

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Wallace P. Bolen, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7727, Fax: (703) 648-7757
Email: wbolen@usgs.gov

Chanda C. Williams (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7957
Fax: (703) 648-7975
Email: chandawilliams@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>

SODA ASH IN FEBRUARY 2017

U.S. natural soda ash production in February was 897,000 metric tons (t), 3% less than the previous month's production and slightly less than that of February 2016 (table 1). Ending inventories for February 2017 were 293,000 t, 11% more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in February 2017 was 1.34 million metric tons, 15% less than that of January 2017 and 9% less than that of February 2016.

Wyoming trona production in February 2017 was 1.34 million metric tons, 15% less than that of January 2017 and 9% less than that of February 2016. Exports of soda ash in January 2017 were 582,000 t, 16% less than those of December 2016 and 20% more than those of January 2016. Imports of soda ash in January 2017 were 1,730 t, 82% more than those of December 2016 and 21% more than those of January 2016. Soda ash import tonnages can differ widely from month to

month, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages.

Apparent consumption for January 2017 was 419,000 t, an increase of 20% compared with that of December 2016 and 3% less than that of January 2016 (table 4).

All percentages in this report were calculated using unrounded data.

Note: The annual average value of U.S. soda ash production for 2016 was \$135.92 per short ton.

List services and web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/>.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2016:			
January–February	1,870	310	3,030
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
2017:			
January	929	265	1,560
February	897	293	1,340
January–February	1,830	293	2,900

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 2017^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	Quantity	January		Percent of total quantity
		Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	
Argentina	6,000	\$1,210	\$202	1
Australia	7,110	1,380	193	1
Brazil	38,300	7,380	192	7
Canada	17,200	3,430	199	3
Chile	38,400	7,950	207	7
Colombia	9,000	1,710	190	2
Indonesia	71,200	13,600	191	12
Japan	22,600	3,980	176	4
Korea, Republic of	26,400	4,710	178	5
Malaysia	34,500	6,510	189	6
Mexico	82,400	19,200	233	14
Netherlands	22,800	4,400	193	4
Nigeria	5,900	1,330	225	1
Peru	6,580	981	149	1
Philippines	8,500	1,470	173	1
Saudi Arabia	16,000	2,760	172	3
South Africa	7,490	1,270	169	1
Spain	25,800	5,610	218	4
Taiwan	11,400	2,120	187	2
Thailand	38,000	7,000	184	7
Tunisia	9,900	2,030	205	2
United Arab Emirates	9,000	1,480	165	2
United Kingdom	31,400	5,890	188	5
Venezuela	5,000	1,160	231	1
Vietnam	27,500	5,360	195	5
Other	3,860	1,660	429	1
Total	582,000	116,000	199	100

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

²February 2017 data were not available at time of publication.

³Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2017^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	Quantity	January		Percent of total quantity
		Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	
China	236	\$67	\$283	14
France	236	29	125	14
Germany	251	36	145	14
Korea, Republic of	206	25	120	12
Mexico	232	93	401	13
Poland	106	33	315	6
Turkey	106	13	122	6
United Kingdom	359	79	222	21
Other	2	9	4,290	(4)
Total	1,730	385	222	100

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

²February 2017 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	
2016:						
January–December	11,800,000	6,780,000	35,300	50,900	--	5,010,000
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	--	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	693,000	952	--	28,800	349,000
2017:						
January	929,000	582,000	1,730	--	70,800	419,000
February	897,000	NA	NA	27,700	--	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.