

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN SEPTEMBER 2016

U.S. natural soda ash production in September was 961,000 metric tons (t), slightly less than the previous month's production and 5% more than that of September 2015 (table 1).

Ending inventories for September 2016 were 342,000 t, 9% more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in September 2016 was 1.56 million metric tons, 7% more than that of August 2016 and September 2015.

Exports of soda ash in August 2016 were 668,000 t, about 30% more than those of August 2015. Imports of soda ash in August 2016 were 4,450 t, 23% more than those of August 2015.

Production of natural soda ash in August 2016 was slightly higher and apparent consumption decreased by 25% as compared with that of August 2015. Exports from January 2016

through August 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 STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Stocks, end of period	
2015:			
January–September	8,720	278 <sup>r</sup>	13,400 <sup>r</sup>
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	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
January–September	8,810	342	13,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Production 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<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Quantity	August	Unit value	January–August		
									Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
Argentina	13,100	62	24,000	16,200	22,000	6,660	2,150	--	--	--	84,100	2	\$17,900
Australia	--	31,900	--	35,200	35,000	--	--	61,000	\$12,000	\$197	163,000	4	30,000
Brazil	92,200	71,700	52,500	112,000	99,900	96,200	76,400	74,900	15,000	201	675,000	15	135,000
Canada	17,300	21,900	19,200	21,300	16,300	17,900	15,600	17,600	3,410	194	147,000	3	28,000
Chile	9,180	36,200	37,200	25,600	36,200	--	43,200	35,500	7,570	213	223,000	5	47,800
China	41	41	35,000	82	34,200	41	--	45	10	212	69,500	2	9,980
Colombia	5,000	16,900	--	6,160	18,000	13,700	15,500	19,200	3,860	201	94,500	2	18,700
El Salvador	--	6,000	--	--	6,150	--	--	3,000	616	205	15,100	(4)	3,130
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	97,700	18,100	185	481,000	11	90,500
Japan	30,500	14,100	39,000	19,100	31,500	27,500	--	17,000	3,000	177	179,000	4	32,000
Korea, Republic of	24,600	21,600	6,000	29,100	21,500	24,100	13,000	30,100	5,250	175	170,000	4	30,300
Malaysia	16,100	11,000	--	--	9,500	12,000	10,500	10,000	1,950	195	69,100	2	13,700
Mexico	96,800	91,900	74,400	102,000	107,000	121,000	94,400	116,000	23,700	205	803,000	18	175,000
Netherlands	16,100	--	19,200	80	20,500	30	20,600	20,500	3,300	161	97,000	2	15,500
New Zealand	--	7,000	--	--	--	24	--	7,000	1,350	193	14,000	(4)	2,700
Philippines	6,700	12,000	--	11,000	--	--	11,000	--	--	--	40,700	1	7,800
Saudi Arabia	1,210	17,500	18,500	--	15,500	15,000	22,500	23,000	4,190	182	113,000	2	19,400
South Africa	12,500	7,480	--	--	7,520	14,900	7,500	9,930	1,680	169	59,900	1	10,100
Taiwan	6,950	26,400	--	19,400	10,000	26,000	18,500	22,500	3,870	172	130,000	3	22,500
Thailand	29,000	23,300	37,100	12,000	22,000	18,600	39,200	26,300	4,730	180	207,000	5	38,200
United Arab Emirates	15	6,500	12,000	--	6,500	16,000	15,500	5,000	919	184	61,500	1	10,300
United Kingdom	20,100	20,000	24,000	19,900	26,900	20,000	4,970	26,300	5,230	199	162,000	4	31,000
Venezuela	--	8,890	--	11,300	15,400	--	18,400	4,010	930	232	58,000	1	13,600
Vietnam	26,500	14,400	11,000	32,000	23,800	--	10,800	21,000	4,050	193	139,000	3	27,000
Other	792	12,700	87,000	476	51,900	36,700	30,100	21,400	4,240	198	241,000	5	42,800
Total	483,000	547,000	537,000	537,000	699,000	528,000	531,000	668,000	129,000	193	4,530,000	100	880,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>September 2016 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2016<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Quantity	August	Unit value	January–August		
									Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
China	7	144	3	21	86	130	21	98	\$25	\$251	511	2	\$155
France	153	--	--	--	--	1	--	166	24	143	320	1	98
Germany	632	2,080	2,330	1,630	3,030	1,290	2,110	2,940	417	142	16,000	54	2,370
Italy	--	571	1,370	1,310	190	950	1,330	209	48	228	5,930	20	1,340
Japan	2	1	--	226	120	3	120	120	18	150	593	2	95
Taiwan	117	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	117	(4)	17
Turkey	8	95	245	--	8	8	8	65	28	434	435	1	126
United Kingdom	513	752	705	518	602	270	270	253	50	196	3,880	13	694
Other	6	22	60	39	235	441	561	598	144	241	1,960	7	511
Total	1,440	3,670	4,710	3,740	4,270	3,090	4,420	4,450	752	169	29,800	100	5,410

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>September 2016 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Exports	Imports	Net stock		Apparent consumption <sup>2</sup>
				Increase	Decrease	
2015:						
January–December	11,600,000	6,400,000	39,900	14,600	--	5,200,000
January–August	7,800,000	4,380,000 <sup>†</sup>	29,800 <sup>†</sup>	13,800 <sup>†</sup>	--	3,440,000
August	971,000	514,000	3,610	--	22,400	483,000
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–August	7,850,000	4,530,000	29,800	29,100	--	3,320,000
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	NA	NA	28,100	--	NA

<sup>†</sup>Revised. NA Not available. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.