

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN SEPTEMBER 2017

U.S. natural soda ash production in September was 989,000 metric tons (t), slightly less than the previous month's production but 3% more than that of September 2016 (table 1). Ending inventories for September 2017 were 251,000 t, 3% more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in September 2017 was 1.49 Mt, slightly less than that of August 2017 and 4% less than that of September 2016.

Exports of soda ash in August 2017 were 567,000 t, 11% less than those of July 2017 and 15% less than those of August 2016 (table 4). Imports of soda ash in August 2017 were 1,190 t, 31% less than those of July 2017 and 73% less than those of August 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 August 2017 was 425,000 t, a decrease of 7% compared with that of July 2017 but 17% more than that of August 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 8 months of 2017, apparent consumption was slightly more than that for the first 8 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–September	8,810	342	13,000
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
September	989	251	1,490
January–September	8,820	251	13,400

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			January–August		
								Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	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	\$3,410	\$202	120,000	3	\$24,600
Australia	7,110	29,000	33,600	32,000	--	34,100	35,000	--	--	--	171,000	4	34,300
Belgium	1,260	14,900	10,100	14,400	35,200	4,060	12,600	399	44	110	93,000	2	21,600
Brazil	38,300	47,900	132,000	59,400	70,500	47,200	92,400	88,700	16,000	180	576,000	13	110,000
Canada	17,200	18,200	23,900	17,400	18,200	16,500	21,400	18,900	3,450	182	152,000	3	29,000
Chile	38,400	21,000	10,700	62,500	--	52,600	11,000	48,200	9,980	207	244,000	5	51,600
China	62	66,600	35,000	--	--	--	--	62	15	248	102,000	2	17,200
Colombia	9,000	14,000	8,000	16,500	4,640	14,900	16,700	--	--	--	83,700	2	16,200
Costa Rica	--	4,000	26	3,000	--	--	3,000	--	--	--	10,000	(4)	2,210
Ecuador	--	--	3,500	5,000	--	--	10,500	--	--	--	19,000	(4)	3,860
El Salvador	--	3,000	--	2,830	--	--	5,000	--	--	--	10,800	(4)	2,170
Guatemala	--	6,500	--	12,000	--	--	8,000	--	--	--	26,500	1	5,750
India	--	--	--	33,000	44	28,000	--	46,000	6,900	150	107,000	2	16,100
Indonesia	71,200	28,300	72,600	29,200	66,400	37,000	55,600	67,200	13,500	201	427,000	9	83,900
Japan	22,600	17,000	4,000	45,300	--	35,500	32,400	16,700	2,930	175	173,000	4	29,300
Korea, Republic of	26,400	23,100	18,000	17,800	38,700	15,000	20,100	27,200	4,810	177	186,000	4	32,900
Malaysia	34,500	15,000	7,000	35,100	57,400	--	23,300	37,300	7,280	195	210,000	5	39,500
Mexico	82,400	83,300	114,000	79,400	96,700	93,400	100,000	95,200	22,000	231	745,000	16	171,000
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	--	--	--	31,800	1	7,910
Peru	6,580	--	75	19,100	75	75	7,500	5,070	1,210	239	38,500	1	7,650
Philippines	8,500	--	8,000	--	7,500	--	8,500	--	--	--	32,500	1	6,310
Saudi Arabia	16,000	--	--	--	17,000	--	18,000	--	--	--	51,000	1	8,190
South Africa	7,490	--	5,320	12,200	--	15,100	--	7,450	1,260	169	47,500	1	8,040
Spain	25,800	28,600	136	20,100	17,100	11,600	12,900	136	15	110	116,000	3	26,100
Taiwan	11,400	20,500	15,500	17,700	11,700	12,500	33,700	15,000	3,020	201	138,000	3	25,200
Thailand	38,000	25,900	21,300	33,100	18,800	20,200	27,000	29,100	5,910	204	213,000	5	40,600
Trinidad and Tobago	2,500	--	--	2,400	--	--	3,200	--	--	--	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	--	--	--	56,000	1	9,020
United Kingdom	31,400	10,000	--	15,100	70	20,200	13,600	--	--	--	90,400	2	17,100
Venezuela	5,000	--	8,400	12,500	--	10,300	4,400	2	3	1,710	40,600	1	9,570
Vietnam	27,500	--	31,500	12,000	27,500	4,000	16,100	47,000	9,320	198	166,000	4	34,100
Other	34	2	189	460	165	86	73	370	44	118	1,380	(4)	333
Total	582,000	510,000	604,000	610,000	557,000	510,000	637,000	567,000	111,000	196	4,580,000	100	911,000

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	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.

²September 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	Quantity	August	Unit value	January–August		
									Value ³ (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
China	236	403	195	68	36	449	481	44	\$25	\$569	1,910	12	\$503
France	236	40	20	20	40	50	30	40	21	530	476	3	156
Germany	251	303	1	549	93	264	1	(4)	2	543	1,460	9	281
Italy	--	17	--	836	1,080	418	--	171	24	142	2,530	16	341
Japan	1	(4)	--	120	190	1	152	2	9	4,750	466	3	116
Korea, Republic of	206	514	617	411	800	297	495	198	24	120	3,540	22	424
Mexico	232	58	369	136	95	423	172	387	150	387	1,870	12	746
Poland	106	160	58	--	--	58	136	--	--	--	517	3	182
Turkey	106	--	--	106	--	8	8	8	6	773	235	1	43
United Kingdom	359	472	490	198	403	233	213	335	56	167	2,700	17	647
Other	1	1	7	3	7	8	38	5	7	1,420	70	(4)	74
Total	1,730	1,970	1,760	2,450	2,750	2,210	1,730	1,190	324	273	15,800	100	3,510

-- Zero.

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

²September 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–August	7,850,000	4,530,000	29,800	29,100	--	3,320,000
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–August	7,830,000	4,580,000	15,800	--	92,500	3,370,000
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	567,000	1,190	6,430	--	425,000
September	989,000	NA	NA	7,480	--	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.