

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JUNE 2016

U.S. natural soda ash production in June was 989,000 metric tons (t), about the same as the previous month's production and slightly more than that of June 2015 (table 1).

Ending inventories for June 2016 were 306,000 t, 9% more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in June 2016 was 1.38 million metric tons, 3% less than that of May 2016 and 8% less than that of June 2015.

Exports of soda ash in May 2016 were 699,000 t, 56% higher than those of May 2015. Imports of soda ash in May 2016 were 4,270 t, 18% higher than those of May 2015. Production of natural soda ash in May 2016 was 7% higher and apparent consumption decreased by 25% compared with those of May

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–June	5,820	292	8,950 ^r
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
2016:			
January	956	325	1,570
February	909	309	1,460
March	1,010	315	1,240
April	955	301	1,450
May	987	280	1,420
June	989	306	1,380
January–June	5,800	306	8,530

^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	Quantity	May	Unit value	January–May		
						Value ³ (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	13,100	62	24,000	16,200	22,000	\$4,630	\$211	75,300	3	\$16,100
Australia	--	31,900	--	35,200	35,000	6,320	181	102,000	4	18,000
Brazil	92,200	71,700	52,500	112,000	99,900	19,400	194	428,000	15	85,800
Canada	17,300	21,900	19,200	21,300	16,300	3,190	196	96,000	3	18,300
Chile	9,180	36,200	37,200	25,600	36,200	7,690	212	144,000	5	30,900
China	41	41	35,000	82	34,200	5,640	165	69,400	2	9,960
Colombia	5,000	16,900	--	6,160	18,000	3,550	197	46,100	2	9,060
EL Salvador	--	6,000	--	--	6,150	1,290	210	12,100	(4)	2,510
France	5,940	--	9,000	--	--	--	--	14,900	1	2,440
Guatemala	--	6,320	--	5,000	--	--	--	11,300	(4)	2,440
Indonesia	52,700	61,500	31,700	59,400	61,100	11,900	195	266,000	10	50,300
Japan	30,500	14,100	39,000	19,100	31,500	6,460	205	134,000	5	24,200
Korea, Republic of	24,600	21,600	6,000	29,100	21,500	3,840	178	103,000	4	18,600
Malaysia	16,100	11,000	--	--	9,500	1,870	197	36,600	1	7,370
Mexico	96,800	91,900	74,400	102,000	107,000	22,700	212	472,000	17	106,000
Netherlands	16,100	--	19,200	80	20,500	3,300	161	55,900	2	8,880
New Zealand	--	7,000	--	--	--	--	--	7,000	(4)	1,350
Philippines	6,700	12,000	--	11,000	--	--	--	29,700	1	5,710
Saudi Arabia	1,210	17,500	18,500	--	15,500	2,740	177	52,700	2	8,880
South Africa	12,500	7,480	--	--	7,520	1,270	169	27,500	1	4,650
Taiwan	6,950	26,400	--	19,400	10,000	1,820	182	62,800	2	11,000
Thailand	29,000	23,300	37,100	12,000	22,000	4,280	195	123,000	4	22,900
United Arab Emirates	15	6,500	12,000	--	6,500	1,090	168	25,000	1	4,180
United Kingdom	20,100	20,000	24,000	19,900	26,900	4,870	181	111,000	4	21,300
Venezuela	--	8,890	--	11,300	15,400	3,760	244	35,600	1	8,440
Vietnam	26,500	14,400	11,000	32,000	23,800	4,680	197	108,000	4	20,800
Other	792 [†]	12,700	87,000	476	51,900	9,790	188	153,000	5	27,500
Total	483,000	547,000	537,000	537,000	699,000	136,000	195	2,800,000	100	547,000

[†]Revised. -- Zero.

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

²June 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	Quantity	May	Unit value	Quantity	January–May	
						Value ³ (thousand dollars)			Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
China	7	144	3	21	86	\$45	\$525	262	1	\$97
France	153	--	--	--	--	--	--	153	1	69
Germany	632	2,080	2,330	1,630	3,030	459	151	9,710	55	1,460
Italy	--	571	1,370	1,310	190	34	179	3,440	19	775
Japan	2	1 ^r	--	226	120	15	121	350	2	56
Taiwan	117	--	--	--	--	--	--	117	1	17
Turkey	8	95	245	--	8	6	773	355	2	87
United Kingdom	513	752	705	518	602	104	173	3,090	17	526
Other	6 ^r	22 ^r	60	39	235	49	208	361	2	120
Total	1,440	3,670	4,710	3,740	4,270	712	167	17,800	100	3,200

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²June 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–May	4,840,000	2,710,000	16,100	71,500	--	2,080,000
May	920,000	447,000	3,610	59,500	--	417,000
June	980,000	527,000	5,030	--	50,500	509,000
July	1,010,000	624,000	4,980	15,200	--	371,000
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
November	973,000	507,000	1,800	52,600	--	415,000
December	952,000	571,000	2,280	--	62,700	446,000
2016:						
January–May	4,820,000	2,800,000	17,800	--	5,410	2,040,000
January	956,000	483,000	1,440	40,300	--	434,000
February	909,000	547,000	3,670	--	15,600	381,000
March	1,010,000	537,000	4,710	5,020	--	472,000
April	955,000	537,000	3,740	--	14,000	436,000
May	987,000	699,000	4,270	--	21,100	314,000
June	989,000	NA	NA	25,900	--	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.