

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JUNE 2018

U.S. natural soda ash production in June was 961,000 metric tons (t), slightly more than the previous month's production but 6% less than that of June 2017 (table 1). Ending stocks were 299,000 t, 3% less than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in June 2018 was 1.42 million metric tons (Mt), slightly less than that of the revised production of May 2018 and essentially the same as that of June 2017. Production of soda ash and trona in the first half of 2018 were slightly more than those of the first half of 2017.

Exports of soda ash in May 2018 were 544,000 t, 7% less than those of April 2018 and slightly less than those of May 2017 (table 4). May 2018 imports of soda ash were 1,420 t, 8% less than those of April 2018 and 48% less than those of May 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 May 2018 was 417,000 t, a 13% increase from that of April 2018 but 7% less than that of May 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. For the first 5 months of 2018, apparent consumption was 1.96 Mt, slightly 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–June	5,820	306 ^r	8,880
June	1,020	306 ^r	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	309	1,630
February	945	307	1,490
March	1,020	317	1,620
April	958	318	1,480
May	952	310	1,450 ^r
June	961	299	1,420
January–June	5,830	299	9,080

^rRevised.

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			January–May		
					Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	78	20	18,700	8,520	17,200	\$3,660	\$213	44,500	2	\$9,750
Australia	40,000	--	28,300	--	33,000	6,860	208	101,000	3	21,000
Belgium	213	--	126	189	822	90	110	1,350	(4)	148
Brazil	102,000	68,400	62,100	117,000	30,200	6,260	208	379,000	13	75,200
Canada	18,100	17,900	17,900	19,400	21,300	4,050	190	94,600	3	18,700
Chile	39,600	8,100	45,900	59,400	34,600	7,490	217	188,000	6	40,200
China	--	50,100	60	47,100	60	17	276	97,300	3	16,700
Colombia	27,500	12,000	21,500	18,700	5,060	1,170	232	84,800	3	17,100
Costa Rica	5,000	--	5,000	--	--	--	--	10,000	(4)	2,210
Ecuador	6,000	--	4,000	--	7,150	1,190	167	17,200	1	3,190
El Salvador	--	--	5,000	--	--	--	--	5,000	(4)	985
Guatemala	3,500	--	8,620	--	8,860	1,960	221	21,000	1	4,630
India	29,000	--	28,500	--	--	--	--	57,500	2	8,660
Indonesia	23,500	112,000	45,000	53,200	48,900	10,500	215	283,000	10	59,800
Ireland	101	--	262	108	40	4	110	510	(4)	79
Japan	40,100	21,500	30,500	3,500	26,000	4,630	178	122,000	4	22,600
Korea, Republic of	17,000	15,000	18,700	21,500	27,700	4,880	176	99,900	3	18,100
Malaysia	3,000	31,000	34,200	35,500	28,100	5,910	211	132,000	5	26,800
Mexico	99,300	83,800	114,000	98,400	109,000	25,700	236	505,000	17	118,000
Netherlands	--	--	12,000	--	--	--	--	12,000	(4)	2,400
New Zealand	--	--	6,000	--	--	--	--	6,000	(4)	1,040
Nigeria	--	--	10,000	8,000	134	15	110	18,100	1	5,600
Peru	15,000	--	13,500	75	22,200	4,870	219	50,800	2	11,200
Philippines	7,000	--	8,000	--	9,000	2,010	223	24,000	1	5,190
Saudi Arabia	857	11,100	11,600	98	59	22	380	23,700	1	3,690
South Africa	7,530	11,200	14,900	8,460	--	--	--	42,100	1	8,620
Spain	--	--	45	742	--	--	--	787	(4)	87
Taiwan	22,500	6,000	27,300	5,500	28,000	5,680	203	89,300	3	17,900
Thailand	33,000	25,500	18,400	21,000	42,100	9,260	220	140,000	5	30,600
Tunisia	--	--	--	25,000	--	--	--	25,000	1	5,520
United Arab Emirates	10,000	16,000	19,500	--	--	--	--	45,500	2	7,510
United Kingdom	8,520	5,070	16,100	--	15,400	2,960	192	45,100	2	8,660
Venezuela	--	5,170	--	12,300	--	--	--	17,400	1	4,530
Vietnam	--	35,400	25,000	24,100	29,000	6,100	210	114,000	4	24,000
Other	216	127	100	69	506	59	116	1,020	(4)	302
Total	559,000	536,000	671,000	588,000	544,000	115,000	212	2,900,000	100	600,000

-- Zero.

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

²June 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	Quantity	May		Quantity	January–May	
						Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value		Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Bulgaria	342	342	738	451	342	\$125	\$366	2,220	33	\$764
China	57	257	336	228	241	149	618	1,120	17	700
France	--	62	69	69	19	10	515	218	3	134
Germany	1	3	1	4	61	66	1,080	70	1	209
Italy	190	342	190	21	398	84	211	1,140	17	214
Mexico	72	182	267	470	136	58	424	1,130	17	423
Poland	--	--	--	--	116	50	432	116	2	50
United Kingdom	94	91	94	286	86	55	641	650	10	448
Other	21 ^r	3 ^r	14 ^r	15 ^r	21	68	3,210	74	1	174
Total	776	1,280	1,710	1,550	1,420	665	468	6,730	100	3,120

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²June 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–May	4,800,000	2,860,000	10,700	--	45,400	1,990,000
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–May	4,870,000	2,900,000	6,730	16,300	--	1,960,000
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 ^r	544,000	1,420	--	8,440	417,000
June	961,000	NA	NA	--	10,400	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.