

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN DECEMBER 2015

U.S. natural soda ash production in December was 952,000 metric tons (t), a slight decrease from the previous month's production. Production of soda ash for 2015 was 11.6 million metric tons (Mt), slightly less than the total for 2014.

Ending inventories for December 2015 were 285,000 t, 18% less than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in December 2015 was 1.45 Mt, 4% less than that of November 2015. Trona production in 2015 was 18 Mt, 4% more than trona production in 2014.

Exports and imports of soda ash in November 2015 were 507,000 t and 1,800 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for November 2015, compared with those of November 2014, were as follows: production was slightly lower; exports were 9% lower; imports were 60% lower; and apparent consumption was 3% lower.

Soda ash import tonnages can vary widely from month to month, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages.

All percentages in this report were computed 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	
2014: ^p			
December	1,020	271	1,300
January–December	11,700	271	17,300
2015:			
January	1,010	346	1,980
February	925	365	1,450
March	1,010	361	1,540
April	983	283	1,400
May	920	342	1,440
June	980	292	1,500
July	1,010	307	1,510
August	971	284	1,480
September	915	278 ^r	1,460 ^r
October	927	295	1,280
November	973	348	1,510
December	952	285	1,450
January–December	11,600	285	18,000

^pPreliminary. ^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, IN 2015^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November			January–November		
											Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	13,800	--	15,500	15,800	--	13,000	--	41	13,600	--	--	--	71,700	1	\$14,700
Australia	33,000	27,100	32,500	--	35,100	--	28,500	--	35,000	67,500	--	--	--	259,000	4	52,000
Belgium	15,600	13,600	10,500	3,980	21,100	--	15,100	6,030	13,200	90	5,550	\$666	\$120	105,000	2	14,500
Brazil	109,000	86,700	74,100	75,100	103,000	59,500	113,000	91,700	57,900	71,200	112,000	23,000	207	953,000	16	197,000
Canada	20,500	19,700	23,800	21,500	19,500	21,900	24,900	20,200	20,400	21,400	20,700	4,460	215	234,000	4	48,800
Chile	--	30,200	25,000	33,700	15,200	45,900	21,500	36,900	23,700	10,500	22,000	4,720	214	265,000	5	56,900
Colombia	--	17,400	14,200	14,000	--	15,300	19,400	7,970	17,400	11,700	9,470	1,870	197	127,000	2	25,400
France	15,000	--	15,000	28	49	28	--	9,970	--	--	4,940	884	179	45,000	1	7,960
Indonesia	76,500	36,000	108,000	55,800	31,500	56,000	58,000	37,000	63,500	17,500	48,500	9,570	197	588,000	10	124,000
Japan	3,000	51,500	--	25,800	24,000	23,200	34,400	--	32,000	25,700	31,500	6,160	195	251,000	4	45,600
Korea, Republic of	15,900	31,100	--	31,500	25	30,400	13,600	17,600	19,500	7,310	19,700	3,690	187	187,000	3	36,000
Malaysia	7,500	--	16,000	--	6,500	11,000	11,000	5,500	--	22,500	--	--	--	80,000	1	16,700
Mexico	83,900	75,300	86,500	81,800	73,700	95,500	98,000	80,200	65,100	66,500	90,900	18,900	208	897,000	15	211,000
Netherlands	15,300	21,800	12,700	10,000	10,000	81	10,000	10,100	10	--	20,100	3,150	157	110,000	2	18,000
Philippines	10,000	--	8,500	7,500	--	--	8,500	7,000	7,200	--	--	--	--	48,700	1	10,000
Saudi Arabia	15,000	--	16,000	15,000	--	19,000	16,000	16,500	17,500	22,000	14,000	2,590	185	151,000	3	27,800
South Africa	12,200	--	5,420	7,500	10,300	--	5,040	15,000	19,700	10,600	--	--	--	85,800	1	16,500
Taiwan	29,100	10,100	15,700	36,700	24,200	10,900	15,500	27,900	12,200	--	21,400	4,100	192	204,000	4	39,200
Thailand	10,000	13,500	19,500	23,200	27,100	13,500	18,000	26,000	--	28,500	--	--	--	179,000	3	37,300
Tunisia	15,500	--	19,900	--	--	27,000	20,000	--	--	24,900	--	--	--	107,000	2	19,300
United Arab Emirates	13,500	--	9,000	32,000	--	40,700	11,000	8,000	11,300	8,000	14,000	2,590	185	148,000	3	28,400
United Kingdom	24,600	5,470	22,500	23,500	--	22,000	24,100	24,000	--	--	22,000	4,920	224	168,000	3	35,400
Venezuela	5,930	21,800	11,900	19,600	12,200	15,200	--	12,500	24,600	--	12,000	2,750	229	136,000	2	31,700
Vietnam	26,500	--	8,000	24,300	2,500	8,000	6,500	10,600	11,000	--	21,000	4,240	202	118,000	2	25,900
Other	7,280	29,000	9,890	71,100	15,300	11,700	39,000	43,100	29,900	29,000	18,100	3,840	213	303,000	5	60,800
Total	565,000	504,000	565,000	629,000	447,000	527,000	624,000	514,000	481,000	458,000	507,000	102,000	201	5,820,000	100	1,200,000

