



Mineral Industry Surveys

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SULFUR IN AUGUST 2018

During August 2018, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 805,000 metric tons (t), which was 4% higher than that of July 2018 and 6% higher than that of August 2017. Shipments were 809,000 t, which was 3% higher than those of July 2018. Producers' ending stocks for August 2018 were 107,000 t (table 1).

Imports of recovered sulfur for August 2018 were 170,000 t; exports were 173,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for August 2018 were 236,000 t; exports were 25,000 t (tables 2–4).

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus exports plus imports, was 806,000 t in August 2018. This was 5% higher than that of July 2018 and 22% higher than that of August 2017 (table 5).

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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		
2017:					
January–December	8,410	662	9,070	9,120	124
January–August	5,650	450	6,100	6,130 ^r	136
August	699	60	759	772	136
September	600	58	658	675	120
October	687	50	737	734	125
November	720	50	769	772	128
December	748	55	803	806	124
2018:					
January	675	56	731	749	111
February	594	55	649	665	99
March	706	55	761	739	122
April	686	55	741	748	115
May	704	55	759	754	121
June	719	53	772	765	128
July	728	44	772	789	112
August ^p	751	54	805	809	107
January–August	5,560	427	5,990	6,020	107

^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		Total, all countries ²	
	Quantity	Value ³	Quantity	Value ³	Quantity	Value ³
2017:						
January–December	883	49,600	15	753	1,360	107,000
January–August	561 ^r	29,100	15	753	880 ^r	66,000
August	70	3,870	--	--	109	8,170
September	77	4,220	--	--	79	5,170
October	74	4,610	--	--	177	17,600
November	87	5,860	--	--	137	11,300
December	84	5,890	--	--	86	7,220
2018:						
January	90	6,510	(4)	4	127	15,000
February	86	6,380	(4)	7	136	14,800
March	95	7,830	--	--	159	17,400
April	75	6,090	--	--	116	12,200
May	63	5,000	--	--	111	12,500
June	94	7,400	--	--	228	25,300
July	80	6,250	--	--	180	20,700
August	107	9,040	--	--	170	18,800
January–August	691	54,500	(4)	11	1,230	137,000

^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.

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
2017:									
January–December	1,900	619	80,800	517	169	14,100	2,920	954	124,000
January–August	1,280	419 ^r	60,400	337 ^r	110	9,450	1,920	627	86,800
August	149	49	5,550	43	14	1,200	254	83	11,400
September	141	46	5,130	47	15	1,200	282	92	10,200
October	161	53	5,170	38	12	991	225	74	8,130
November	165	54	5,520	50	16	1,280	266	87	10,600
December	143	47	4,600	46	15	1,210	227	74	8,760
2018:									
January	165	54	6,630	54	18	1,400	263	86	9,980
February	132	43	5,430	37	12	1,440	198	65	8,950
March	158	52	6,510	39	13	1,500	255	83	12,700
April	146	48	7,000	12	4	465	235	77	16,100
May	176	58	8,870	32	10	1,200	298	97	17,100
June	171	56	8,250	48	16	1,830	279	91	16,000
July	166	54	8,030	49	16	2,990	275	90	16,800
August	149	49	6,720	39	13	1,420	236	77	14,200
January–August	1,260	413	57,400	312	101	12,200	2,040	667	112,000

^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
2017:					
January–December	2,340	253,000	245	80	31,500
January–August	1,530	144,000	151	49	21,800
August	222	22,600	33	11	2,350
September	159	18,300	17	6	2,090
October	145	20,900	30	10	1,550
November	296	40,700	16	5	2,450
December	209	29,500	31	10	3,580
2018:					
January	191	30,500	24	8	2,690
February	109	13,100	26	9	2,830
March	217	25,900	38	12	3,010
April	175	19,600	46	15	2,810
May	225	29,200	15	5	2,630
June	200	25,200	19	6	2,960
July	204	26,600	33	11	4,730
August	173	23,200	25	8	3,820
January–August	1,490	193,000	225	74	25,500

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	Consumption
2017:			
January–December	6,780	1,360	8,140
January–August	4,600	880 ^r	5,480 ^r
August	550	109	659
September	516	79	595
October	589	177	766
November	476	137	613
December	598	86	684
2018:			
January	558	127	685
February	556	136	692
March	522	159	681
April	573	116	689
May	529	111	640
June	565	228	793
July	585	180	765
August ^p	636	170	806
January–August	4,520	1,230	5,750

^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–August 2017 ²		July 2018		August 2018 ^p		January–August 2018 ^{p,2}	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:								
Petroleum and coke	142	144	22	22	22	23	161	161
Natural gas	9	9	1	1	1	1	9	9
Total	151	153	23	23	23	24	170	170
PAD 2:								
Petroleum and coke	950	955	121	123	120	126	923	933
Natural gas	4	4	1	1	1	--	5	5
Total	954	959	121	124	121	126	928	938
PAD 3:								
Petroleum and coke	3,610	3,610	460	469	472	468	3,480	3,480
Natural gas	102	102	12	11	11	12	85	86
Total	3,710	3,710	472	480	483	480	3,560	3,560
PAD 4 and 5:								
Petroleum and coke	954	982	125	127	137	136	1,000	1,020
Natural gas	336	333	31	34	41	43	329	329
Total	1,290	1,320	156	161	178	179	1,330	1,350
Grand total	6,100	6,130	772	789	805	809	5,990	6,020

^pPreliminary. -- Zero.

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)

	2018			
	2017	July	August	January– August
Production	9.07	9.09	9.48 ^P	9.00
Shipments	9.12	9.29	9.53 ^P	9.04
Exports of sulfur	2.34	2.40	2.04	2.24
Imports of sulfur:				
Canada	0.88	0.94	1.26	1.04
Mexico	0.02	--	--	(2)
Total ³	1.36	2.12	2.00	1.85
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	0.25	0.39	0.29	0.34
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :				
Canada	1.90	1.95	1.75	1.89
Mexico	0.52	0.58	0.46	0.47
Total ³	2.92	3.24	2.78	3.06
Consumption:				
Domestic sources	6.78	6.89	7.49	6.79
Imports	1.36	2.12	2.00	1.85
Total	8.14	9.01	9.49	8.64
Sulfur export values ⁴	108	130	134	130
Sulfur import values: ⁴				
Canada	56	78	84	79
Mexico	50	XX	XX	64
Average ³	79	115	111	111
H ₂ SO ₄ export values ⁴	129	143	153	113
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: ⁴				
Canada	43	48	45	46
Mexico	27	61	36	39
Average ³	42	61	60	55

^PPreliminary. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

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

²Less than ½ unit.

³Includes other countries not listed.

⁴Average value per ton.