

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN OCTOBER 2016

U.S. natural soda ash production in October was 995,000 metric tons (t), 4% more than the previous month's production and 7% more than that of October 2015 (table 1).

Ending inventories for October 2016 were 405,000 t, 18% more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in October 2016 was 1.56 million metric tons, unchanged from that of September 2016 and 22% more than that of October 2015.

Exports of soda ash in September 2016 were 453,000 t, about 6% less than those of September 2015. Imports of soda ash in September 2016 were 2,580 t, slightly less than those of September 2015.

Production of natural soda ash in September 2016 was 5% higher and apparent consumption increased by 9% as compared

with that of September 2015. Exports from January 2016 through September 2016 increased about 3%, and production slightly increased from the same period of 2015. Soda ash import tonnages can differ widely from month to month, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages.

All percentages in this report were calculated using unrounded data.

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TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2015:			
January–October	9,640 ^r	295	14,700 ^r
October	927	295	1,280
November	973	348	1,510
December	952	285	1,450
January–December	11,600	285	17,600
2016:			
January	956	326	1,570
February	909	310	1,460
March	1,010	315	1,240
April	955	301	1,450
May	987	280	1,420
June	989	306	1,380
July	1,060	357	1,470
August	984	314	1,460
September	961	342	1,560
October	995	405	1,560
January–October	9,810	405	14,600

^rRevised.

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

²Production data include soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2016^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Quantity	September	Unit value	January–September		
										Value ³ (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	13,100	62	24,000	16,200	22,000	6,660	2,150	--	18,700	\$3,900	\$209	103,000	2	\$21,800
Australia	--	31,900	--	35,200	35,000	--	--	61,000	--	--	--	163,000	3	30,000
Brazil	92,200	71,700	52,500	112,000	99,900	96,200	76,400	74,900	85,400	16,900	198	761,000	15	152,000
Canada	17,300	21,900	19,200	21,300	16,300	17,900	15,600	17,600	19,200	3,770	197	166,000	3	31,800
Chile	9,180	36,200	37,200	25,600	36,200	--	43,200	35,500	38,400	8,280	215	261,000	5	56,100
China	41	41	35,000	82	34,200	41	--	45	41	10	234	69,500	1	9,980
Colombia	5,000	16,900	--	6,160	18,000	13,700	15,500	19,200	2,030	347	171	96,500	2	19,100
El Salvador	--	6,000	--	--	6,150	--	--	3,000	--	--	--	15,100	(4)	3,130
France	5,940	--	9,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14,900	(4)	2,440
Guatemala	--	6,320	--	5,000	--	6,400	--	--	7,000	1,510	216	24,700	(4)	5,290
Indonesia	52,700	61,500	31,700	59,400	61,100	55,400	61,500	97,700	15,000	2,710	181	496,000	10	93,200
Japan	30,500	14,100	39,000	19,100	31,500	27,500	--	17,000	31,500	5,550	176	210,000	4	37,600
Korea, Republic of	24,600	21,600	6,000	29,100	21,500	24,100	13,000	30,100	25	25	980	170,000	3	30,300
Malaysia	16,100	11,000	--	--	9,500	12,000	10,500	10,000	14,000	2,530	181	83,100	2	16,200
Mexico	96,800	91,900	74,400	102,000	107,000	121,000	94,400	116,000	77,000	17,400	226	880,000	18	192,000
Netherlands	16,100	--	19,200	80	20,500	30	20,600	20,500	--	--	--	97,000	2	15,500
New Zealand	--	7,000	--	--	--	24	--	7,000	--	--	--	14,000	(4)	2,700
Philippines	6,700	12,000	--	11,000	--	--	11,000	--	10,600	1,910	181	51,300	1	9,710
Saudi Arabia	1,210	17,500	18,500	--	15,500	15,000	22,500	23,000	16,000	2,700	168	129,000	3	22,100
South Africa	12,500	7,480	--	--	7,520	14,900	7,500	9,930	--	--	--	59,900	1	10,100
Taiwan	6,950	26,400	--	19,400	10,000	26,000	18,500	22,500	5,000	904	181	135,000	3	23,400
Thailand	29,000	23,300	37,100	12,000	22,000	18,600	39,200	26,300	27,000	5,170	192	234,000	5	43,400
United Arab Emirates	15	6,500	12,000	--	6,500	16,000	15,500	5,000	9,000	1,520	168	70,500	1	11,900
United Kingdom	20,100	20,000	24,000	19,900	26,900	20,000	4,970	26,300	--	--	--	162,000	3	31,000
Venezuela	--	8,890	--	11,300	15,400	--	18,400	4,010	9,370	2,340	249	67,300	1	16,000
Vietnam	26,500	14,400	11,000	32,000	23,800	--	10,800	21,000	13,500	2,690	199	153,000	3	29,700
Other	792	12,700	87,000	476	51,900	36,700	30,100	21,400	53,800	8,680	161	295,000	6	51,500
Total	483,000	547,000	537,000	537,000	699,000	528,000	531,000	668,000	453,000	88,900	196	4,980,000	100	968,000

-- Zero.

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

²October 2016 data were not available at time of publication.

³Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2016^{1, 2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Quantity	September		January–September		
										Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
China	7	144	3	21	86	130	21	98	33	\$18	\$539	544	2	\$173
France	153	--	--	--	--	1	--	166	283	48	170	603	2	146
Germany	632	2,080	2,330	1,630	3,030	1,290	2,110	2,940	1,130	170	150	17,200	53	2,540
Italy	--	571	1,370	1,310	190	950	1,330	209	190	43	229	6,120	19	1,380
Japan	2	1	--	226	120	3	120	120	--	--	--	593	2	95
Taiwan	117	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	117	(4)	17
Turkey	8	95	245	--	8	8	8	65	--	--	--	435	1	126
United Kingdom	513	752	705	518	602	270	270	253	396	85	213	4,280	13	779
Other	6	22	60	39	235	441	561	598	543	163	300	2,500	8	673
Total	1,440	3,670	4,710	3,740	4,270	3,090	4,420	4,450	2,580	527	204	32,400	100	5,940

--Zero.

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

²October 2016 data were not available at time of publication.

³Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Exports	Imports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2015:						
January–December	11,600,000	6,400,000	39,900	14,600	--	5,200,000
January–September	8,720,000 [†]	4,860,000 [†]	32,500 [†]	7,010 [†]	--	3,880,000 [†]
September	915,000	481,000	2,610	--	6,790	443,000
October	927,000	458,000	3,350	17,600	--	455,000
November	973,000	507,000	1,800	52,600	--	415,000
December	952,000	571,000	2,280	--	62,700	446,000
2016:						
January–September	8,810,000	4,980,000	32,400	57,300	--	3,800,000
January	956,000	483,000	1,440	40,400	--	434,000
February	909,000	547,000	3,670	--	15,600	381,000
March	1,010,000	537,000	4,710	4,920	--	472,000
April	955,000	537,000	3,740	--	13,900	436,000
May	987,000	699,000	4,270	--	21,100	314,000
June	989,000	528,000	3,090	25,800	--	439,000
July	1,060,000	531,000	4,420	51,300	--	484,000
August	984,000	668,000	4,450	--	42,700	363,000
September	961,000	453,000	2,580	28,100	--	482,000
October	995,000	NA	NA	62,200	--	NA

[†]Revised. NA Not available. -- Zero.

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

²Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.