-- Zero.

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

²December 2015 data were not available at time of publication.

³Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2015^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November			January–November		
											Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Bulgaria	--	126	--	--	--	--	--	17	--	--	--	--	--	143	(4)	\$26
China	26	236	5	--	5	243	31	71	--	--	--	--	--	618	2	208
Germany	1,660	1,870	1,860	1,640	1,790	1,670	3,260	2,010	1,610	1,700	1,470	\$234	\$160	20,500	55	2,980
India	--	--	--	3	4	1,330	2	--	--	3	--	--	--	1,340	4	193
Italy	40	494	969	722	457	760	515	77	37	941	--	--	--	5,010	13	809
Japan	--	--	154	39	--	2	1	193	--	--	151	19	126	539	1	109
Mexico	253	161	97	219	356	180	61	218	80	103	82	36	437	1,810	5	658
United Kingdom	498	146	530	735	991	821	826	845	589	892	35	18	517	6,910	18	1,160
Other	--	1	9	7	12	20	291	62	17	186	68	30	441	671	2	213
Total	2,480	3,030	3,630	3,370	3,610	5,030	4,980	3,490	2,340	3,830	1,800	337	187	37,600	100	6,350

-- Zero.

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

²December 2015 data were not available at time of publication.

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

⁴Less than ½ unit.

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	
2014:						
January–December	11,700,000	6,670,000	39,200	--	77,600	5,100,000
January–November	10,600,000 ^r	6,050,000	36,400	--	2,570	4,620,000 ^r
November	996,000	555,000	4,530	18,100	--	427,000
December	1,020,000	614,000	2,760	--	75,100	481,000
2015:						
January–November	10,600,000	5,820,000	37,600	77,300	--	4,760,000
January	1,010,000	565,000	2,480	75,600	--	368,000
February	925,000	504,000	3,030	18,700	--	405,000
March	1,010,000	565,000	3,630	--	4,080	453,000
April	983,000	629,000	3,370	--	78,100 ^r	435,000
May	920,000	447,000	3,610	59,500	--	417,000
June	980,000	527,000	5,030	--	50,500 ^r	509,000
July	1,010,000	624,000	4,980	15,200 ^r	--	371,000
August	971,000	514,000	3,490	--	22,400	483,000
September	915,000	481,000	2,340	--	6,790 ^r	443,000 ^r
October	927,000	458,000	3,830	17,600 ^r	--	455,000 ^r
November	973,000	507,000	1,800	52,600	--	415,000
December	952,000	NA	NA	--	62,700	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.