

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN DECEMBER 2016

U.S. natural soda ash production in December was 1 million metric tons (Mt), slightly more than the previous month's production and 6% more than that of December 2015. For 2016, soda ash production was 11.8 Mt, increasing slightly from the 11.6 Mt produced in 2015 (table 1).

Ending inventories for December 2016 were 336,000 metric tons (t), 8% less than the preceding month's inventories. For 2016, year-end inventories were 336,000 t, increasing by 18% from the 285,000 t of year-end inventories in 2015.

Wyoming trona production in December 2016 was 1.62 Mt, 5% more than that of November 2016 and 12% more than that of December 2015. For 2016, trona production was 17.7 Mt, a slight increase from the 17.6 Mt produced in 2015.

Exports of soda ash in November 2016 were 547,000 t, slightly less than those of October 2016. Imports of soda ash in

November 2016 were 876 t, 22% less than those of October 2016.

Production of natural soda ash in November 2016 was slightly higher and apparent consumption increased by 17% as compared with those of November 2015.

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:			
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
November	990	365	1,550
December	1,010	336	1,620
January–December	11,800	336	17,700

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	September	October	November			January–November		
											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	--	18,700	17,500	--	--	--	120,000	2	\$25,500
Australia	--	31,900	--	35,200	35,000	--	--	61,000	--	35,000	--	--	--	198,000	3	37,000
Brazil	92,200	71,700	52,500	112,000	99,900	96,200	76,400	74,900	85,400	88,100	84,600	\$17,000	\$201	933,000	15	187,000
Canada	17,300	21,900	19,200	21,300	16,300	17,900	15,600	17,600	19,200	16,800	18,200	3,510	193	201,000	3	38,600
Chile	9,180	36,200	37,200	25,600	36,200	--	43,200	35,500	38,400	22,500	14,900	3,190	214	299,000	5	64,200
China	41	41	35,000	82	34,200	41	--	45	41	30,600	44	5	110	100,000	2	15,200
Colombia	5,000	16,900	--	6,160	18,000	13,700	15,500	19,200	2,030	11,000	18,200	3,710	204	126,000	2	24,400
El Salvador	--	6,000	--	--	6,150	--	--	3,000	--	--	3,000	616	205	18,100	(4)	3,740
France	5,940	--	9,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14,900	(4)	2,440
Guatemala	--	6,320	--	5,000	--	6,400	--	--	7,000	--	6,000	1,290	216	30,700	(4)	6,580
Indonesia	52,700	61,500	31,700	59,400	61,100	55,400	61,500	97,700	15,000	27,800	56,900	10,500	185	581,000	10	109,000
Japan	30,500	14,100	39,000	19,100	31,500	27,500	--	17,000	31,500	30,500	9,520	1,810	190	250,000	4	44,600
Korea, Republic of	24,600	21,600	6,000	29,100	21,500	24,100	13,000	30,100	25	21,900	28,500	4,880	171	220,000	4	38,900
Malaysia	16,100	11,000	--	--	9,500	12,000	10,500	10,000	14,000	10,000	12,500	2,440	195	106,000	2	20,600
Mexico	96,800	91,900	74,400	102,000	107,000	121,000	94,400	116,000	77,000	88,100	109,000	24,000	220	1,080,000	18	236,000
Netherlands	16,100	--	19,200	80	20,500	30	20,600	20,500	--	10,000	10,100	1,800	178	117,000	2	18,700
New Zealand	--	7,000	--	--	--	24	--	7,000	--	--	--	--	--	14,000	(4)	2,700
Philippines	6,700	12,000	--	11,000	--	--	11,000	--	10,600	--	7,700	1,460	189	59,000	1	11,200
Saudi Arabia	1,210	17,500	18,500	--	15,500	15,000	22,500	23,000	16,000	20,500	--	--	--	150,000	2	25,500
South Africa	12,500	7,480	--	--	7,520	14,900	7,500	9,930	--	19,500	10,100	1,700	169	89,400	1	15,100
Taiwan	6,950	26,400	--	19,400	10,000	26,000	18,500	22,500	5,000	17,000	25,400	4,310	170	177,000	3	30,700
Thailand	29,000	23,300	37,100	12,000	22,000	18,600	39,200	26,300	27,000	13,800	30,000	5,680	189	278,000	5	52,000
United Arab Emirates	15	6,500	12,000	--	6,500	16,000	15,500	5,000	9,000	11,000	--	--	--	81,500	1	13,800
United Kingdom	20,100	20,000	24,000	19,900	26,900	20,000	4,970	26,300	--	35,900	21,800	4,340	199	220,000	4	42,600
Venezuela	--	8,890	--	11,300	15,400	--	18,400	4,010	9,370	--	571	63	110	67,900	1	16,000
Vietnam	26,500	14,400	11,000	32,000	23,800	--	10,800	21,000	13,500	--	66,500	13,000	195	219,000	4	42,700
Other	792	12,700	87,000	476	51,900	36,700	30,100	21,400	53,800	33,000	13,800	2,030	147	342,000	6	59,500
Total	483,000	547,000	537,000	537,000	699,000	528,000	531,000	668,000	453,000	560,000	547,000	107,000	196	6,090,000	100	1,180,000

-- Zero.

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

²December 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	September	October	November			January–November		
											Quantity	Value ³	Unit	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
												(thousand dollars)				
China	7	144	3	21	86	130	21	98	33	--	1	\$5	\$10,500	545	2	\$179
France	153	--	--	--	--	1	--	166	283	--	--	--	--	603	2	146
Germany	632	2,080	2,330	1,630	3,030	1,290	2,110	2,940	1,130	171	181	41	228	17,500	51	2,610
Italy	--	571	1,370	1,310	190	950	1,330	209	190	568	--	--	--	6,680	19	1,510
Japan	2	1	--	226	120	3	120	120	--	--	362	51	142	955	3	147
Taiwan	117	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	117	(4)	17
Turkey	8	95	245	--	8	8	8	65	--	8	8	6	827	450	1	138
United Kingdom	513	752	705	518	602	270	270	253	396	144	218	32	145	4,640	14	845
Other	6	22	60	39	235	441	561	598	543	233	108	44	410	2,840	8	812
Total	1,440	3,670	4,710	3,740	4,270	3,090	4,420	4,450	2,580	1,120	876	180	205	34,400	100	6,400

-- Zero.

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

²December 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–November	10,600,000	5,820,000	37,600	77,300	--	4,750,000
November	973,000	507,000	1,800	52,600	--	415,000
December	952,000	571,000	2,280	--	62,700	446,000
2016:						
January–November	10,800,000	6,090,000	34,400	79,700	--	4,660,000
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	560,000	1,120	62,200	--	373,000
November	990,000	547,000	876	--	39,800	484,000
December	1,010,000	NA	NA	--	28,800	NA

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.