

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN JUNE 2019

U.S. natural soda ash production in June was 942,000 metric tons (t), a 5% decrease compared with that of the previous month but slightly less than that of June 2018. Ending stocks were 288,000 t, 5% more than those of the preceding month (table 1,4). Wyoming trona production in June 2019 was 1.50 million metric tons (Mt), 23% more than that of May 2019 and 6% more than that of June 2018. Exports of soda ash in June 2019 were 614,000 t, 4% less than those of May 2019 but 20% more than those of June 2018 (tables 2, 4).

Relatively large quantities of soda ash were imported from Turkey in September 2018, followed by similar quantities in March and June of 2019. June 2019 imports of soda ash were 36,200 t, about 30 times those of May 2019 and June 2018 because of the imports from Turkey (tables 3, 4). 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 2019 was 352,000 t, a 15% decrease from that of May 2019 and 24% less than that of June 2018. 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 (table 4).

Soda ash production for the first 6 months of 2019 was 5.80 Mt, slightly less than that of the same period in 2018. Exports totaled 3.53 Mt and imports were 73,900 t, 4% more than and 9 times, respectively, those of the first 6 months of 2018. U.S. apparent consumption for the first 6 months of 2019 was 2.35 Mt, 5% less than the 2.48 Mt consumed in the same period of 2018.

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<br>production |
|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                  | Production <sup>2</sup> | Stocks,<br>end of period |                             |
| 2018:            |                         |                          |                             |
| January–June     | 5,840 <sup>r</sup>      | 248 <sup>r</sup>         | 9,080                       |
| June             | 961                     | 248                      | 1,420                       |
| July             | 1,070                   | 282                      | 1,490                       |
| August           | 930                     | 293                      | 1,180                       |
| September        | 988                     | 268                      | 1,320                       |
| October          | 1,010                   | 237                      | 1,500                       |
| November         | 997                     | 309                      | 1,490                       |
| December         | 1,060                   | 297                      | 1,580                       |
| January–December | 11,900                  | 297                      | 17,600                      |
| 2019:            |                         |                          |                             |
| January          | 1,000                   | 300                      | 1,680                       |
| February         | 920                     | 270                      | 1,500                       |
| March            | 941                     | 276                      | 1,680                       |
| April            | 999                     | 337                      | 1,530                       |
| May              | 994 <sup>r</sup>        | 275                      | 1,220 <sup>r</sup>          |
| June             | 942                     | 288                      | 1,500                       |
| January–June     | 5,800                   | 288                      | 9,120                       |

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<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 2019<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

