

**HELIUM STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>**  
**U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

[All values are in metric tons (t) helium content unless otherwise noted]

Last modification: December 13, 2012

Year	Production	Shipments	Imports	Exports	Stocks	Apparent consumption	Unit value (\$/t)	Unit value (98\$/t)	World production
1935	49	NA	NA	NA	NA	49	NA	NA	49
1936	22	NA	NA	NA	NA	22	NA	NA	22
1937	23	NA	NA	NA	NA	23	NA	NA	23
1938	29	NA	NA	NA	NA	29	2,830	32,700	29
1939	30	NA	NA	NA	NA	30	2,800	32,900	30
1940	45	NA	NA	NA	NA	56	2,360	27,500	45
1941	78	106	NA	NA	NA	57	2,010	22,300	78
1942	159	173	NA	NA	NA	173	2,140	21,400	159
1943	558	559	NA	NA	NA	559	2,260	21,400	558
1944	608	592	NA	NA	NA	609	2,390	22,100	608
1945	454	291	NA	NA	99	454	2,510	22,900	454
1946	279	211	NA	NA	139	278	2,640	22,000	279
1947	337	251	NA	NA	94	337	2,760	20,200	337
1948	303	244	NA	NA	NA	303	2,760	18,700	303
1949	264	247	NA	NA	NA	244	2,760	18,900	264
1950	390	390	NA	NA	NA	388	2,870	19,400	390
1951	537	537	NA	NA	NA	523	2,760	17,400	537
1952	693	693	NA	NA	NA	695	2,760	17,000	693
1953	772	756	NA	NA	NA	757	2,780	16,900	772
1954	914	910	NA	NA	418	911	2,990	18,100	914
1955	1,060	1,130	NA	NA	341	1,130	3,670	22,400	1,060
1956	1,170	1,280	NA	NA	222	1,280	3,670	22,000	1,170
1957	1,400	1,488	NA	NA	117	1,490	3,670	21,200	1,400
1958	1,600	1,688	NA	NA	83	1,690	3,670	20,700	1,600
1959	2,290	1,800	NA	NA	518	1,800	3,670	20,500	2,290
1960	3,080	2,280	NA	NA	1,310	2,280	3,670	20,200	3,080
1961	3,490	2,650	NA	NA	2,140	2,640	3,670	19,900	3,490
1962	3,420	2,870	NA	43	2,510	3,020	7,440	40,000	3,420
1963	10,700	3,010	NA	0	10,100	3,170	7,440	39,600	10,800
1964	19,300	3,200	NA	0	26,000	3,420	7,440	39,200	19,400
1965	20,900	3,350	NA	0	43,500	3,630	7,440	38,400	21,000
1966	22,100	3,880	NA	0	61,000	4,540	7,440	37,400	22,100
1967	22,500	4,350	NA	192	79,200	4,160	7,440	36,300	22,700
1968	22,300	4,160	NA	312	97,400	3,840	7,440	34,900	22,500
1969	22,300	3,640	NA	431	116,000	3,210	7,440	33,100	22,500
1970	22,100	3,100	NA	503	135,000	2,600	7,440	31,200	22,200
1971	21,900	2,770	NA	513	154,000	2,250	7,440	30,000	22,400
1972	19,600	3,010	NA	537	171,000	2,470	7,440	29,000	20,200
1973	15,400	3,100	NA	561	183,000	2,540	7,440	27,300	16,000
1974	4,240	3,350	NA	618	184,000	2,730	7,440	24,600	4,900
1975	5,170	3,570	NA	690	185,000	2,880	7,440	22,500	5,870
1976	6,690	3,880	NA	834	187,000	3,040	7,440	21,300	7,120
1977	6,370	4,510	NA	805	189,000	3,730	7,440	20,000	7,830
1978	6,550	4,740	NA	911	191,000	3,890	7,440	18,600	8,400
1979	7,280	5,270	NA	1,170	193,000	3,920	7,440	16,700	8,890
1980	6,540	5,630	NA	1,430	194,000	4,140	7,440	14,700	7,560
1981	5,110	6,020	NA	1,860	193,000	4,150	7,440	13,300	5,580
1982	1,110	5,970	NA	1,810	188,000	4,160	7,440	12,600	1,830
1983	2,760	6,530	NA	1,760	184,000	4,770	7,970	13,000	3,480
1984	5,630	7,850	NA	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

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Year	Production	Shipments	Imports	Exports	Stocks	Apparent consumption	Unit value (\$/t)	Unit value (98\$/t)	World production
1986	4,770	9,310	0	2,070	173,000	7,230	7,970	11,900	10,000
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	23,400	0	10,900	103,000	12,400	12,500	9,830	28,900
2008	13,500	22,000	0	11,800	94,900	10,200	12,900	9,770	29,500
2009	13,200	20,000	0	12,000	87,900	7,960	13,300	10,100	24,900
2010	12,700	21,700	0	13,000	78,700	8,630	13,800	10,300	28,400
2011	12,000	22,000	0	13,900	68,300	8,130	15,900	11,500	29,100

NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Compiled by T.D. Kelly (retired), D.I. Bleiwas, and N. Pacheco [U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)] (retired), and P.J. Madrid (BLM).

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

### Shipments

Shipment data for 1941 to the most recent year were from the MYB. Shipment data for 1941 to the most recent year 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 1935–40.

### Imports

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

### Exports

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

### Stocks

Stock data for 1945 to the most recent year were from the MYB. Stock data for 1945 to the most recent year 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 1935–44 and 1948–53.

### Apparent Consumption

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

### Unit Value (\$/t)

Unit value data for 1938 to the most recent year were from the MYB. Unit value data for 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 2000 to the most recent year. Unit value data for 2000 to the most recent year 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 1942–46 were not available. Subsequently, unit value data for 1942–46 were interpolated. Data were not available for 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 1935–71 were from the MYB. World production data for 1972 to the most recent year were from the MCS. World production data for 1935 to the most recent year represent the summed quantity of total U.S. helium production and the total estimated production capacity of all other helium-producing countries. For 1935–62, world production is equal to U.S. production.

### References

- U.S. Bureau of Mines, 1927–34, Mineral Resources of the United States, 1924–31.
- U.S. Bureau of Mines, 1933–96, Minerals Yearbook, 1932–94.
- U.S. Bureau of Mines, 1972–95, Mineral Commodity Summaries, 1972–95.
- U.S. Geological Survey, 1901–27, Mineral Resources of the United States, 1900–23.
- U.S. Geological Survey, 1995–present, Minerals Yearbook, v. I. (Available via <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>.)
- U.S. Geological Survey, 1997–most recent, Mineral Commodity Summaries 1997–most recent. (Available via <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>.)

U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of Mines, 1996, Mineral Commodity Summaries, 1996.

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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, accessed [date], at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/ds/2005/140/>.

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