

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SULFUR IN JUNE 2012

During June 2012, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 699,000 metric tons (t), which was 4% less than that of May 2012 and slightly more than that of June 2011. Shipments were 681,000 t, which was 6% less than those of May 2012. Producers' ending stocks for June 2012 were 161,000 t.

Imports of recovered sulfur for June 2012 were estimated to be 266,000 t; exports were 190,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for June 2012 were 239,000 t; exports were 11,000 t.

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus exports plus imports, was 757,000 t in June 2012. This was about 10% less than that of May 2012 and 8% less than that of June 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–June ^r	3,410	564	3,980	3,990	140
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	669	685	136
May	640 ^r	87	727 ^r	723 ^r	142
June ^p	622	77	699	681	161
January–June	3,570	552	4,120	4,140	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
2011:								
January–December	2,700	188,000	303	54,500	99	16,400	3,270	301,000
January–June	1,310	88,700	159	26,200	46	7,780	1,640	117,000
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
June	230	15,800	35	5,980	--	--	266	22,200
January–June	1,400	83,000	214	32,800	48	6,580	1,660	124,000

^eEstimated. -- 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–June	844	276	58,500	225	74	15,000	1,370	449 ^r	113,000
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
June	162	53	11,800	37	12	2,660	239	78	19,500
January–June	992	324	79,500	229	74	16,800	1,430	468	122,000

^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–June	686	127,000	163	53	19,400
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
June	190	33,700	11	4	2,530
January–June	894	190,000	72	24	14,500

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–June	3,300	1,640	4,940
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	292	888
May	545 ^r	293	838 ^r
June	491 ^p	266	757
January–June	3,240	1,660	4,910

^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–June 2011 ²		May 2012		June 2012 ^p		January–June 2012 ^{p, 2}	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:								
Petroleum and coke	37	32	10	10	10	8	48	50
Natural gas	7	7	1	1	1	1	7	7
Total	43	38	11	11	11	9	54	56
PAD 2:								
Petroleum and coke	486	499	87	88	90	88	537	535
Natural gas	10	10	2	2	1	1	9	9
Total	497	510	89	90	92	89	546	544
PAD 3: ³								
Petroleum and coke	2,280	2,280	436	433	403	401	2,350	2,370
Natural gas	231	232	37	37	36	31	229	224
Total	2,510	2,510	473	470	439	433	2,580	2,600
PAD 4 and 5:								
Petroleum and coke	613	611	107 ^r	108 ^r	118	115	636	638
Natural gas	316	313	48	45	38	35	307	302
Total	929	924	154 ^r	153 ^r	157	150	943	941
Grand total	3,980	3,990	727 ^r	723 ^r	699	681	4,120	4,140

^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		
		May	June	Total
Production	8.21	8.56 ^r	8.50 ^p	8.26
Shipments	8.19	8.51 ^r	8.29 ^p	8.30
Exports of sulfur	1.31	2.10	2.31	1.79
Imports of sulfur:				
Canada ^e	2.70	2.83	2.80	2.81
Mexico	0.30	0.51	0.43	0.43
Venezuela ^e	0.10	0.12	--	0.10
Total ^{e,2}	3.27	3.45	3.24	3.34
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	0.33	0.18	0.13	0.14
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :				
Canada	1.82	1.84	1.97	1.99
Mexico	0.43	0.44	0.45	0.46
Total ²	2.67	2.39	2.91	2.87
Consumption:				
Domestic sources	6.88	6.42 ^r	5.97	6.51
Imports ^e	3.27	3.45	3.24	3.34
Total	10.20	9.87 ^r	9.21	9.84
Sulfur export values ³	203	190	178	212
Sulfur import values: ³				
Canada	70	54	69	59
Mexico	180	146	171	153
Venezuela	165	136	XX	137
Average ²	92	72	83	75
H ₂ SO ₄ export values ³	125	190	230	202
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: ³				
Canada	86	74	73	80
Mexico	68	74	72	73
Average ²	91	83	81	85

^eEstimated. ^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.