| Country or locality  | January | February | March   | April   | May     | June     |   |               | January-June |                                 |   |
|----------------------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---|---------------|--------------|---------------------------------|---|
|                      |         |          |         |         |         | Quantity | Value <sup>2</sup><br>(thousand<br>dollars) | Unit<br>value | Quantity     | Percent<br>of total<br>quantity | Value <sup>2</sup><br>(thousand<br>dollars) |
| Argentina            | 7,000   | 7,700    | --      | 16,700  | 79      | 80       | \$26  | \$323         | 31,600       | 1                               | \$7,330                                     |
| Australia            | 35,000  | 4,040    | 34,000  | 29,000  | 34,000  | --       | --  | --            | 136,000      | 4                               | 32,900                                      |
| Brazil               | 94,500  | 104,000  | 35,000  | 60,800  | 83,400  | 82,000   | 17,800                                      | 217           | 459,000      | 13                              | 96,900                                      |
| Canada               | 15,800  | 17,500   | 15,200  | 18,300  | 18,400  | 14,700   | 3,690                                       | 251           | 99,900       | 3                               | 24,000                                      |
| Chile                | 13,000  | 45,200   | 31,500  | 14,200  | 46,800  | 46,300   | 10,900                                      | 236           | 197,000      | 6                               | 45,500                                      |
| China                | --      | 61       | --      | --      | 36,000  | --       | --  | --            | 36,100       | 1                               | 7,200                                       |
| Colombia             | 8,000   | 21,400   | 10,500  | 8,750   | 8,200   | 9,000    | 1,990                                       | 221           | 65,900       | 2                               | 14,900                                      |
| Ecuador              | 9,500   | --       | 10,000  | --      | --      | --       | --  | --            | 19,500       | 1                               | 4,390                                       |
| Guatemala            | 4,000   | 7,000    | --      | --      | 11,500  | 5,000    | 1,120                                       | 223           | 27,500       | 1                               | 6,270                                       |
| India                | --      | 43,500   | --      | 65,700  | 12,500  | 27,000   | 4,690                                       | 174           | 149,000      | 4                               | 26,500                                      |
| Indonesia            | 88,100  | 21,300   | 90,800  | 19,400  | 105,000 | 73,000   | 16,400                                      | 224           | 397,000      | 11                              | 89,700                                      |
| Japan                | 3,000   | 34,400   | 15,100  | 21,500  | --      | 55,300   | 12,600                                      | 228           | 129,000      | 4                               | 27,100                                      |
| Korea, Republic of   | 11,500  | 18,000   | 15,700  | 34,200  | 26      | 41,600   | 9,270                                       | 199           | 121,000      | 3                               | 26,100                                      |
| Malaysia             | 46,100  | 62,800   | 52,500  | 39,300  | 43,200  | 39,500   | 8,920                                       | 226           | 283,000      | 8                               | 63,100                                      |
| Mexico               | 144,000 | 106,000  | 112,000 | 114,000 | 111,000 | 92,100   | 20,700                                      | 225           | 678,000      | 19                              | 158,000                                     |
| Nigeria              | --      | 10,000   | --      | --      | 8,500   | --       | --  | --            | 18,500       | 1                               | 6,220                                       |
| Peru                 | 17,000  | --       | 16,300  | 1,280   | 10,800  | 75       | 8   | 110           | 45,400       | 1                               | 10,200                                      |
| Philippines          | 7,500   | --       | --      | 9,000   | 14,600  | --       | --  | --            | 31,100       | 1                               | 6,680                                       |
| Saudi Arabia         | 98      | 10,300   | 39      | 15,100  | 536     | 8,500    | 1,730                                       | 204           | 34,600       | 1                               | 6,320                                       |
| South Africa         | --      | 10,100   | --      | 4,790   | --      | 14,400   | 2,410                                       | 167           | 29,300       | 1                               | 5,450                                       |
| Taiwan               | 16,500  | 9,500    | 15,200  | 38,800  | 8,000   | 17,900   | 4,220                                       | 236           | 106,000      | 3                               | 24,500                                      |
| Thailand             | 35,100  | 26,600   | 35,600  | 7,500   | 10,000  | 46,100   | 10,500                                      | 227           | 161,000      | 5                               | 37,000                                      |
| Tunisia              | --      | 20,000   | --      | --      | 15,000  | --       | --  | --            | 35,000       | 1                               | 8,500                                       |
| United Arab Emirates | --      | 15,500   | --      | 6,000   | --      | 11,000   | 2,240                                       | 204           | 32,500       | 1                               | 6,140                                       |
| Vietnam              | 31,000  | 15,000   | 18,500  | 31,500  | 35,500  | 30,000   | 6,700                                       | 223           | 162,000      | 5                               | 36,100                                      |
| Other                | 476     | 11,600   | 462     | 6,540   | 28,300  | 324      | 49  | 152           | 47,700       | 1                               | 11,100                                      |
| Total                | 587,000 | 621,000  | 508,000 | 562,000 | 641,000 | 614,000  | 135,000                                     | 220           | 3,530,000    | 100                             | 788,000                                     |

