

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SULFUR IN JULY 2012

During July 2012, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 747,000 metric tons (t), which was 7% more than that of June 2012 and 6% more than that of July 2011. Shipments were 745,000 t, which was 9% more than those of June 2012.

Producers' ending stocks for July 2012 were 161,000 t.

Imports of recovered sulfur for July 2012 were estimated to be 256,000 t; exports were 111,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for July 2012 were 241,000 t; exports were 24,000 t.

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus exports plus imports, was 890,000 t in July 2012. This was about 21% more than that of June 2012 and the same as that of July 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–July ^r	4,030	655	4,680	4,670	164
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	87	727	723	142
June	622	77	698 ^r	681	161
July ^p	667	80	747	745	161
January–July	4,230	632	4,870	4,880	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–July	1,550 ^r	107,000	188	32,100	46	7,780	1,910 ^r	179,000
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	210 ^r	12,300	49	7,990	13	1,790	272 ^r	22,300
May	220 ^r	13,100	43	6,260	10	1,360	273 ^r	21,000
June	210 ^r	15,800	35	5,980	--	--	246 ^r	22,200
July	220	13,400	16	4,350	20	839	256	18,800
January–July	1,560	96,400	230	37,200	68	7,420	1,860	143,000

^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–July	1,000	327 ^r	74,500	248	82	16,600	1,580	516	137,000
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
July	179	59	13,300	45	15	3,090	241	79	19,900
January–July	1,170	383	92,800	274	90	19,900	1,670	547	142,000

^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–July	747	143,000	193	63	23,200
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
July	111	20,900	24	8	4,810
January–July	1,010	210,000	96	31	19,300

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–July	3,920	1,910 ^r	5,830 ^r
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	272 ^r	868 ^r
May	545	273 ^r	818 ^r
June	491	246 ^r	737 ^r
July	634 ^p	256	890
January–July	3,880	1,860	5,740

^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–July 2011 ²		June 2012		July 2012 ^p		January–July 2012 ^{p,2}	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:								
Petroleum and coke	40	39	10	8	10	9	57	59
Natural gas	8	8	1	1	1	1	8	8
Total	47	47	11	9	11	10	65	67
PAD 2:								
Petroleum and coke	573	587	90	88	98	96	634	631
Natural gas	12	12	1	1	1	1	11	11
Total	586	599	92	89	99	98	645	642
PAD 3: ³								
Petroleum and coke	2,680	2,660	403	401	429	432	2,780	2,810
Natural gas	271	271	36	31	38	36	266	260
Total	2,950	2,930	439	433	467	468	3,040	3,070
PAD 4 and 5:								
Petroleum and coke	731	726	118	115	131	132	766	770
Natural gas	364	365	38	35	40	37	347	339
Total	1,100	1,090	157	150	170	169	113	1,110
Grand total	4,680	4,670	698 ^r	681	747	745	4,870	4,880

^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		
		June	July	Total
Production	8.21	8.49 ^r	8.80 ^p	8.34
Shipments	8.19	8.29	8.77 ^p	8.37
Exports of sulfur	1.31	2.31	1.31	1.72
Imports of sulfur:				
Canada ^e	2.70	2.56 ^r	2.59	2.67
Mexico	0.30	0.43	0.19	0.39
Venezuela ^e	0.10	--	0.24	0.12
Total ^{e,2}	3.27	2.99 ^r	3.01	3.19
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	0.33	0.13	0.28	0.16
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :				
Canada	1.82	1.97	2.11	2.01
Mexico	0.43	0.45	0.53	0.47
Total ²	2.67	2.91	2.84	2.87
Consumption:				
Domestic sources	6.88	5.97	7.46	6.65
Imports ^e	3.27	2.99 ^r	3.01	3.19
Total	10.20	8.97 ^r	10.50	9.83
Sulfur export values ³	203	178	188	209
Sulfur import values: ³				
Canada	70	75 ^r	61	62
Mexico	180	171	272	162
Venezuela	165	XX	42	109
Average ²	92	90 ^r	74	77
H ₂ SO ₄ export values ³	125	230	200	201
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: ³				
Canada	86	73	75	79
Mexico	68	72	69	73
Average ²	91	81	82	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.