

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JULY 2018

U.S. natural soda ash production in July was 1.07 million metric tons (Mt), 11% more than the previous month's production and 5% more than that of July 2017 (table 1). Ending stocks were 331,000 metric tons (t), 11% more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in July 2018 was 1.49 Mt, 6% more than that of June 2018 but slightly less than that of July 2017.

Exports of soda ash in June 2018 were 512,000 t, 6% less than those of May 2018 but slightly more than those of June 2017 (table 4). June 2018 imports of soda ash were 1,230 t, 13% less than those of May 2018 and 44% less than those of June 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 June 2018 was 461,000 t, a 10% increase from that of May 2018 but 8% less than that of June 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.

In the first half of 2018, exports were 3.41 Mt, slightly more than the first half of 2017. Compared to the first half of 2017, imports decreased 38% in the first half of 2018. For the first half of 2018, apparent consumption was 2.42 Mt, 3% less than that of the same period of 2017.

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	
2017:			
January–July	6,840	237	10,400
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	309	1,630
February	945	307	1,490
March	1,020	317	1,620
April	958	318	1,480
May	952	310	1,450
June	961	299	1,420
July	1,070	331	1,490
January–July	6,900	331	10,600

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 2018^{1, 2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	January-June		
									Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	78	20	18,700	8,520	17,200	11,700	\$2,790	\$239	56,200	2	\$12,500
Australia	40,000	--	28,300	--	33,000	33,000	6,430	195	134,000	4	27,400
Belgium	213	--	126	189	822	108	12	110	1,460	(4)	160
Brazil	102,000	68,400	62,100	117,000	30,200	81,700	15,400	188	461,000	14	90,500
Canada	18,100	17,900	17,900	19,400	21,300	13,200	2,720	205	108,000	3	21,400
Chile	39,600	8,100	45,900	59,400	34,600	38,400	9,290	242	226,000	7	49,500
China	--	50,100	60	47,100	60	10,100	2,020	201	107,000	3	18,700
Colombia	27,500	12,000	21,500	18,700	5,060	21,500	4,300	200	106,000	3	21,400
Costa Rica	5,000	--	5,000	--	--	5,000	1,100	220	15,000	(4)	3,310
Ecuador	6,000	--	4,000	--	7,150	--	--	--	17,200	1	3,190
El Salvador	--	--	5,000	--	--	3,000	628	209	8,000	(4)	1,610
Guatemala	3,500	--	8,620	--	8,860	5,000	1,090	218	26,000	1	5,720
India	29,000	--	28,500	--	--	--	--	--	57,500	2	8,660
Indonesia	23,500	112,000	45,000	53,200	48,900	18,700	4,010	214	302,000	9	63,800
Ireland	101	--	262	108	40	69	33	481	579	(4)	113
Japan	40,100	21,500	30,500	3,500	26,000	32,300	5,370	166	154,000	5	28,000
Korea, Republic of	17,000	15,000	18,700	21,500	27,700	18,000	4,020	223	118,000	3	22,100
Malaysia	3,000	31,000	34,200	35,500	28,100	23,000	4,800	209	155,000	5	31,600
Mexico	99,300	83,800	114,000	98,400	109,000	130,000	28,100	216	635,000	19	146,000
Netherlands	--	--	12,000	--	--	--	--	--	12,000	(4)	2,400
New Zealand	--	--	6,000	--	--	--	--	--	6,000	(4)	1,040
Nigeria	--	--	10,000	8,000	134	--	--	--	18,100	1	5,600
Peru	15,000	--	13,500	75	22,200	75	8	110	50,800	1	11,200
Philippines	7,000	--	8,000	--	9,000	--	--	--	24,000	1	5,190
Saudi Arabia	857	11,100	11,600	98	59	23,500	3,610	154	47,200	1	7,300
South Africa	7,530	11,200	14,900	8,460	--	7,480	1,600	214	49,600	1	10,200
Spain	--	--	45	742	--	136	15	110	923	(4)	102
Taiwan	22,500	6,000	27,300	5,500	28,000	--	--	--	89,300	3	17,900
Thailand	33,000	25,500	18,400	21,000	42,100	17,000	3,780	222	157,000	5	34,400
Tunisia	--	--	--	25,000	--	--	--	--	25,000	1	5,520
United Arab Emirates	10,000	16,000	19,500	--	--	18,500	2,870	155	64,000	2	10,400
United Kingdom	8,520	5,070	16,100	--	15,400	--	--	--	45,100	1	8,660
Venezuela	--	5,170	--	12,300	--	--	--	--	17,400	1	4,530
Vietnam	--	35,400	25,000	24,100	29,000	--	--	--	114,000	3	24,000
Other	216	127	100	69	506	77	65	841	1,100	(4)	367
Total	559,000	536,000	671,000	588,000	544,000	512,000	104,000	203	3,410,000	100	704,000

-- Zero.

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

²July 2018 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 2018^{1, 2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	June	Unit	January–June	January–June	Value ³
						Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	(thousand dollars)
Bulgaria	342	342	738	451	342	126	\$46	\$366	2,340	29	\$810
China	57	257	336	228	241	76	52	687	1,200	15	751
France	--	62	69	69	19	19	11	585	237	3	145
Germany	1	3	1	4	61	3	16	4,990	73	1	225
Italy	190	342	190	21	398	791	96	121	1,930	24	310
Mexico	72	182	267	470	136	132	56	427	1,260	16	479
Poland	--	--	--	--	116	--	--	--	116	1	50
United Kingdom	94	91	94	286	86	73	51	698	723	9	499
Other	21	3	14	15	21	11	12	1,170	85	1	186
Total	776	1,280	1,710	1,550	1,420	1,230	340	277	7,960	100	3,460

-- Zero.

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

²July 2018 data were not available at time of publication.

³Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

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	
2017:						
January–December	12,000,000	6,990,000	19,100	--	42,700	5,040,000
January–June	5,820,000	3,370,000	12,900	--	30,400 ^r	2,490,000 ^r
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–June	5,830,000	3,410,000	7,960	5,830	--	2,420,000
January	992,000	559,000	776	15,700	--	419,000
February	945,000	536,000	1,280	--	1,710	412,000
March	1,020,000	671,000	1,710	9,160	--	342,000
April	958,000	588,000	1,550	1,580	--	371,000
May	952,000	544,000	1,420	--	8,440	417,000
June	961,000	512,000	1,230	--	10,400	461,000
July	1,070,000	NA	NA	31,700	--	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.