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</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 2019<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

| Country or locality | January | February | March               | April | May                | Quantity | June                                     | Unit value | January-June |                           |  |
|---------------------|---------|----------|---------------------|-------|--------------------|----------|--|------------|--------------|---------------------------|--|
|                     |         |          |                     |       |                    |          | Value <sup>2</sup><br>(thousand dollars) |            | Quantity     | Percent of total quantity | Value <sup>2</sup><br>(thousand dollars) |
| Bulgaria            | 288     | 612      | 432                 | 882   | 648                | 810      | \$296                                    | \$366      | 3,670        | 5                         | \$1,310                                  |
| China               | 77      | 72       | 180                 | 41    | 56                 | 99       | 68                                       | 687        | 524          | 1                         | 343                                      |
| France              | 44      | 91       | 41                  | 91    | 64                 | 50       | 65                                       | 1,290      | 381          | 1                         | 510                                      |
| Mexico              | 304     | 97       | 252                 | 150   | 244                | 57       | 26                                       | 454        | 1,100        | 1                         | 416                                      |
| Romania             | 95      | 172      | 38                  | 38    | --                 | --       | --                                       | --         | 343          | (3)                       | 152                                      |
| Turkey              | --      | --       | 32,000              | --    | --                 | 35,000   | 7,000                                    | 200        | 67,000       | 91                        | 13,400                                   |
| United Kingdom      | 146     | 197      | 91                  | 73    | 143                | 183      | 130                                      | 713        | 832          | 1                         | 565                                      |
| Other               | 24      | 9        | 3                   | 10    | (3)                | 1        | 11                                       | 8,660      | 47           | (3)                       | 190                                      |
| Total               | 978     | 1,250    | 33,000 <sup>r</sup> | 1,280 | 1,150 <sup>r</sup> | 36,200   | 7,600                                    | 210        | 73,900       | 100                       | 16,900                                   |

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

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau adjusted by U.S. Geological Survey.

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            |                                   |
| 2018:            |                        |           |                     |                 |                     |                                   |
| January–December | 11,900,000             | 6,960,000 | 51,300              | 3,910           | --                  | 4,980,000                         |
| January–June     | 5,840,000 <sup>r</sup> | 3,410,000 | 7,960               | -- <sup>r</sup> | 45,000 <sup>r</sup> | 2,480,000 <sup>r</sup>            |
| June             | 961,000                | 512,000   | 1,230               | --              | 10,400              | 461,000                           |
| July             | 1,070,000              | 609,000   | 1,560               | 34,000          | --                  | 428,000                           |
| August           | 930,000                | 542,000   | 1,020               | 10,600          | --                  | 378,000                           |
| September        | 988,000                | 529,000   | 36,500 <sup>r</sup> | --              | 24,700              | 520,000 <sup>r</sup>              |
| October          | 1,010,000              | 670,000   | 1,940               | --              | 31,800              | 376,000                           |
| November         | 997,000                | 506,000   | 1,720               | 72,500          | --                  | 420,000                           |
| December         | 1,060,000              | 698,000   | 627                 | --              | 11,700              | 374,000                           |
| 2019:            |                        |           |                     |                 |                     |                                   |
| January–June     | 5,800,000              | 3,530,000 | 73,900              | --              | 9,750               | 2,350,000                         |
| January          | 1,000,000              | 587,000   | 978                 | 2,640           | --                  | 415,000                           |
| February         | 920,000                | 621,000   | 1,250               | --              | 30,500              | 331,000                           |
| March            | 941,000                | 508,000   | 33,000 <sup>r</sup> | 6,870           | --                  | 459,000 <sup>r</sup>              |
| April            | 999,000                | 562,000   | 1,280               | 60,300          | --                  | 378,000                           |
| May              | 994,000 <sup>r</sup>   | 641,000   | 1,150               | --              | 61,600              | 416,000 <sup>r</sup>              |
| June             | 942,000                | 614,000   | 36,200              | 12,400          | --                  | 352,000                           |

<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>Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.