

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN NOVEMBER 2017

U.S. natural soda ash production in November was 1.0 million metric tons (Mt), 3% less than the previous month's production but slightly more than that of November 2016 (table 1). Ending inventories for November 2017 were 259,000 metric tons (t), 10% more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in November 2017 was 1.4 Mt, 7% less than that of October 2017 and 10% less than that of November 2016.

Exports of soda ash in October 2017 were 591,000 t, slightly less than those of September 2017 but 5% more than those of October 2016 (table 4). For the first 10 months of 2017, exports increased by 4% compared to the same period in 2016. Imports of soda ash in October 2017 were 1,290 t, 44% more than those of September 2017 and 15% more than those of October 2016. Soda ash import tonnages can differ significantly from month to month, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages.

Apparent consumption for October 2017 was 462,000 t, an increase of 18% compared with that of September 2017 and 24% more than that of October 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 10 months of 2017, apparent consumption was slightly more than that for the first 10 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–November | 10,800 | 365 | 16,100 |
| 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 | 306 | 1,410 |
| July | 1,020 | 237 | 1,530 |
| August | 997 | 244 | 1,510 |
| September | 989 | 251 | 1,490 |
| October | 1,040 | 237 | 1,510 |
| November | 1,000 | 259 | 1,400 |
| January–November | 10,900 | 259 | 16,300 |

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 | July | August | September | Quantity | October | Unit value | January–October | | |
|----------------------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|---|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | 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 | 16,800 | 4,000 | 34,200 | \$6,960 | \$203 | 158,000 | 3 | \$32,600 |
| Australia | 7,110 | 29,000 | 33,600 | 32,000 | -- | 34,100 | 35,000 | -- | 34,500 | 28,000 | 6,030 | 215 | 233,000 | 4 | 47,300 |
| Belgium | 1,260 | 14,900 | 10,100 | 14,400 | 35,200 | 4,060 | 12,600 | 399 | 21,500 | 22,300 | 4,930 | 221 | 137,000 | 2 | 31,200 |
| Brazil | 38,300 | 47,900 | 132,000 | 59,400 | 70,500 | 47,200 | 92,400 | 88,700 | 74,700 | 53,400 | 9,980 | 187 | 704,000 | 12 | 134,000 |
| Canada | 17,200 | 18,200 | 23,900 | 17,400 | 18,200 | 16,500 | 21,400 | 18,900 | 18,700 | 18,200 | 3,610 | 198 | 189,000 | 3 | 36,200 |
| Chile | 38,400 | 21,000 | 10,700 | 62,500 | -- | 52,600 | 11,000 | 48,200 | 22,500 | 45,600 | 9,790 | 215 | 312,000 | 5 | 66,400 |
| China | 62 | 66,600 | 35,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 62 | -- | 30,500 | 4,820 | 158 | 132,000 | 2 | 22,000 |
| Colombia | 9,000 | 14,000 | 8,000 | 16,500 | 4,640 | 14,900 | 16,700 | -- | 9,630 | 21,000 | 4,100 | 195 | 114,000 | 2 | 22,200 |
| Guatemala | -- | 6,500 | -- | 12,000 | -- | -- | 8,000 | -- | 13,500 | -- | -- | -- | 40,000 | 1 | 8,990 |
| India | -- | -- | -- | 33,000 | 44 | 28,000 | -- | 46,000 | 74 | 10,100 | 1,650 | 164 | 117,000 | 2 | 17,700 |
| Indonesia | 71,200 | 28,300 | 72,600 | 29,200 | 66,400 | 37,000 | 55,600 | 67,200 | 87,300 | 28,500 | 5,790 | 203 | 543,000 | 9 | 107,000 |
| Japan | 22,600 | 17,000 | 4,000 | 45,300 | -- | 35,500 | 32,400 | 16,700 | 35,000 | -- | -- | -- | 209,000 | 4 | 35,500 |
| Korea, Republic of | 26,400 | 23,100 | 18,000 | 17,800 | 38,700 | 15,000 | 20,100 | 27,200 | 20,100 | 18,200 | 3,250 | 178 | 225,000 | 4 | 39,800 |
| Malaysia | 34,500 | 15,000 | 7,000 | 35,100 | 57,400 | -- | 23,300 | 37,300 | 8,000 | 12,300 | 2,340 | 191 | 230,000 | 4 | 43,300 |
| Mexico | 82,400 | 83,300 | 114,000 | 79,400 | 96,700 | 93,400 | 100,000 | 95,200 | 106,000 | 91,200 | 20,300 | 223 | 942,000 | 16 | 215,000 |
| Netherlands | 22,800 | -- | 8,050 | -- | 4,000 | 4,000 | -- | -- | 4,000 | 4,000 | 890 | 223 | 46,800 | 1 | 9,750 |
| Nigeria | 5,900 | -- | 7,970 | -- | 7,940 | -- | 10,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 31,800 | 1 | 7,910 |
| Peru | 6,580 | -- | 75 | 19,100 | 75 | 75 | 7,500 | 5,070 | 12,200 | 6,080 | 1,450 | 239 | 56,700 | 1 | 12,300 |
| Philippines | 8,500 | -- | 8,000 | -- | 7,500 | -- | 8,500 | -- | 10,000 | -- | -- | -- | 42,500 | 1 | 8,760 |
| Saudi Arabia | 16,000 | -- | -- | -- | 17,000 | -- | 18,000 | -- | -- | 2,000 | 314 | 157 | 53,000 | 1 | 8,500 |
| South Africa | 7,490 | -- | 5,320 | 12,200 | -- | 15,100 | -- | 7,450 | 25,300 | -- | -- | -- | 72,800 | 1 | 12,300 |
| Spain | 25,800 | 28,600 | 136 | 20,100 | 17,100 | 11,600 | 12,900 | 136 | 5,080 | 24,400 | 5,640 | 231 | 146,000 | 3 | 32,800 |
| Taiwan | 11,400 | 20,500 | 15,500 | 17,700 | 11,700 | 12,500 | 33,700 | 15,000 | 6,650 | 12,300 | 2,420 | 197 | 157,000 | 3 | 28,900 |
| Thailand | 38,000 | 25,900 | 21,300 | 33,100 | 18,800 | 20,200 | 27,000 | 29,100 | 16,800 | 24,800 | 5,040 | 203 | 255,000 | 4 | 49,000 |
| Tunisia | 9,900 | -- | -- | -- | 18,100 | 12,100 | -- | -- | 21,700 | 24,100 | 4,930 | 205 | 85,800 | 1 | 17,600 |
| United Arab Emirates | 9,000 | -- | -- | -- | 17,500 | -- | 29,500 | -- | -- | 19,000 | 3,000 | 158 | 75,000 | 1 | 12,000 |
| United Kingdom | 31,400 | 10,000 | -- | 15,100 | 70 | 20,200 | 13,600 | -- | 17,500 | 9,960 | 1,790 | 180 | 118,000 | 2 | 22,000 |
| Venezuela | 5,000 | -- | 8,400 | 12,500 | -- | 10,300 | 4,400 | 2 | 4,300 | 2,950 | 697 | 237 | 47,900 | 1 | 11,300 |
| Vietnam | 27,500 | -- | 31,500 | 12,000 | 27,500 | 4,000 | 16,100 | 47,000 | 7,500 | 39,400 | 7,960 | 202 | 213,000 | 4 | 43,600 |
| Other | 2,530 | 13,000 | 3,720 | 13,700 | 165 | 5,090 | 21,700 | 370 | 6,160 | 8,580 | 1,610 | 751 | 75,000 | 1 | 15,200 |
| Total | 582,000 | 510,000 | 604,000 | 610,000 | 557,000 | 510,000 | 637,000 | 567,000 | 593,000 | 591,000 | 119,000 | 202 | 5,760,000 | 100 | 1,150,000 |

