

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SULFUR IN JANUARY 2008

During the month, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 696,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. January 2008 production was 6.5% lower than that of December 2007 and 3.5% lower than that of January 2007. Shipments were 697,000 t, 4.1% lower than those of December 2007. Producers' ending stocks for January 2008 were 190,000 t.

Imports of recovered sulfur for January 2008 were estimated to be 286,000 t; exports were 31,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for January 2008 were 205,000 t; exports were 22,000 t.

U.S. sulfur consumption, calculated as shipments minus exports plus imports, was 853 t in January 2008. This was virtually the same as that of December 2007 and 5.5% lower than that of January 2007.

Significant adjustments have been made to the sulfur import data. Reports from the U.S. Census Bureau appear to underreport sulfur imports, especially material from Canada. The revised figures are based on Census information and data from personal communications with industry experts.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT SULFUR STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production			Shipments, all sources	Ending stocks <sup>3</sup>
	Petroleum <sup>2</sup>	Natural gas	Total		
2006:	6,947	1,426	8,373	8,278	XX
2007:					
January	603	119	721	749	185
February	501	110	612	582	211
March	591	97	688	705	207
April	558	98	656	674	164
May	570	101	671	667	163
June	554	115	668	672	160
July	597	106	703	681	183
August	612	107	719	744	171
September	581	104	685	681	190
October	602	106	708	11	167
November	602	105	707	710	168
December	629 <sup>r</sup>	114 <sup>r</sup>	744 <sup>r</sup>	727 <sup>r</sup>	187
Total	7,001 <sup>r</sup>	1,281	8,282 <sup>r</sup>	8,315 <sup>r</sup>	XX
2008, January <sup>p</sup>	610	86	696	697	190

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. XX Not applicable.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes a small quantity from coking operations.

<sup>3</sup>Subject to inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SULFUR<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Canada		Mexico		Venezuela		Total, all countries <sup>2</sup>	
	Quantity <sup>e</sup>	Value <sup>3</sup>	Quantity	Value <sup>3</sup>	Quantity <sup>e</sup>	Value <sup>3</sup>	Quantity <sup>e</sup>	Value <sup>3</sup>
2006:								
January-December	2,095	33,064	476	20,148	359	15,081	2,949	70,424
2007:								
January	170	2,480	44	1,302	23	695	236	4,600
February	145	1,668	30	1,091	20	503	195	3,286
March	170	2,013	29	661	17	376	216	3,123
April	165	2,256	41	891	60	1,320	266	4,625
May	170	2,173	58	1,457	50	1,361	278 <sup>r</sup>	5,030
June	165	1,740	43	1,385	22	714	245 <sup>r</sup>	5,418
July	190	1,899	29	1,032	37	1,297	257	4,301
August	190	4,480	29	1,003	32	1,422	251 <sup>r</sup>	7,020
September	185	4,939	29	1,523	33	1,725	247	8,387
October	180	6,846	33	2,037	25	1,563	238	10,577
November	175	5,106	44	2,549	34	2,248	253	10,189
December	180	7,606	15	1,137	53	3,930	248	12,805
Total	2,085	43,206	424	16,068	406	17,154	2,931	79,361
2008, January	180	11,608	43	3,069	63	4,481	286	19,339

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>May include other countries not listed.

<sup>3</sup>Declared customs valuation.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau data as adjusted by U.S. Geological Survey and PentaSul North America Sulphur Service.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SULFURIC ACID<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Canada			Mexico			Total, all countries <sup>2</sup>		
	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value <sup>3</sup>	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value <sup>3</sup>	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value <sup>3</sup>
2006:									
January-December	1,979	647	79,162	198 <sup>r</sup>	65 <sup>r</sup>	4,812 <sup>r</sup>	2,427	793 <sup>r</sup>	90,095 <sup>r</sup>
2007:									
January	216	71	8,929	22	7	510	238	78	9,512 <sup>r</sup>
February	160	52	6,598	23	8	548	182	60	7,199 <sup>r</sup>
March	208	68	8,324	33	11	874	240	79	9,202
April	203	66	8,583	25	8	678	228	74	9,311 <sup>r</sup>
May	193	45	8,737	30	10	1,087	223	55	9,953 <sup>r</sup>
June	208	68	9,052	7	2	204	216	71	9,359
July	190	62	9,264	33	11	879	240	78	11,540
August	194	14	8,345	22	7	581	237	77	9,361
September	176	58	8,306	10	3	293	187	61	8,628
October	190	62	8,297	11	4	295	201	66	8,710
November	183	60	7,808	12	4	318	208	68	9,378
December	192	62	9,061	11	4	493	202	66	9,609
Total	2,313	688	101,304	239	79	6,760	2,602	833	111,762
2008, January	193	63	11,493	12	4	711	205	67	12,323

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>May include other countries not listed.

