

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Lori E. Apodaca, Sulfur Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7724, Fax: (703) 648-7757
Email: lapodaca@usgs.gov

Sheema Merchant (Data)
Telephone: (703) 659-9944
Fax: (703) 648-7975
Email: smerchant@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>

SULFUR IN OCTOBER 2018

During October 2018, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 717,000 metric tons (t), which was slightly lower than that of September 2018 and 3% lower than that of October 2017. Shipments were 713,000 t, which was slightly lower than those of September 2018. Producers' ending stocks for October 2018 were 117,000 t (table 1).

Imports of recovered sulfur for October 2018 were estimated to be 171,000 t; exports were 172,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for September 2018 were 266,000 t; exports were 15,000 t (tables 2–4).

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus exports plus imports, was 712,000 t in October 2018. This was 8% higher than that of September 2018 and 11% lower than that of October 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–October	6,940	558	7,500	7,540 ^r	125 ^r
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	751	54	805	809	107
September	690	38	728	722	113
October ^p	663	53	717	713	117
January–October	6,920	519	7,440	7,450	117

^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	1,380	49,600	15	753	1,850	107,000
January–October	1,140 ^r	37,900	15	753	1,570 ^r	88,800
October	110	4,610	--	--	213	17,600
November	134	5,860	--	--	184	11,300
December	102	5,890	--	--	104	7,220
2018:						
January	115	6,510	(4)	4	152	15,000
February	119	6,380	(4)	7	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 ^e	120	9,310	--	--	171	17,700
January–October	1,230	72,000	(4)	11	1,850	168,000

^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.

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
2017:									
January–December	1,900	619	80,800	517	169	14,100	2,920	954	124,000
January–October	1,590	518	70,700	422	138	11,600	2,420	793	105,000
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
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
January–October	1,580	517	71,800	366	119	14,300	2,560	836	141,000

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–October	1,840	183,000	198	65	25,500
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
September	217	30,100	32	10	4,110
October	172	24,300	15	5	2,210
January–October	1,880	248,000	273	89	31,800

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	1,850	8,630
January–October	5,700 ^r	1,570 ^r	7,270 ^r
October	589	213	802
November	476	184	660
December	598	104	702
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 ^p	541	171	712
January–October	5,570	1,850	7,420

^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–October 2017 ²		September 2018		October 2018 ^p		January–October 2018 ^{p,2}	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:								
Petroleum and coke	177	177	22	22	19	20	203	203
Natural gas	11	11	1	1	1	1	11	11
Total	188	188	23	23	21	22	214	214
PAD 2:								
Petroleum and coke	1,180	1,180	96	93	77	80	1,100	1,110
Natural gas	5	5	--	--	--	--	5	5
Total	1,180	1,180	97	93	77	80	1,100	1,110
PAD 3:								
Petroleum and coke	4,370	4,380	441	444	443	433	4,360	4,360
Natural gas	124	125	10	10	12	12	107	108
Total	4,490	4,500	451	454	455	445	4,470	4,460
PAD 4 and 5:								
Petroleum and coke	1,220	1,250	130	126	124	126	1,260	1,270
Natural gas	417	420	27	25	40	40	395	394
Total	1,640	1,670	157	151	163	166	1,650	1,660
Grand total	7,500	7,540	728	722	717	713	7,440	7,450

^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	September	October	January– October
Production	9.07	8.86	8.44 ^P	8.93
Shipments	9.12	8.78	8.40 ^P	8.94
Exports of sulfur	2.34	2.64	2.03	2.26
Imports of sulfur:				
Canada	1.38	1.46	1.41	1.48
Mexico	0.02	--	--	(2)
Total ³	1.85	1.89	2.01	2.22
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	0.25	0.39	0.18	0.33
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :				
Canada	1.90	1.86	1.93	1.90
Mexico	0.52	0.40	0.25	0.44
Total ³	2.92	3.07	3.13	3.07
Consumption:				
Domestic sources	6.78	6.14	6.37	6.69
Imports	1.85	1.89	2.01	2.22
Total	8.63	8.03	8.38	8.91
Sulfur export values ⁴	108	139	141	132
Sulfur import values: ⁴				
Canada	36	68	78	59
Mexico	50	XX	XX	64
Average ³	58	89	104	91
H ₂ SO ₄ export values ⁴	129	128	147	116
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: ⁴				
Canada	43	42	49	45
Mexico	27	38	37	39
Average ³	41	53	61	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.