

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN AUGUST 2017

U.S. natural soda ash production in August was 997,000 metric tons (t), slightly less than the previous month's production but slightly more than that of August 2016 (table 1). Ending inventories for August 2017 were 244,000 t, 3% more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in August 2017 was 1.51 Mt, slightly less than that of July 2017 and 4% more than that of August 2016.

Exports of soda ash in July 2017 were 637,000 t, 25% more than those of June 2017 and 20% more than those of July 2016 (table 4). Imports of soda ash in July 2017 were 1,725 t, 22% less than those of June 2017 and 61% less than those of July 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 July 2017 was 458,000 t, a decrease of 7% compared with that of June 2017 and 5% less than that of July 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 7 months of 2017, apparent consumption was slightly less than that for the first 7 months of 2016.

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 | |
| 2016: | | | |
| January–August | 7,850 | 314 | 11,400 |
| 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 |
| July | 1,020 | 237 | 1,530 |
| August | 997 | 244 | 1,510 |
| January–August | 7,830 | 244 | 11,900 |

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 OR LOCALITY, IN 2017^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

| Country or locality | January | February | March | April | May | June | Quantity | July | Unit value | January–July | | |
|----------------------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|--|------------|--------------|---------------------------|--|
| | | | | | | | | Value ³ (thousand dollars) | | Quantity | Percent of total quantity | Value ³ (thousand dollars) |
| Argentina | 6,000 | 27,300 | 25,900 | 40 | 22,100 | 16,900 | 5,000 | \$1,010 | \$202 | 103,000 | 3 | \$21,200 |
| Australia | 7,110 | 29,000 | 33,600 | 32,000 | -- | 34,100 | 35,000 | 6,960 | 199 | 171,000 | 4 | 34,300 |
| Belgium | 1,260 | 14,900 | 10,100 | 14,400 | 35,200 | 4,060 | 12,600 | 2,760 | 219 | 92,600 | 2 | 21,500 |
| Brazil | 38,300 | 47,900 | 132,000 | 59,400 | 70,500 | 47,200 | 92,400 | 17,400 | 189 | 487,000 | 12 | 94,000 |
| Canada | 17,200 | 18,200 | 23,900 | 17,400 | 18,200 | 16,500 | 21,400 | 4,230 | 197 | 133,000 | 3 | 25,600 |
| Chile | 38,400 | 21,000 | 10,700 | 62,500 | -- | 52,600 | 11,000 | 2,350 | 214 | 196,000 | 5 | 41,700 |
| China | 62 | 66,600 | 35,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 102,000 | 3 | 17,200 |
| Colombia | 9,000 | 14,000 | 8,000 | 16,500 | 4,640 | 14,900 | 16,700 | 3,270 | 196 | 83,700 | 2 | 16,200 |
| Costa Rica | -- | 4,000 | 26 | 3,000 | -- | -- | 3,000 | 660 | 220 | 10,000 | (4) | 2,210 |
| Ecuador | -- | -- | 3,500 | 5,000 | -- | -- | 10,500 | 2,070 | 197 | 19,000 | (4) | 3,860 |
| El Salvador | -- | 3,000 | -- | 2,830 | -- | -- | 5,000 | 1,010 | 202 | 10,800 | (4) | 2,170 |
| Guatemala | -- | 6,500 | -- | 12,000 | -- | -- | 8,000 | 1,750 | 218 | 26,500 | 1 | 5,750 |
| India | -- | -- | -- | 33,000 | 44 | 28,000 | -- | -- | -- | 61,000 | 2 | 9,160 |
| Indonesia | 71,200 | 28,300 | 72,600 | 29,200 | 66,400 | 37,000 | 55,600 | 11,100 | 200 | 360,000 | 9 | 70,400 |
| Japan | 22,600 | 17,000 | 4,000 | 45,300 | -- | 35,500 | 32,400 | 5,240 | 162 | 157,000 | 4 | 26,400 |
| Korea, Republic of | 26,400 | 23,100 | 18,000 | 17,800 | 38,700 | 15,000 | 20,100 | 3,710 | 185 | 159,000 | 4 | 28,100 |
| Malaysia | 34,500 | 15,000 | 7,000 | 35,100 | 57,400 | -- | 23,300 | 4,480 | 193 | 172,000 | 4 | 32,200 |
| Mexico | 82,400 | 83,300 | 114,000 | 79,400 | 96,700 | 93,400 | 100,000 | 22,300 | 222 | 649,000 | 16 | 149,000 |
| Netherlands | 22,800 | -- | 8,050 | -- | 4,000 | 4,000 | -- | -- | -- | 38,800 | 1 | 7,970 |
| New Zealand | -- | 6,000 | -- | -- | -- | 5,000 | -- | -- | -- | 11,000 | (4) | 1,950 |
| Nigeria | 5,900 | -- | 7,970 | -- | 7,940 | -- | 10,000 | 2,450 | 245 | 31,800 | 1 | 7,910 |
| Peru | 6,580 | -- | 75 | 19,100 | 75 | 75 | 7,500 | 1,480 | 197 | 33,400 | 1 | 6,440 |
| Philippines | 8,500 | -- | 8,000 | -- | 7,500 | -- | 8,500 | 1,730 | 203 | 32,500 | 1 | 6,310 |
| Saudi Arabia | 16,000 | -- | -- | -- | 17,000 | -- | 18,000 | 2,790 | 155 | 51,000 | 1 | 8,190 |
| South Africa | 7,490 | -- | 5,320 | 12,200 | -- | 15,100 | -- | -- | -- | 40,100 | 1 | 6,780 |
| Spain | 25,800 | 28,600 | 136 | 20,100 | 17,100 | 11,600 | 12,900 | 2,960 | 230 | 116,000 | 3 | 26,100 |
| Taiwan | 11,400 | 20,500 | 15,500 | 17,700 | 11,700 | 12,500 | 33,700 | 6,470 | 192 | 123,000 | 3 | 22,200 |
| Thailand | 38,000 | 25,900 | 21,300 | 33,100 | 18,800 | 20,200 | 27,000 | 5,340 | 198 | 184,000 | 5 | 34,700 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 2,500 | -- | -- | 2,400 | -- | -- | 3,200 | 650 | 203 | 8,100 | (4) | 1,490 |
| Tunisia | 9,900 | -- | -- | -- | 18,100 | 12,100 | -- | -- | -- | 40,100 | 1 | 8,230 |
| United Arab Emirates | 9,000 | -- | -- | -- | 17,500 | -- | 29,500 | 4,760 | 161 | 56,000 | 1 | 9,020 |
| United Kingdom | 31,400 | 10,000 | -- | 15,100 | 70 | 20,200 | 13,600 | 2,450 | 180 | 90,400 | 2 | 17,100 |
| Venezuela | 5,000 | -- | 8,400 | 12,500 | -- | 10,300 | 4,400 | 1,080 | 245 | 40,600 | 1 | 9,570 |
| Vietnam | 27,500 | -- | 31,500 | 12,000 | 27,500 | 4,000 | 16,100 | 4,990 | 309 | 119,000 | 3 | 24,800 |
| Other | 34 | 2 | 189 | 460 | 165 | 86 | 73 | 11 | 147 | 1,010 | (4) | 290 |
| Total | 582,000 | 510,000 | 604,000 | 610,000 | 557,000 | 510,000 | 637,000 | 127,000 | 200 | 4,010,000 | 100 | 800,000 |

