

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN JUNE 2017

U.S. natural soda ash production in June was 1.02 million metric tons (Mt), 3% more than the previous month's production and that of June 2016 (table 1). For the first half of 2017, production was 5.82 Mt, about the same as that in the same period in 2016.

Ending inventories for June 2017 were 312,000 metric tons (t), 7% more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in June 2017 was 1.41 Mt, 8% less than that of May 2017 and 3% more than that of June 2016. For the first half of 2017, trona production was 8.88 Mt, a 4% increase compared with that of the first half of 2016.

Exports of soda ash in May 2017 were 557,000 t, 9% less than those of April 2017 and 20% less than those of May 2016 (table 4). Imports of soda ash in May 2017 were 2,750 t, 12% more than those of April 2017 and 36% less than those of May 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 May 2017 was 449,000 t, an increase of 52% compared with that of April 2017 and 43% more than that of May 2016. Apparent consumption can change significantly from month to month mostly owing to changes in the quantity of exports but usually stabilizes over the course of the year. For the first five months of 2017, apparent consumption was slightly less than that for the same period in 2016.

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	
2016:			
January–June	5,810	306	8,530
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
March	1,030	257	1,610
April	947	301	1,420
May	993	291	1,530
June	1,020	312	1,410
January–June	5,820	312	8,880

<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 2017<sup>1, 2</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	Quantity	May	Unit value	Quantity	January–May	
						Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)			Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
Argentina	6,000	27,300	25,900	40	22,100	\$4,550	\$206	81,400	3	\$16,700
Australia	7,110	29,000	33,600	32,000	--	--	--	102,000	4	20,600
Belgium	1,260	14,900	10,100	14,400	35,200	7,840	223	75,900	3	17,900
Brazil	38,300	47,900	132,000	59,400	70,500	13,500	191	348,000	12	67,300
Canada	17,200	18,200	23,900	17,400	18,200	3,290	181	94,900	3	18,200
Chile	38,400	21,000	10,700	62,500	--	--	--	133,000	5	27,900
China	62	66,600	35,000	--	--	--	--	102,000	4	17,200
Colombia	9,000	14,000	8,000	16,500	4,640	889	192	52,100	2	9,820
Costa Rica	--	4,000	26	3,000	--	--	--	7,030	(4)	1,550
Ecuador	--	--	3,500	5,000	--	--	--	8,500	(4)	1,790
El Salvador	--	3,000	--	2,830	--	--	--	5,830	(4)	1,160
Guatemala	--	6,500	--	12,000	--	--	--	18,500	1	4,000
India	--	--	--	33,000	44	5	110	33,000	1	4,960
Indonesia	71,200	28,300	72,600	29,200	66,400	13,100	197	268,000	9	52,000
Japan	22,600	17,000	4,000	45,300	--	--	--	88,900	3	14,600
Korea, Republic of	26,400	23,100	18,000	17,800	38,700	7,100	183	124,000	4	21,800
Malaysia	34,500	15,000	7,000	35,100	57,400	11,100	193	149,000	5	27,700
Mexico	82,400	83,300	114,000	79,400	96,700	22,600	234	456,000	16	105,000
Netherlands	22,800	--	8,050	--	4,000	890	223	34,800	1	7,080
New Zealand	--	6,000	--	--	--	--	--	6,000	(4)	1,120
Nigeria	5,900	--	7,970	--	7,940	1,930	243	21,800	1	5,460
Peru	6,580	--	75	19,100	75	8	110	25,800	1	4,960
Philippines	8,500	--	8,000	--	7,500	1,510	201	24,000	1	4,590
Saudi Arabia	16,000	--	--	--	17,000	2,640	155	33,000	1	5,400
South Africa	7,490	--	5,320	12,200	--	--	--	25,000	1	4,230
Spain	25,800	28,600	136	20,100	17,100	3,920	229	91,700	3	20,400
Taiwan	11,400	20,500	15,500	17,700	11,700	2,290	196	76,800	3	13,400
Thailand	38,000	25,900	21,300	33,100	18,800	3,570	190	137,000	5	24,800
Trinidad and Tobago	2,500	--	--	2,400	--	--	--	4,900	(4)	842
Tunisia	9,900	--	--	--	18,100	3,700	205	28,000	1	5,730
United Arab Emirates	9,000	--	--	--	17,500	2,780	159	26,500	1	4,270
United Kingdom	31,400	10,000	--	15,100	70	68	980	56,600	2	11,000

TABLE 2  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2017<sup>1, 2</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	Quantity	May	Unit value	January–May		
						Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
Venezuela	5,000	--	8,400	12,500	--	--	--	25,900	1	6,130
Vietnam	27,500	--	31,500	12,000	27,500	5,420	197	98,500	3	19,100
Other	34	2	189	460	165	63	385	850	(4)	218
Total	582,000	510,000	604,000	610,000	557,000	113,000	202	2,860,000	100	569,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>June 2017 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 2017<sup>1, 2</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	Quantity	May		Quantity	January–May	
						Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value		Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
China	236	403	195	68	36	\$37	\$1,040	937	9	\$292
France	236	40	20	20	40	21	530	356	3	93
Germany	251	303	1	549	93	21	230	1,200	11	205
Italy	--	17	--	836	1,080	153	142	1,940	18	255
Japan	1	--	--	120	190	48	256	311	3	78
Korea, Republic of	206	514	617	411	800	96	120	2,550	24	306
Mexico	232	58	369	136	95	45	477	890	8	367
Poland	106	160	58	--	--	--	--	323	3	109
Turkey	106	--	--	106	--	--	--	213	2	26
United Kingdom	359	472	490	198	403	86	214	1,920	18	440
Other	1	1	7	3	7	14	2,050	19	(4)	43
Total	1,730	1,970	1,760	2,450	2,750	523	190	10,700	100	2,210

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>June 2017 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	
2016:						
January–December	11,800,000	6,780,000	35,300	50,900	--	5,010,000
January–May	4,820,000	2,800,000	17,800	--	5,290 <sup>r</sup>	2,040,000
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–May	4,800,000	2,860,000	10,700	--	45,400	1,990,000
January	929,000	582,000	1,730	--	70,800	419,000
February	897,000	510,000	1,970	27,700	--	361,000
March	1,030,000	604,000	1,760	--	35,700	464,000
April	947,000	610,000	2,450	44,000	--	296,000
May	993,000	557,000	2,750	--	10,600	449,000
June	1,020,000	NA	NA	20,900	--	NA

<sup>r</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.