

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN MARCH 2018

U.S. natural soda ash production in March was 1.02 million metric tons (Mt), 8% more than the previous month's production but slightly less than that of March 2017 (table 1). Ending stocks were 315,000 metric tons (t), 3% more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in March 2018 was 1.62 Mt, 9% more than that of February 2018 and slightly more than that of March 2017. Production of soda ash and trona in the first quarter of 2018 were 4% and 5% more, respectively, than the same period of 2017.

Exports of soda ash in February 2018 were 536,000 t, 4% less than those of January 2018 but 5% more than those of February 2017 (table 4). February 2018 imports of soda ash were 1,280 t, 65% more than those of January 2018 but 35% less than those of February 2017. Soda ash import tonnages can differ significantly from month to month, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages.

Apparent consumption for February 2018 was 412,000 t, a slight decrease from that of January 2018 but 14% more than that of February 2017. 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.

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	
2017:			
January–March	2,860	257	4,510
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
December	1,100	293	1,710
January–December	12,000	293	18,000
2018:			
January	992	307	1,630
February	945	306	1,490
March	1,020	315	1,620
January–March	2,960	315	4,740

<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 OR LOCALITY, IN 2018<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February			January–February		
		Quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
Australia	40,000	--	--	--	40,000	4	\$8,200
Brazil	102,000	68,400	\$13,500	\$197	170,000	16	34,000
Canada	18,100	17,900	3,360	188	36,000	3	6,990
Chile	39,600	8,100	1,770	219	47,700	4	10,200
China	--	50,100	8,570	171	50,100	5	8,570
Colombia	27,500	12,000	2,640	220	39,500	4	8,020
Costa Rica	5,000	--	--	--	5,000	(4)	1,110
Ecuador	6,000	--	--	--	6,000	1	1,240
Guatemala	3,500	--	--	--	3,500	(4)	749
India	29,000	--	--	--	29,000	3	4,430
Indonesia	23,500	112,000	23,600	210	136,000	12	28,200
Japan	40,100	21,500	3,780	176	61,600	6	11,700
Korea, Republic of	17,000	15,000	2,740	183	32,000	3	5,800
Malaysia	3,000	31,000	6,170	199	34,000	3	6,730
Mexico	99,300	83,800	19,800	237	183,000	17	43,200
Peru	15,000	--	--	--	15,000	1	3,400
Philippines	7,000	--	--	--	7,000	1	1,450
Saudi Arabia	857	11,100	1,700	154	11,900	1	1,850
South Africa	7,530	11,200	2,400	214	18,800	2	3,620
Taiwan	22,500	6,000	1,200	201	28,500	3	5,630
Thailand	33,000	25,500	5,270	207	58,500	5	12,700
United Arab Emirates	10,000	16,000	2,480	155	26,000	2	4,530
United Kingdom	8,520	5,070	973	192	13,600	1	2,610
Venezuela	--	5,170	1,220	236	5,170	(4)	1,220
Vietnam	--	35,400	7,360	208	35,400	3	7,360
Other	608 <sup>r</sup>	147	62	426	754	(4)	166
Total	559,000	536,000	109,000	203	1,090,000	100	224,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>March 2018 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 OR LOCALITY, IN 2018<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	Quantity	February		January–February		Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
			Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	
Bulgaria	342	342	\$125	\$366	684	33	\$250
China	57	257	165	643	314	15	195
Italy	190	342	51	148	532	26	77
Mexico	72	182	69	377	254	12	101
United Kingdom	94	91	60	663	184	9	133
Other	22	68	117	1,720	89	4	174
Total	776	1,280	586	457	2,060	100	930

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

<sup>2</sup>March 2018 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

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	
2017:						
January–December	12,000,000	6,990,000	19,100	--	42,700	5,040,000
January–February	1,830,000	1,090,000	3,700	--	43,100	780,000
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	--	14,400	462,000
November	1,000,000	612,000	658	22,500	--	370,000
December	1,100,000	615,000	481	34,300	--	449,000
2018:						
January–February	1,940,000	1,090,000	2,060	12,100	--	833,000
January	992,000	559,000	776	13,700	--	421,000
February	945,000	536,000	1,280	--	1,610	412,000
March	1,020,000	NA	NA	9,100	--	NA

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.