

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SULFUR IN JULY 2020

During July 2020, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 625,000 metric tons (t), which was 7% higher than that of June 2020 and 13% lower than that of July 2019. Total production for January through July was 4.46 million metric tons (Mt), which was 5% lower than that in the same period of 2019. Shipments were 644,000 t, which were 11% higher than those of June 2020. Total shipments for January through July were 4.48 Mt, which were 5% lower than those in the same period of 2019. Producers' ending stocks for July 2020 were 100,000 t, which were 8% lower than June 2020 (table 1).

Imports of recovered sulfur for July 2020 were estimated to be 261,000 t; exports were 98,000 t. Total imports of recovered sulfur for January through July were 1.20 Mt, which were 3% higher than those in the same period of 2019. Total exports for January through July of recovered sulfur were 886,000 t, which were 27% lower than those in the same period of 2019 (tables 2, 4).

Imports of sulfuric acid for July 2020 were 313,000 t; exports were 22,000 t. Total imports for January through July were 2.07

Mt, which were 19% higher than those in the same period of 2019. Total exports for January through July of sulfuric acid were 124,000 t, which were slightly higher than those in the same period of 2019 (tables 3, 4).

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus exports plus imports, was 807,000 t in July 2020. This was 21% higher than that of June 2020 and 10% higher than that of July 2019. Total consumption for January through July was 4.80 Mt, which was 3% higher than that in the same period of 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–July	4,500	188 ^r	4,690 ^r	4,700 ^r	107
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	723 ^r	29	751 ^r	746 ^r	124
2020:					
January	701	28	729	742	111
February	628	25	653	645	109 ^r
March	642	27	669	688	100 ^r
April	578	24	602	593	110 ^r
May	574	22	595	592	113 ^r
June	566 ^r	20	585 ^r	580 ^r	119 ^r
July ^p	605	20	625	644	100
January–July	4,290	166	4,460	4,480	100

^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–July	896 ^f	50,000	1,170	102,000
July	126	6,730	132	13,000
August	109	4,000	152	9,380
September	97	3,470	99	4,460
October	124	3,360	178	14,500
November	119	2,790	121	3,860
December	127	2,230	129	3,270
2020:				
January	127	2,970	129	4,190
February	104	3,200	143	7,580
March	131	4,710	183	9,320
April	120 ^e	5,150	210 ^e	13,700
May	120 ^e	8,230	121 ^e	8,700
June	120 ^e	4,960	156 ^e	8,610
July	120 ^e	5,320	261 ^e	17,000
January–July	842 ^e	34,500	1,200 ^e	69,000

^eEstimated. ^fRevised.

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–July	1,100	360	88,100	288 ^f	94	18,400	1,740	570	146,000
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	13,700	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
March	178	58	12,700	51	17	4,390	310	101	22,500
April	154	50	11,300	50	16	4,980	284	93	22,100
May	193	63	13,900	43	14	3,700	332	109	22,100
June	158	52	12,100	38	12	1,710	217	71	16,800
July	153	50	8,250	73	24	4,390	313	102	18,200
January–July	1,130	370	79,900	364	119	28,200	2,070	678	147,000

^fRevised.

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	2,200	172,000	220	72	31,200
January–July	1,220 ^r	124,000 ^r	123 ^r	40	20,500
July	121	12,500	15	5	2,890
August	296	13,100	17	6	2,630
September	148	10,800	18	6	2,520
October	321	8,860	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
March	210	14,100	18	6	3,420
April	87	7,520	31	10	2,350
May	136	9,040	17	6	2,780
June	67	6,020	11	4	1,400
July	98	6,750	22	7	1,610
January–July	886	58,200	124	41	16,500

^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	5,900	1,850	7,750
January–July	3,480 ^r	1,170	4,650 ^r
July	604	132	736
August	403	152	555
September	493	99	592
October	322	178	500
November	623	121	744
December	589	129	718
2020:			
January	645	129	774
February	455	143	598
March	478	183	661
April	506	210	716
May	456	121	577
June	513 ^r	156	669
July ^p	546	261	807
January–July	3,600	1,200	4,800

^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–July 2019 ²		June 2020		July 2020 ^P		January–July 2020 ^{P, 2}	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:								
Petroleum and coke	97	98	14	13	16	17	114	114
Natural gas	8	8	1	1	1	1	8	8
Total	105	106	15	14	17	18	121	121
PAD 2:								
Petroleum and coke	754	755	95	97	110	110	757	758
Natural gas	2	2	--	--	--	--	--	1
Total	757	757	95	97	110	110	757	759
PAD 3:								
Petroleum and coke	2,800	2,800	362	357	376	391	2,660	2,680
Natural gas	71	68	9	10	10	10	65	66
Total	2,870	2,870	371	367	386	401	2,730	2,750
PAD 4 and 5:								
Petroleum and coke	852	860	95 ^r	95 ^r	103	107	763	771
Natural gas	108	107	10	7	9	7	93	85
Total	960	967	105 ^r	102 ^r	111	114	855	856
Grand total	4,690	4,700	585 ^r	580 ^r	625	644	4,460	4,480

^PPreliminary. ^rRevised. -- 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		
		June	July	January– July
Production	8.11	7.14 ^r	7.38 ^p	7.66
Shipments	8.10	7.08 ^r	7.60 ^p	7.70
Exports of sulfur	2.20	0.82	1.16	1.52
Imports of sulfur:				
Canada	1.45	1.46	1.42	1.45
Total ²	1.85	1.90	3.08	2.07
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	0.22	0.13	0.26	0.21
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :				
Canada	1.92	1.93	1.81	1.95
Mexico	0.49	0.46	0.86	0.63
Total ²	2.97	2.65	3.70	3.56
Consumption:				
Domestic sources	5.90	6.26 ^r	6.45	6.18
Imports	1.85	1.90	3.08	2.07
Total	7.75	8.16 ^r	9.53	8.25
Sulfur export values ³	78	90	69	66
Sulfur import values: ³				
Canada	46	41	44	41
Average ³	74	55	65	57
H ₂ SO ₄ export values ³	142	128	73	133
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: ³				
Canada	77	76	54	71
Mexico	61	45	60	77
Average ²	81	77	58	71

^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.