43
Venezuela ^e	0.10	0.16	0.12	0.12
Total ^{e,2}	3.27	3.55	3.45	3.36
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	0.33	0.13	0.18	0.15
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :				
Canada	1.82	2.06	1.84	1.99
Mexico	0.43	0.45	0.44	0.46
Total ²	2.67	2.74	2.39	2.87
Consumption:				
Domestic sources	6.88	7.25 ^r	6.44	6.62
Imports ^e	3.27	3.55	3.45	3.36
Total	10.20	10.80	9.89	9.97
Sulfur export values ³	203	200	190	221
Sulfur import values: ³				
Canada	70	53	54	57
Mexico	180	163	146	150
Venezuela	165	138	136	137
Average ²	92	77	72	73
H ₂ SO ₄ export values ³	125	219	190	197
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: ³				
Canada	86	79	74	82
Mexico	68	72	74	74
Average ²	91	87	83	86

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

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.