

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN JANUARY 2018

U.S. natural soda ash production in January was 992,000 metric tons (t), 10% less than the previous month's production but 7% more than that of January 2017 (table 1). Ending stocks increased for the third consecutive month to 307,000 t, 5% more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in January 2018 was 1.6 million metric tons (Mt), 5% less than that of December 2017 but 4% more than that of January 2017.

Exports of soda ash in December 2017 were 615,000 t, slightly more than those of November 2017 but 11% less than those of December 2016 (table 4). In 2017, total exports were 6.99 Mt, an increase of 3% compared with those of 2016.

December 2017 imports of soda ash were 481 t, 27% less than those of November 2017 and 49% less than those of December 2016. In 2017, total imports were 19,100 t, a decrease of 46% compared with those of 2016. Soda ash import tonnages can

differ significantly from year to year, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages.

Apparent consumption for December 2017 was 449,000 t, an increase of 21% compared with that of November 2017 and 29% more than that of December 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. In 2017, U.S. apparent consumption was 5.04 Mt, slightly more than that of 2016.

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	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
December	1,100	293	1,710
January–December	12,000	293	18,000
2018, January	992	307	1,630

<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 2017<sup>1, 2</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December			January–December		
												Quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
Argentina	6,000	27,300	25,900	40	22,100	16,900	5,000	16,800	4,000	34,200	--	21,500	\$4,800	###	180,000	3	\$37,400
Australia	7,110	29,000	33,600	32,000	--	34,100	35,000	--	34,500	28,000	7,000	32,200	6,230	194	272,000	4	54,900
Belgium	1,260	14,900	10,100	14,400	35,200	4,060	12,600	399	21,500	22,300	187	240	26	110	137,000	2	31,300
Brazil	38,300	47,900	132,000	59,400	70,500	47,200	92,400	88,700	74,700	53,400	83,800	42,900	8,880	207	831,000	12	159,000
Canada	17,200	18,200	23,900	17,400	18,200	16,500	21,400	18,900	18,700	18,200	16,800	17,300	3,520	203	223,000	3	43,000
Chile	38,400	21,000	10,700	62,500	--	52,600	11,000	48,200	22,500	45,600	32,700	56,300	11,700	208	401,000	6	85,200
China	62	66,600	35,000	--	--	--	--	62	--	30,500	60	25,100	4,440	177	157,000	2	26,500
Colombia	9,000	14,000	8,000	16,500	4,640	14,900	16,700	--	9,630	21,000	24,000	--	--	--	138,000	2	27,000
Guatemala	--	6,500	--	12,000	--	--	8,000	--	13,500	--	3,500	--	--	--	43,500	1	9,770
India	--	--	--	33,000	44	28,000	--	46,000	74	10,100	--	--	--	--	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	82,000	58,800	12,000	204	684,000	10	136,000
Japan	22,600	17,000	4,000	45,300	--	35,500	32,400	16,700	35,000	--	23,100	19,400	3,590	185	251,000	4	42,900
Korea, Republic of	26,400	23,100	18,000	17,800	38,700	15,000	20,100	27,200	20,100	18,200	32,000	34,500	6,440	187	291,000	4	53,400
Malaysia	34,500	15,000	7,000	35,100	57,400	--	23,300	37,300	8,000	12,300	69,700	52,700	10,200	193	352,000	5	66,700
Mexico	82,400	83,300	114,000	79,400	96,700	93,400	100,000	95,200	106,000	91,200	115,000	89,200	20,000	224	1,150,000	16	258,000
Netherlands	22,800	--	8,050	--	4,000	4,000	--	--	4,000	4,000	10,100	--	--	--	56,900	1	11,500
Nigeria	5,900	--	7,970	--	7,940	--	10,000	--	--	--	--	10,000	2,950	295	41,800	1	10,900
Peru	6,580	--	75	19,100	75	75	7,500	5,070	12,200	6,080	8,280	5,080	981	193	70,000	1	15,300
Philippines	8,500	--	8,000	--	7,500	--	8,500	--	10,000	--	4,800	5,500	1,140	208	52,800	1	10,900
Saudi Arabia	16,000	--	--	--	17,000	--	18,000	--	--	2,000	--	20,000	3,110	155	73,000	1	11,600
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	--	136	15	110	146,000	2	32,800
Taiwan	11,400	20,500	15,500	17,700	11,700	12,500	33,700	15,000	6,650	12,300	19,000	16,800	3,250	193	193,000	3	36,000
Thailand	38,000	25,900	21,300	33,100	18,800	20,200	27,000	29,100	16,800	24,800	25,700	33,400	7,060	211	314,000	4	61,500
Tunisia	9,900	--	--	--	18,100	12,100	--	--	21,700	24,100	--	15,000	3,080	205	101,000	1	20,700
United Arab Emirates	9,000	--	--	--	17,500	--	29,500	--	--	19,000	--	14,000	2,240	159	89,000	1	14,300
United Kingdom	31,400	10,000	--	15,100	70	20,200	13,600	--	17,500	9,960	5,580	8,910	1,600	180	132,000	2	24,700
Venezuela	5,000	--	8,400	12,500	--	10,300	4,400	2	4,300	2,950	--	6,500	1,770	273	54,400	1	13,000
Vietnam	27,500	--	31,500	12,000	27,500	4,000	16,100	47,000	7,500	39,400	35,800	25,300	5,240	207	274,000	4	56,200
Other	2,530	13,000	3,720	13,700	165	5,090	21,700	370	6,160	8,580	13,000	4,110	742	181	92,200	1	18,800
Total	582,000	510,000	604,000	610,000	557,000	510,000	637,000	567,000	593,000	591,000	612,000	615,000	125,000	203	6,990,000	100	1,400,000

-- Zero.

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

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

<sup>3</sup>Free 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<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December			January–December		
												Quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
China	236	403	195	68	36	449	481	44	204	160	136	61	\$37	\$606	2,470	13	\$816
France	236	40	20	20	40	50	30	40	80	50	--	30	16	530	636	3	241
Germany	251	303	1	549	93	264	1	(4)	--	--	2	1	12	16,700	1,460	8	319
Italy	--	17	--	836	1,080	418	--	171	551	684	--	208	36	175	3,970	21	554
Japan	1	(4)	--	120	190	1	152	2	2	19	--	9	40	4,290	497	3	178
Korea, Republic of	206	514	617	411	800	297	495	198	18	--	--	--	--	--	3,550	19	436
Mexico	232	58	369	136	95	423	172	387	(4)	207	246	(4)	13	3,260	2,330	12	944
Poland	106	160	58	--	--	58	136	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	517	3	182
Turkey	106	--	--	106	--	8	8	8	8	8	--	8	6	773	258	1	61
United Kingdom	359	472	490	198	403	233	213	335	35	164	92	35	24	697	3,030	16	876
Other	1	1	7	3	7	8	38	5	--	1	182	129	54	415	382	2	199
Total	1,730	1,970	1,760	2,450	2,750	2,210	1,730	1,190	898	1,290	658	481	238	494	19,100	100	4,810

-- Zero.

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

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	
2016:						
January–December	11,800,000	6,780,000	35,300	50,900	--	5,010,000
December	1,010,000	693,000	952	--	28,800	349,000
2017:						
January–December	12,000,000	6,990,000	19,100	--	42,700	5,040,000
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	--	14,400	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	992,000	NA	NA	13,700	--	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.