-- Zero.

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

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

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

| Country or locality | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | Quantity | October | Unit value | January–October | | |
|---------------------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-----------|----------|--|------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | Value ³ (thousand dollars) | | Quantity | Percent of total quantity | Value ³ (thousand dollars) |
| China | 236 | 403 | 195 | 68 | 36 | 449 | 481 | 44 | 204 | 160 | \$85 | \$529 | 2,270 | 13 | \$708 |
| France | 236 | 40 | 20 | 20 | 40 | 50 | 30 | 40 | 80 | 50 | 26 | 530 | 606 | 3 | 225 |
| Germany | 251 | 303 | 1 | 549 | 93 | 264 | 1 | (4) | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1,460 | 8 | 281 |
| Italy | -- | 17 | -- | 836 | 1,080 | 418 | -- | 171 | 551 | 684 | 96 | 141 | 3,760 | 21 | 518 |
| Japan | 1 | (4) | -- | 120 | 190 | 1 | 152 | 2 | 2 | 19 | 13 | 662 | 487 | 3 | 138 |
| Korea, Republic of | 206 | 514 | 617 | 411 | 800 | 297 | 495 | 198 | 18 | -- | -- | -- | 3,550 | 20 | 436 |
| Mexico | 232 | 58 | 369 | 136 | 95 | 423 | 172 | 387 | (4) | 207 | 82 | 396 | 2,080 | 12 | 836 |
| Poland | 106 | 160 | 58 | -- | -- | 58 | 136 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 517 | 3 | 182 |
| Turkey | 106 | -- | -- | 106 | -- | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 773 | 250 | 1 | 55 |
| United Kingdom | 359 | 472 | 490 | 198 | 403 | 233 | 213 | 335 | 35 | 164 | 115 | 704 | 2,900 | 16 | 782 |
| Other | 1 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 38 | 5 | -- | 1 | 3 | 2,390 | 71 | (4) | 76 |
| Total | 1,730 | 1,970 | 1,760 | 2,450 | 2,750 | 2,210 | 1,730 | 1,190 | 898 | 1,290 | 426 | 330 | 18,000 | 100 | 4,240 |

-- Zero.

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

²November 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–October | 9,810,000 | 5,540,000 | 33,500 | 119,000 | -- | 4,180,000 |
| 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–October | 9,860,000 | 5,760,000 | 18,000 | -- | 99,500 | 4,220,000 |
| 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 | 15,000 | -- | 500,000 |
| July | 1,020,000 | 637,000 | 1,730 | -- | 68,600 | 452,000 |
| August | 997,000 | 567,000 | 1,190 | 6,830 | -- | 425,000 |
| September | 989,000 | 593,000 | 898 | 7,080 | -- | 390,000 |
| October | 1,040,000 | 591,000 | 1,290 | -- | 14,442 | 462,000 |
| November | 1,000,000 | NA | NA | 22,500 | -- | 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.