

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SULFUR IN JANUARY 2019

During January 2019, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 750,000 metric tons (t), which was 9% lower than that of December 2018 and 3% higher than that of January 2018. Shipments were 770,000 t, which was 4% lower than those of December 2018. Producers' ending stocks for January 2019 were 101,000 t (table 1).

Imports of recovered sulfur for January 2019 were estimated at 179,000 t; exports were 349,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for January 2019 were 237,000 t; exports were 16,000 t (tables 2–4).

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus exports plus imports, was 600,000 t in January 2019. This was 5% lower than that of December 2018 and 15% lower than that of January 2018 (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		
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	751	54	805	809	107
September	690	38	728	722	113
October	663	53	717	713	117
November	696	54	750	762	105
December	766	54	820	803	122
January–December	8,380	627	9,010	9,020	122
2019, January ^p	703	47	750	770	101

^pPreliminary.

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		Total, all countries ²	
	Quantity	Value ³	Quantity	Value ³
2018:				
January	115	6,510	152	15,000
February	119	6,380	169	14,800
March	124	7,830	188	17,400
April	110	6,090	151	12,200
May	129	5,000	177	12,500
June	144	7,400	278	25,300
July	98	6,250	198	20,700
August	151	9,040	214	18,800
September	120	8,200	155	13,700
October	139	9,310	190	17,700
November	135	9,250	185	18,800
December	125	9,380	173	18,400
January–December	1,510	90,600	2,230	205,000
2019, January ^c	130	10,100	179	19,800

-- Zero. ^cEstimated.

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 as adjusted by U.S. Geological Survey and Acuity Commodities.

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
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
September	153	50	6,420	33	11	1,260	252	82	13,300
October	164	54	7,990	21	7	780	266	87	16,300
November	136	44	6,810	46	15	1,870	220	72	14,000
December	187	61	9,480	57	19	2,200	272	89	15,000
January–December	1,900	622	88,100	470 ^r	154 ^r	18,400	3,050	997	170,000
2019, January	139	45	7,280	36	12	1,470	237	77	14,200

^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
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
September	217	30,100	32	10	4,110
October	172	24,300	15	5	2,210
November	193	27,000	16	5	2,750
December	346	30,200	28	9	4,050
January–December	2,420	305,000	315	103 ^r	38,600
2019, January	349	29,800	16	5	2,980

^rRevised.

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
2018:			
January	558	152	710
February	556	169	725
March	522	188	710
April	573	151	724
May	529	177	706
June	565	278	843
July	585	198	783
August	636	214	850
September	505	155	660
October	541	190	731
November	569	185	754
December ^p	457	173	630
January–December	6,600	2,230	8,830
2019, January ^p	421	179	600

^pPreliminary.

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 2018 ²		December 2018		January 2019 ^p	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:						
Petroleum and coke	20	20	18	18	18	19
Natural gas	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	21	21	19	19	19	20
PAD 2:						
Petroleum and coke	110	113	131	131	119	118
Natural gas	1	1	--	--	1	--
Total	110	114	131	132	119	118
PAD 3:						
Petroleum and coke	417	425	477	470	442	450
Natural gas	10	11	10	9	10	11
Total	427	436	488	479	453	462
PAD 4 and 5:						
Petroleum and coke	128	134	140	136	124	130
Natural gas	44	44	43	38	35	40
Total	171	178	182	173	159	171
Grand total	731	749	820	803	750	770

^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		2019
	December	Total	January
Production	9.65	9.01	8.83
Shipments	9.45	9.02	9.07
Exports of sulfur	4.07	2.42	4.11
Imports of sulfur:			
Canada	1.47	1.51	1.53
Mexico	--	(2)	--
Total ³	2.04	2.23	2.11
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	0.33	0.32	0.19
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :			
Canada	2.20	1.90	1.64
Total ³	3.20	3.05	2.79
Consumption:			
Domestic sources	5.38	6.60	4.96
Imports	2.04	2.23	2.11
Total	7.42	8.83	7.06
Sulfur export values ⁴	87	126	85
Sulfur import values: ⁴			
Canada	75	60	78
Average ³	106	92	111
H ₂ SO ₄ export values ⁴	145	123	186
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: ⁴			
Canada	51	46	52
Mexico	39	39	41
Average ³	55	56	60

^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.