

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SULFUR IN FEBRUARY 2020

During February 2020, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 628,000 metric tons (t), which was 10% lower than that of January 2020 and 6% higher than that of February 2019. Shipments were 644,000 t, which was 13% lower than those of January 2020. Producers' ending stocks for February 2020 were 120,000 t (table 1).

Imports of recovered sulfur for February 2020 were estimated to be 159,000 t; exports were 190,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for February 2020 were 311,000 t; exports were 10,000 t (tables 2–4).

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus exports plus imports, was 613,000 t in February 2020. This was

21% lower than that of January 2020 and 5% lower than that of February 2019 (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		
2019:					
January–December	7,790	322	8,110	8,100	124
January–February	1,290	55 ^r	1,350 ^r	1,360 ^r	210 ^r
February	592	26	618	611	109
March	650	28	678	664	120
April	625	27	652	666	107
May	621	21	642	640	107
June	624	28	652	647	113
July	690	30	720	725	107
August	677	25	703	699	111
September	620	25	644	641	114
October	611	28	639	643	109
November	658	27	685	676	119
December	721	29	749	744	124
2020:					
January	701	28	729	742	111
February ^p	628	25	654	644	120
January-February	1,330	53	1,380	1,390	120

^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		Total, all countries ²	
	Quantity	Value ³	Quantity	Value ³
2019:				
January–December	1,450	65,900	1,850	137,000
January–February	235 ^r	16,500	335 ^r	35,800
February	106	6,400	156	16,000
March	144	8,240	191	15,400
April	137	7,370	182	14,200
May	119	6,180	120	7,060
June	108	4,980	207	16,200
July	126	6,730	132	13,000
August	109	4,000	152	9,380
September	97	3,490	99	4,480
October	124	3,360	178	14,500
November	119	2,790	121	3,870
December	127	2,230	129	3,270
2020:				
January	126 ^e	2,970	128 ^e	4,190
February	120 ^e	3,200	159 ^e	7,580
January-February	246 ^e	6,170	287 ^e	11,800

^eEstimated. ^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.

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
2019:									
January–December	1,920	628	149,000	485	159	29,700	2,970	971	240,000
January–February	257 ^r	84	13,700	79	26	3,360	422	137 ^r	26,200
February	118	39	6,380	43	14	1,890	185	60	12,000
March	183	60	9,220	63	21	4,490	350	114	24,200
April	157	51	16,300	65	21	4,320	250	82	24,700
May	175	57	19,100	23	8	2,310	233	76	25,700
June	151	49	15,600	24	8	1,810	237	77	23,300
July	178	58	14,200	34	11	2,140	251	82	21,700
August	190	62	13,300	29	9	1,800	262	86	20,500
September	156	51	11,000	38	12	2,290	198	65	15,200
October	185	60	14,400	37	12	1,990	320	105	24,300
November	109	36	8,110	34	11	1,900	166	54	13,200
December	180	59	13,600	59	19	3,320	281	92	21,200
2020:									
January	150	49	11,200	58	19	4,670	306	100	23,400
February	147	48	10,500	51	17	4,350	311	102	21,600
January-February	297	97	21,700	109	36	9,020	617	202	45,000

^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
2019:					
January–December	2,190	171,000	220	72	31,200
January–February	468	45,600	34 ^r	11	5,960
February	119	15,800	18	6	2,990
March	144	14,700	13	4	2,610
April	116	14,000	21	7	4,240
May	210	21,900	21	7	2,910
June	150	13,600	18	6	1,920
July	120	12,400	15	5	2,890
August	296	13,100	17	6	2,630
September	152	11,100	18	6	2,520
October	320	8,690	28	9	2,310
November	53	4,750	11	4	1,530
December	157	11,200	25	8	1,650
2020:					
January	97	4,720	16	5	2,650
February	190	10,100	10	3	2,240
January-February	287	14,800	26	8	4,890

^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
2019:			
January–December	5,910	1,850	7,760
January–February	887 ^r	335 ^r	1,220 ^r
February	492	156	648
March	520	191	711
April	550	182	732
May	430	120	550
June	497	207	704
July	605	132	737
August	403	152	555
September	489	99	588
October	323	178	501
November	623	121	744
December	587	129	716
2020:			
January	645	128	773
February ^p	454	159	613
January-February	1,100	287	1,390

^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-February 2019 ²		January 2020		February 2020 ^P		January-February 2020 ^{P,2}	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:								
Petroleum and coke	30	31	21	21	19	18	39	39
Natural gas	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2
Total	32	33	22	22	20	19	41	41
PAD 2:								
Petroleum and coke	212	213	128	128	117	115	244	243
Natural gas	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	212	214	128	128	117	115	244	243
PAD 3:								
Petroleum and coke	815	819	425	432	372	367	797	799
Natural gas	20	19	9	9	9	9	18	18
Total	835	838	434	442	381	376	815	817
PAD 4 and 5:								
Petroleum and coke	235	239	128	133	121	120	249	253
Natural gas	32	33	17	17	16	15	33	32
Total	267	271	145	150	136	134	282	285
Grand total	1,350	1,360	729	742	654	644	1,380	1,390

^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)

	2019	2020		January- February
		January	February	
Production	8.11	8.61	8.25 ^P	8.43
Shipments	8.10	8.76	8.13 ^P	8.46
Exports of sulfur	2.19	1.15	2.40	1.75
Imports of sulfur:				
Canada	1.45	1.49	1.51	1.50
Total ²	1.85	1.51	2.01	1.75
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	0.22	0.19	0.13	0.16
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :				
Canada	1.92	1.77	1.86	1.81
Mexico	0.49	0.68	0.64	0.66
Total ²	2.97	3.61	3.93	3.76
Consumption:				
Domestic sources	5.91	7.62	5.73	6.70
Imports	1.85	1.51	2.01	1.75
Total	7.76	9.13	7.74	8.45
Sulfur export values ³	78	49	53	51
Sulfur import values: ³				
Canada	46	24	27	25
Average ³	74	33	48	41
H ₂ SO ₄ export values ³	142	166	224	188
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: ³				
Canada	77	75	71	73
Mexico	61	81	85	83
Average ²	81	77 ^r	69	73

^PPreliminary, ^rrevised

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.