



Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN AUGUST 2016

U.S. natural soda ash production in August was 984,000 metric tons (t), 7% less than the previous month's production and slightly more than that of August 2015 (table 1).

Ending inventories for August 2016 were 314,000 t, 12% less than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in August 2016 was 1.46 million metric tons, slightly less than that of July 2016 and August 2015.

Exports of soda ash in July 2016 were 531,000 t, about 16% less than those of July 2015. Imports of soda ash in July 2016 were 4,420 t, slightly lower than those of July 2015.

Production of natural soda ash in July 2016 was 6% higher and apparent consumption increased by 33% as compared with that of July 2015. Apparent consumption, exports, and

production from January 2016 through July 2016 were essentially unchanged 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: ^p			
January–August	7,800	284	11,900 ^r
August	971	284	1,480
September	915	278	1,460
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 ^r	1,570
February	909	310 ^r	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
January–August	7,850	314	11,400

^pPreliminary. ^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			January–July		
							Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	13,100	62	24,000	16,200	22,000	6,660	2,150	\$451	\$210	84,100	2	\$17,900
Australia	--	31,900	--	35,200	35,000	--	--	--	--	102,000	3	18,000
Brazil	92,200	71,700	52,500	112,000	99,900	96,200	76,400	15,000	197	601,000	16	120,000
Canada	17,300	21,900	19,200	21,300	16,300	17,900	15,600	2,920	188	129,000	3	24,600
Chile	9,180	36,200	37,200	25,600	36,200	--	43,200	9,350	216	188,000	5	40,300
China	41	41	35,000	82	34,200	41	--	--	--	69,400	2	9,970
Colombia	5,000	16,900	--	6,160	18,000	13,700	15,500	3,020	195	75,300	2	14,900
El Salvador	--	6,000	--	--	6,150	--	--	--	--	12,100	(4)	2,510
France	5,940	--	9,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	14,900	(4)	2,440
Guatemala	--	6,320	--	5,000	--	6,400	--	--	--	17,700	(4)	3,780
Indonesia	52,700	61,500	31,700	59,400	61,100	55,400	61,500	11,400	185	383,000	10	72,400
Japan	30,500	14,100	39,000	19,100	31,500	27,500	--	--	--	162,000	4	29,000
Korea, Republic of	24,600	21,600	6,000	29,100	21,500	24,100	13,000	2,330	178	140,000	4	25,000
Malaysia	16,100	11,000	--	--	9,500	12,000	10,500	2,080	198	59,100	2	11,700
Mexico	96,800	91,900	74,400	102,000	107,000	121,000	94,400	20,100	213	687,000	18	151,000
Netherlands	16,100	--	19,200	80	20,500	30	20,600	3,300	161	76,500	2	12,200
New Zealand	--	7,000	--	--	--	24	--	--	--	7,020	(4)	1,350
Philippines	6,700	12,000	--	11,000	--	--	11,000	2,090	190	40,700	1	7,800
Saudi Arabia	1,210	17,500	18,500	--	15,500	15,000	22,500	3,790	169	90,200	2	15,200
South Africa	12,500	7,480	--	--	7,520	14,900	7,500	1,270	169	49,900	1	8,440
Taiwan	6,950	26,400	--	19,400	10,000	26,000	18,500	3,240	175	107,000	3	18,700
Thailand	29,000	23,300	37,100	12,000	22,000	18,600	39,200	6,890	176	181,000	5	33,500
United Arab Emirates	15	6,500	12,000	--	6,500	16,000	15,500	2,590	167	56,500	1	9,420
United Kingdom	20,100	20,000	24,000	19,900	26,900	20,000	4,970	990	199	136,000	4	25,700
Venezuela	--	8,890	--	11,300	15,400	--	18,400	4,250	231	53,900	1	12,700
Vietnam	26,500	14,400	11,000	32,000	23,800	--	10,800	2,120	197	118,000	3	22,900
Other	792	12,700	87,000	476	51,900	36,700	30,100	4,780	159	220,000	6	38,600
Total	483,000	547,000	537,000	537,000	699,000	528,000	531,000	102,000	192	3,860,000	100	750,000

-- Zero.

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

²August 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			January–July		
							Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
China	7	144	3	21	86	130	21	\$8	\$375	413	2	\$131
France	153	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	154	1	74
Germany	632	2,080	2,330	1,630	3,030	1,290	2,110	321	152	13,100	52	1,960
Italy	--	571	1,370	1,310	190	950	1,330	309	233	5,720	23	1,290
Japan	2	1	--	226	120	3	120	15	124	473	2	77
Taiwan	117	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	117	(4)	17
Turkey	8	95	245	--	8	8	8	6	773	370	1	98
United Kingdom	513	752	705	518	602	270	270	60	220	3,630	14	645
Other	6	22	60	39	235	441	561	127	227	1,360	5	366
Total	1,440	3,670	4,710	3,740	4,270	3,090	4,420	845	191	25,300	100	4,660

-- Zero.

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

²August 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 ^r	39,900	14,600	--	5,200,000
January–July	6,830,000	3,860,000	26,200 ^r	36,200	--	2,960,000
July	1,010,000	630,000 ^r	4,500 ^r	15,200	--	365,000 ^r
August	971,000	514,000	3,610 ^r	--	22,400	483,000
September	915,000	481,000	2,610 ^r	--	6,790	443,000
October	927,000	458,000	3,350 ^r	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–July	6,870,000	3,860,000	25,300	71,800	--	2,960,000
January	956,000	483,000	1,440	40,400 ^r	--	434,000
February	909,000	547,000	3,670	--	15,600	381,000
March	1,010,000	537,000	4,710	4,920 ^r	--	472,000
April	955,000	537,000	3,740	--	13,900 ^r	436,000
May	987,000	699,000	4,270	--	21,100	314,000
June	989,000	528,000	3,090	25,800 ^r	--	439,000
July	1,060,000	531,000	4,420	51,300	--	484,000
August	984,000	NA	NA	--	42,700	NA

^rRevised. 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.