

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN FEBRUARY 2016

U.S. natural soda ash production in February was 909,000 metric tons (t), a 5% decrease from the previous month's production and slightly less than that of February 2015 (table 1).

Ending inventories for February 2016 were 309,000 t, 5% less than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in February 2016 was 1.46 million metric tons, 7% less than that of January 2016 and about the same as that of February 2015.

Exports and imports of soda ash in January 2016 were 483,000 t and 1,440 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for January 2016, compared with those of January 2015, were as follows: production was 5% lower, exports were 14% lower, imports were 42% lower, and apparent consumption was 18% higher. 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.

Note: The annual average value of U.S. soda ash production for 2015 was \$141.78 per short ton.

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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–February	1,930	365	3,080 ^r
February	925	365	1,450
March	1,010	361	1,540
April	983	283	1,400
May	920	342	1,440
June	980	292	1,500
July	1,010	307	1,510
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 ^r
2016:			
January	956	325	1,570
February	909	309	1,460
January–February	1,870	309	3,030

^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	Quantity	January		Percent of total quantity
		Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	
Argentina	13,100	\$2,850	\$217	3
Brazil	92,200	19,200	208	19
Canada	17,300	3,530	204	4
Chile	9,180	1,820	199	2
Colombia	5,000	965	193	1
France	5,940	953	161	1
Indonesia	52,700	9,740	185	11
Japan	30,500	4,680	153	6
Korea, Republic of	24,600	4,530	184	5
Malaysia	16,100	3,130	194	3
Mexico	96,800	22,200	229	20
Netherlands	16,100	2,520	157	3
Philippines	6,700	1,210	181	1
South Africa	12,500	2,110	169	3
Taiwan	6,950	1,220	176	1
Thailand	29,000	5,750	199	6
United Kingdom	20,100	4,100	203	4
Vietnam	26,500	5,090	192	5
Other	2,060	272	132	(4)
Total	483,000	95,900	198	100

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

²February 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	Quantity	January		Percent of total quantity
		Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	
France	153	\$69	\$451	11
Germany	632	96	152	44
Taiwan	117	17	145	8
Turkey	8	6	750	1
United Kingdom	513	100	195	36
Other	15	36	2,400	1
Total	1,440	324	225	100

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

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

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

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	6,390,000	39,800	14,600	--	5,200,000
January	1,010,000	565,000	2,480	75,600	--	368,000
February	925,000	504,000	3,030	18,700	--	405,000
March	1,010,000	565,000	3,630	--	4,080	453,000 ^r
April	983,000	629,000	3,370	--	78,100	435,000
May	920,000	447,000	3,610	59,500	--	417,000 ^r
June	980,000	527,000	5,030	--	50,500	509,000
July	1,010,000	624,000	4,980	15,200	--	371,000 ^r
August	971,000	514,000	3,490	--	22,400	483,000
September	915,000	481,000	2,340	--	6,790	443,000
October	927,000	458,000	3,830	17,600	--	455,000 ^r
November	973,000	507,000	1,800	52,600	--	415,000
December	952,000	571,000	2,280	--	62,700	446,000
2016:						
January	956,000	483,000	1,440	40,300	--	434,000
February	909,000	NA	NA	--	15,600	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.