<sup>3</sup>Declared customs valuation.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SULFUR AND SULFURIC ACID<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Sulfur		Sulfuric acid		
	Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value <sup>2</sup>
2006:					
January-December	635	43,785	248 <sup>r</sup>	80	21,825
2007:					
January	82 <sup>r</sup>	5,514	42	5	2,962
February	37	3,422	17	4	1,606
March	80	4,745	28	3	2,976
April	83 <sup>r</sup>	4,570	33	8	3,286
May	71 <sup>r</sup>	5,731	26	8	3,341
June	13	1,720	21	7	2,611
July	116 <sup>r</sup>	7,442	34	11	3,655
August	83 <sup>r</sup>	8,188	50	16	4,659
September	61	7,892	27	8	2,698
October	118	14,095	26	8	2,511
November	95	10,892	16	5	1,586
December	84	10,596	14	5	2,363
Total	922	84,807	334	88	34,254
2008, January	31	4,912	22	7	3,232

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Declared f.a.s. (free alongside ship) valuation.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
U.S. CONSUMPTION OF SULFUR<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Domestic sources <sup>2</sup>	Imports <sup>e</sup>	Consumption
2006:			
January-December	7,657	2,949	10,606
2007:			
January	667 <sup>r</sup>	236	903 <sup>r</sup>
February	545	195	740
March	625	216	841
April	591 <sup>r</sup>	266	857 <sup>r</sup>
May <sup>r</sup>	596	278	874
June	659	245 <sup>r</sup>	904 <sup>r</sup>
July	565 <sup>r</sup>	257	822 <sup>r</sup>
August <sup>r</sup>	661	251	912
September	620	247	867 <sup>r</sup>
October	605	238	843
November	615	253	868
December	643	215	858
Total	7,392	2,898	10,289
2008, January	666	187	853

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Calculated as shipments minus exports.

TABLE 6  
RECOVERED SULFUR PRODUCED AND SHIPPED IN THE UNITED STATES,  
BY PAD (PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION FOR DEFENSE) DISTRICT<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

District and source	January 2007		December 2007		January 2008 <sup>p</sup>	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:						
Petroleum and coke	23 <sup>r</sup>	23 <sup>r</sup>	23	23	39	33
Natural gas	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	24 <sup>r</sup>	24 <sup>r</sup>	24	24	40	34
PAD 2:						
Petroleum and coke	93 <sup>r</sup>	93 <sup>r</sup>	82 <sup>r</sup>	80	85	86
Natural gas	3 <sup>r</sup>	3 <sup>r</sup>	3	3	3	3
Total	96 <sup>r</sup>	96 <sup>r</sup>	85 <sup>r</sup>	83	88	90
PAD 3: <sup>2</sup>						
Petroleum and coke	381 <sup>r</sup>	405 <sup>r</sup>	419	403	378	383
Natural gas	41 <sup>r</sup>	43 <sup>r</sup>	47 <sup>r</sup>	48 <sup>r</sup>	43	44
Total	422	448 <sup>r</sup>	465 <sup>r</sup>	452 <sup>r</sup>	421	427
PAD 4 and 5: <sup>3</sup>						
Petroleum and coke	107 <sup>r</sup>	110	106 <sup>r</sup>	101 <sup>r</sup>	108	106
Natural gas	73 <sup>r</sup>	72 <sup>r</sup>	64	67	39	40
California	86 <sup>r</sup>	88	88 <sup>r</sup>	82 <sup>r</sup>	90	86
Total	180	181	170 <sup>r</sup>	168 <sup>r</sup>	147	146
Grand total	721	749 <sup>r</sup>	744 <sup>r</sup>	727 <sup>r</sup>	696	697

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes the U.S. Virgin Islands.

<sup>3</sup>Quantities produced and shipped in California included in petroleum and natural gas. California total shown for information purposes only.

TABLE 7  
COMPARATIVE SULFUR AND SULFURIC ACID STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Million metric tons per year [annualized basis] and dollars per metric ton for period shown)

	2008	2007	
	January	December	Total
Production	8.19 <sup>P</sup>	8.76 <sup>r</sup>	8.28 <sup>r</sup>
Shipments	8.23 <sup>P</sup>	8.56 <sup>r</sup>	8.31 <sup>r</sup>
Exports of sulfur	0.37	0.99	0.92 <sup>r</sup>
Imports of sulfur:			
Canada <sup>e</sup>	2.13	2.12	2.08
Mexico	0.51	0.18	0.42 <sup>r</sup>
Venezuela <sup>e</sup>	0.74	0.23	0.37
Total <sup>2,e</sup>	3.38	2.53	2.93 <sup>r</sup>
Exports of H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	0.26	0.16	0.33 <sup>r</sup>
Imports of H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> :			
Canada	2.28	2.26	2.31 <sup>r</sup>
Mexico	0.14	0.13	0.24
Total <sup>2</sup>	2.42	2.38	2.60
Consumption: <sup>3</sup>			
Domestic sources	7.86	7.57	7.39 <sup>r</sup>
Imports <sup>e</sup>	2.21	2.53	2.90 <sup>r, e</sup>
Total	10.07	10.10	10.30 <sup>r</sup>
Sulfur export values <sup>3</sup>	158	126	92 <sup>r</sup>
Sulfur import values: <sup>3</sup>			
Canada	64	42	21 <sup>r</sup>
Mexico	71	76	38 <sup>r</sup>
Venezuela	71	74	42
Average <sup>2</sup>	68	52	27
H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> export values <sup>3</sup>	147	169	103
H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> import values: <sup>3</sup>			
Canada	60	47	44
Mexico	59	45	28
Average <sup>2</sup>	60	48	43

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes other countries not listed.

<sup>3</sup>Average value per ton for most recent data available.