

HELIUM STATISTICS¹
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
[All values are in metric tons (t) helium content unless otherwise noted]
Last modification: November 19, 2008

Year	Production	Shipments	Imports	Exports	Stocks	Apparent consumption	Unit value (\$/t)	Unit value (98\$/t)	World production
1935	49.0					49			49.0
1936	22.4					22			22.4
1937	23.1					23			23.1
1938	29.2					29	2,830	32,700	29.2
1939	30.1					30	2,800	32,900	30.1
1940	45.3					56	2,360	27,500	45.3
1941	77.5	106				57	2,010	22,300	77.5
1942	159	173				173	2,140	21,400	159
1943	558	559				559	2,260	21,400	558
1944	608	592				609	2,390	22,100	608
1945	454	291			99	454	2,510	22,900	454
1946	279	211			139	278	2,640	22,000	279
1947	337	251			94	337	2,760	20,200	337
1948	303	244				303	2,760	18,700	303
1949	264	247				244	2,760	18,900	264
1950	390	390				388	2,870	19,400	390
1951	537	537				523	2,760	17,400	537
1952	693	693				695	2,760	17,000	693
1953	772	756				757	2,780	16,900	772
1954	914	910			418	911	2,990	18,100	914
1955	1,060	1,131			341	1,130	3,670	22,400	1,060
1956	1,170	1,280			222	1,280	3,670	22,000	1,170
1957	1,400	1,488			117	1,490	3,670	21,200	1,400
1958	1,600	1,688			83	1,690	3,670	20,700	1,600
1959	2,290	1,800			518	1,800	3,670	20,500	2,290
1960	3,080	2,278			1,310	2,280	3,670	20,200	3,080
1961	3,490	2,645			2,140	2,640	3,670	19,900	3,490
1962	3,420	2,874		43	2,510	3,020	7,440	40,000	3,420
1963	10,700	3,007		0	10,100	3,170	7,440	39,600	10,800
1964	19,300	3,199		0	26,000	3,420	7,440	39,200	19,400
1965	20,900	3,349		0	43,500	3,630	7,440	38,400	21,000
1966	22,100	3,876		0	61,000	4,540	7,440	37,400	22,100
1967	22,500	4,349		192	79,200	4,160	7,440	36,300	22,700
1968	22,300	4,157		312	97,400	3,840	7,440	34,900	22,500
1969	22,300	3,641		431	116,000	3,210	7,440	33,100	22,500
1970	22,100	3,103		503	135,000	2,600	7,440	31,200	22,200
1971	21,900	2,765		513	154,000	2,250	7,440	30,000	22,400
1972	19,600	3,007		537	171,000	2,470	7,440	29,000	20,200
1973	15,400	3,103		561	183,000	2,540	7,440	27,300	16,000
1974	4,240	3,351		618	184,000	2,730	7,440	24,600	4,900
1975	5,170	3,570		690	185,000	2,880	7,440	22,500	5,870
1976	6,690	3,880		834	187,000	3,040	7,440	21,300	7,120
1977	6,370	4,510		805	189,000	3,730	7,440	20,000	7,830
1978	6,550	4,740		911	191,000	3,890	7,440	18,600	8,400
1979	7,280	5,270		1,170	193,000	3,920	7,440	16,700	8,890
1980	6,540	5,630		1,430	194,000	4,140	7,440	14,700	7,560
1981	5,110	6,020		1,860	193,000	4,150	7,440	13,300	5,580
1982	1,110	5,970		1,810	188,000	4,160	7,440	12,600	1,830
1983	2,760	6,530		1,760	184,000	4,770	7,970	13,000	3,480
1984	5,630	7,850		1,880	182,000	5,970	7,970	12,500	8,570
1985	4,780	9,030	0	2,100	178,000	6,920	7,970	12,100	9,750
1986	4,770	9,310	0	2,070	173,000	7,230	7,970	11,900	10,000

