

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SULFUR IN FEBRUARY 2016

During February 2016, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 683,000 metric tons (t), which was 10% lower than that of January 2016 and slightly higher than that of February 2015. Shipments were 680,000 t, which was 10% lower than those of January 2016. Producers' ending stocks for February 2016 were 144,000 t.

Imports of recovered sulfur for February 2016 were estimated to be 166,000 t; exports were 130,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for February 2016 were 247,000 t; exports were 12,000 t.

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus exports plus imports, was 716,000 t in February 2016. This was 4% higher than that of January 2016 and 6% higher than that of February 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	7,890	984	8,870	8,890	139
January–February	1,240 ^r	164	1,410 ^r	1,420 ^r	137 ^r
February	591	81	672	674	137
March	646	82	728	732	137
April	634	81	716	728	127
May	651	81	732	714	148
June	671	78	749	755	143
July	691	83	774	784	134
August	653	81	734	729	142
September	639	85	723	735	131
October	642	80	723	706	148
November	680	81	761	752	159
December	737	87	824	844	139
2016:					
January	676	82	758	756	140
February ^p	604	79	683	680	144
January–February	1,280	161	1,440	1,440	144

^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	1,730	87,400	191	16,500	20	426	2,110	136,000
January–February	310 ^r	13,600	30	2,450	--	--	343 ^r	17,700
February	150	6,780	15	1,790	--	--	166	9,260
March	160	4,960	29	1,750	--	--	190	9,980
April	140	6,790	15	1,940	11	279	194	14,800
May	140	5,730	29	719	9	147	232	16,100
June	140	6,760	15	358	--	--	155	7,310
July	140	6,900	15	2,270	--	--	155	9,780
August	140	7,630	15	3,030	--	--	188	16,400
September	140	7,520	--	--	--	--	141	7,870
October	140	7,860	29	1,640	--	--	216	16,000
November	140	8,840	--	--	--	--	141	9,420
December	140	7,800	14	2,310	--	--	154	10,500
2016:								
January	140	8,050	15	471	⁴	33	157	9,530
February	135	4,780	29	795	--	--	166	6,650
January–February	275	12,800	44	1,270	⁴	33	323	16,200

^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–February	301	99	17,600	112	36	5,980	538	176	30,900
February	140	46	7,890	56	18	3,010	277	91	14,700
March	182	59	10,100	62	20	3,320	293	96	18,000
April	160	52	10,100	58	19	3,100	293	96	17,300
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
January–February	321	105	15,200	115	38	4,730	524	172	24,300

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
2015:					
January–December	1,820	279,000	159	54	30,400
January–February	228	40,500	20	7	3,070
February	162	29,000	11	4	1,680
March	131	23,800	17	6	2,840
April	142	24,900	12	4	1,910
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
January–February	355	45,100	21	7	5,190

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	7,080	2,110	9,190
January–February ^f	1,190	343	1,530
February	512	166	678
March	601	190	791
April	586	194	780
May	513	232	745
June	611	155	766
July	691	155	846
August	598	188	786
September	526	141	667
October	540	216	756
November	624	141	765
December	600	154	754
2016:			
January	531	157	688
February ^p	550	166	716
January–February	1,080	323	1,400

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^fRevised.

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–February 2015 ²		January 2016		February 2016 ^p		January–February 2016 ^{p,2}	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:								
Petroleum and coke	34	35	16	16	11	11	26	27
Natural gas	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2
Total	36	37	17	17	12	12	28	29
PAD 2:								
Petroleum and coke	211	211	130	122	121	121	251	243
Natural gas	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2
Total	213	214	131	123	122	122	253	245
PAD 3:								
Petroleum and coke	777	779	420	422	376	371	795	793
Natural gas	64	64	31	31	30	29	61	61
Total	841	843	451	453	405	400	856	853
PAD 4 and 5:								
Petroleum and coke	221	224	111	113	96	98	207	211
Natural gas	96	97	49	51	48	48	96	98
Total	317	321	159	163	144	146	303	309
Grand total	1,410	1,420	758	756	683	680	1,440	1,440

^pPreliminary.

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

²May include revisions to previously published data.

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		
		January	February	January– February
Production	8.87	8.95 ^r	8.62 ^p	8.79
Shipments	8.89	8.93 ^r	8.58 ^p	8.76
Exports of sulfur	1.82	2.66 ^r	1.64	2.17
Imports of sulfur:				
Canada ^c	1.73	1.65	1.70	1.68
Mexico	0.19	0.18	0.37	0.27
Venezuela ^c	0.02	⁽³⁾	--	⁽³⁾
Total ^{e,2}	2.11	1.85	2.10	1.97
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	0.16	0.11	0.15	0.13
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :				
Canada	2.07	1.85	2.07	1.96
Mexico	0.77	0.71	0.69	0.70
Total ²	3.54	3.26	2.12	3.20
Consumption:				
Domestic sources	7.08	6.27 ^r	6.94	6.59
Imports ^c	2.11	1.85	2.10	1.97
Total	9.19	8.12 ^r	9.04	8.56
Sulfur export values ⁴	153	128	124	127
Sulfur import values: ⁴				
Canada	51	58	35	47
Mexico	86	31	27	29
Venezuela	21	XX	XX	XX
Average ²	64	61	40	50
H ₂ SO ₄ export values ⁴	191	275	226	247
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: ⁴				
Canada	60	49	46	47
Mexico	54	42	40	41
Average ²	59	46	46	46

^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.

³Less than ½ unit.

⁴Average value per ton.