See footnote at end of table.

TABLE 2—Continued
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY, IN 2017^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

| Country or locality | January | February | March | April | May | June | Quantity | July | | January–July | | |
|---------------------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----|------|----------|---|---------------|--------------|---------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | | | Value ³ (thousand dollars) | Unit value | Quantity | Percent of total quantity | Value ³ (thousand dollars) |

-- Zero.

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

²August 2017 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 OR LOCALITY, IN 2017^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

| Country or locality | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | | | January–July | | |
|---------------------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------|---|---------------|--------------|---------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | | Quantity | Value ³ (thousand dollars) | Unit value | Quantity | Percent of total quantity | Value ³ (thousand dollars) |
| China | 236 | 403 | 195 | 68 | 36 | 449 | 481 | \$104 | \$217 | 1,870 | 13 | \$478 |
| France | 236 | 40 | 20 | 20 | 40 | 50 | 30 | 16 | 530 | 436 | 3 | 135 |
| Germany | 251 | 303 | 1 | 549 | 93 | 264 | 1 | 21 | 40,400 | 1,460 | 10 | 279 |
| Italy | -- | 17 | -- | 836 | 1,080 | 418 | -- | -- | -- | 2,350 | 16 | 317 |
| Japan | 1 | (4) | -- | 120 | 190 | 1 | 152 | 22 | 145 | 464 | 3 | 106 |
| Korea, Republic of | 206 | 514 | 617 | 411 | 800 | 297 | 495 | 59 | 120 | 3,340 | 23 | 401 |
| Mexico | 232 | 58 | 369 | 136 | 95 | 423 | 172 | 70 | 406 | 1,490 | 10 | 596 |
| Poland | 106 | 160 | 58 | -- | -- | 58 | 136 | 50 | 369 | 517 | 4 | 182 |
| Turkey | 106 | -- | -- | 106 | -- | 8 | 8 | 6 | 773 | 228 | 2 | 38 |
| United Kingdom | 359 | 472 | 490 | 198 | 403 | 233 | 213 | 70 | 327 | 2,370 | 16 | 591 |
| Other | 1 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 38 | 12 | 306 | 65 | (4) | 66 |
| Total | 1,730 | 1,970 | 1,760 | 2,450 | 2,750 | 2,210 | 1,730 | 430 | 249 | 14,600 | 100 | 3,190 |

-- Zero.

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

²August 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–July | 6,870,000 | 3,860,000 | 25,300 | 71,800 ^r | -- | 2,960,000 |
| 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–July | 6,840,000 | 4,010,000 | 14,600 | -- | 99,000 | 2,940,000 |
| 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 | 510,000 | 2,210 | 20,900 | -- | 494,000 |
| July | 1,020,000 | 637,000 | 1,730 | -- | 74,500 | 458,000 |
| August | 997,000 | NA | NA | 6,430 | -- | 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.