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1987	9,240	10,500	0	2,370	172,000	8,130	7,970	11,400	11,600
1988	10,700	12,100	0	3,110	171,000	8,970	7,970	11,000	13,300
1989	11,200	13,500	0	3,740	165,000	9,780	7,970	10,500	14,800
1990	17,800	14,400	0	4,180	162,000	10,200	7,970	9,950	15,600
1991	14,600	14,900	0	4,590	161,000	10,300	7,990	9,560	15,900
1992	15,600	16,000	0	5,200	161,000	10,800	11,700	13,600	16,900
1993	16,800	16,200	0	4,740	162,000	11,400	11,700	13,200	16,900
1994	19,000	16,900	0	4,230	164,000	12,800	11,700	12,900	17,900
1995	17,100	16,300	0	4,690	164,000	11,600	11,700	12,500	18,800
1996	17,400	16,000	0	3,860	166,000	12,200	11,700	12,200	18,800
1997	19,600	18,100	24	4,990	167,000	13,100	11,700	11,900	23,400
1998	19,300	19,000	40	4,710	163,000	14,300	11,700	11,700	22,700
1999	19,300	19,800	0	4,540	166,000	15,200	11,700	11,400	22,900
2000	16,600	21,500	0	6,260	161,000	15,200	10,500	9,940	19,800
2001	14,700	22,300	0	7,280	153,000	15,100	10,650	9,840	17,900
2002	14,800	21,500	0	6,690	147,000	14,800	11,000	9,960	18,500
2003	14,700	20,700	0	7,000	141,000	13,700	11,200	9,920	24,400
2004	14,600	22,000	0	7,600	133,000	14,000	11,500	9,920	26,100
2005	12,900	22,500	0	8,700	124,000	13,800	11,500	9,600	27,100
2006	13,400	23,200	0	10,500	114,000	12,700	12,000	9,700	28,100
2007	13,000	22,200	0	11,200	103,000	10,900	12,500	9,830	28,900

¹Compiled by T.D. Kelly (retired), D.I. Bleiwas, and N. Pacheco (U.S. Bureau of Land Management).
 Data are calculated, estimated, or reported. See notes for more information.

Helium Worksheet Notes

Data Sources

Sources of data for the helium worksheet are the mineral statistics publications of the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the U.S. Geological Survey—Minerals Yearbook (MYB) and its predecessor, Mineral Resources of the United States (MR). The years of publication and corresponding years of data coverage are listed in the References section below. Blank cells in the worksheet indicate that data were not available. Helium volume measured at 70° F and 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute (psia) was converted to weight with the conversion: 169.29 metric tons (t) = 1 million cubic meters.

Production

Production data for the years 1935 to the most recent were recorded from the MYB. Production data for the years 1935 to the most recent represent the total helium content in Grade-A and crude helium that was recovered as a constituent of natural gas.

Shipments

Shipment data for the years 1941 to the most recent were recorded from the MYB. Shipment data for the years 1941 to the most recent represent the total quantity of Grade-A helium that was produced in the United States and sold to domestic recipients. Data were not available for the years 1935–40.

Imports

Import data for the years 1985 to the most recent were recorded from the MYB. Import data for the years 1985 to the most recent represent the quantity of helium that was imported annually into the United States. Data were not available for the years 1935–84.

Exports

Export data for the years 1962 to the most recent were recorded from the MYB. Export data for the years 1962 to the most recent represent the quantity of Grade-A helium that was exported from the United States. Data were not available for the years 1935–61.

Stocks

Stock data for the years 1945 to the most recent were recorded from the MYB. Stock data for the years 1945 to the most recent represent the total quantity of helium that is stored annually in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) helium conservation storage system. Data were not available for the years 1935–44 and 1948–53.

Apparent Consumption

Apparent consumption data for the years 1940–41, 1944, 1946, and 1949 to the most recent were recorded from the MYB. Apparent consumption data for the years 1940–41, 1944, 1946, and 1949 to the most recent represent the total quantity of helium that was consumed annually within the United States. Apparent consumption data for the years 1935–39, 1942–43, 1945, and 1947–48 were not available. Subsequently, because import and export data were not available for the years 1935–39, 1942–43, 1945, and 1947–48, apparent consumption was estimated to be equal to production.

Unit Value (\$/t)

Unit value data for the years 1938 to the most recent were recorded from the MYB. Unit value data for the years 1938–99 represent the average value per metric ton of Grade-A helium as produced and sold in the United States. Grade-A helium price data is not available for the years 2000 to the most recent. Unit value data for the years 2000 to the most recent represent the average fiscal year price per metric ton of crude helium sold by the U.S. Government. Crude helium contains approximately 80 percent helium and has less value than Grade-A helium. Unit value data for the years 1942–46 were not available. Subsequently, unit value data for the years 1942–46 were interpolated. Data were not available for the years 1935–37.

Unit Value (98\$/t)

The Consumer Price Index conversion factor, with 1998 as the base year, is used to adjust unit value in current U.S. dollars to the unit value in constant 1998 U.S. dollars.

World Production

World production data for the years 1935–71 were recorded from the MYB. World production data for the years 1972 to the most recent were recorded from the MCS. World production data for the years 1935 to the most recent represent the summed quantity of total U.S. helium production and the total estimated production capacity of all other helium-producing countries. For the years 1935–62, world production is equal to U.S. production.

References

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U.S. Geological Survey, 1997–2008, Mineral Commodity Summaries, 1997–2008.

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Recommended Citation Format:

U.S. Geological Survey, [year of last update, e.g., 2005], [Mineral commodity, e.g., Gold] statistics, in Kelly, T.D., and Matos, G.R., comps., Historical statistics for mineral and material commodities in the United States: U.S. Geological Survey Data Series 140, available online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/ds/2005/140/>. (Accessed [date].)

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