

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JUNE 2016

U.S. natural soda ash production in June was 989,000 metric tons (t), about the same as the previous month's production and slightly more than that of June 2015 (table 1).

Ending inventories for June 2016 were 306,000 t, 9% more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in June 2016 was 1.38 million metric tons, 3% less than that of May 2016 and 8% less than that of June 2015.

Exports of soda ash in May 2016 were 699,000 t, 56% higher than those of May 2015. Imports of soda ash in May 2016 were 4,270 t, 18% higher than those of May 2015. Production of natural soda ash in May 2016 was 7% higher and apparent consumption decreased by 25% compared with those of May

2015. Soda ash import tonnages can differ widely from month to month, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages.

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 | |
| 2015: ^p | | | |
| January–June | 5,820 | 292 | 8,950 ^r |
| June | 980 | 292 | 1,500 |
| July | 1,010 | 307 | 1,510 |
| August | 971 | 284 | 1,480 |
| September | 915 | 278 | 1,460 |
| October | 927 | 295 | 1,280 |
| November | 973 | 348 | 1,510 |
| December | 952 | 285 | 1,450 |
| January–December | 11,600 | 285 | 17,600 |
| 2016: | | | |
| January | 956 | 325 | 1,570 |
| February | 909 | 309 | 1,460 |
| March | 1,010 | 315 | 1,240 |
| April | 955 | 301 | 1,450 |
| May | 987 | 280 | 1,420 |
| June | 989 | 306 | 1,380 |
| January–June | 5,800 | 306 | 8,530 |

^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 2016^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

| Country | January | February | March | April | May | | | January–May | | |
|----------------------|------------------|----------|---------|---------|----------|---|---------------|-------------|---------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | Quantity | Value ³ (thousand dollars) | Unit value | Quantity | Percent of total quantity | Value ³ (thousand dollars) |
| Argentina | 13,100 | 62 | 24,000 | 16,200 | 22,000 | \$4,630 | \$211 | 75,300 | 3 | \$16,100 |
| Australia | -- | 31,900 | -- | 35,200 | 35,000 | 6,320 | 181 | 102,000 | 4 | 18,000 |
| Brazil | 92,200 | 71,700 | 52,500 | 112,000 | 99,900 | 19,400 | 194 | 428,000 | 15 | 85,800 |
| Canada | 17,300 | 21,900 | 19,200 | 21,300 | 16,300 | 3,190 | 196 | 96,000 | 3 | 18,300 |
| Chile | 9,180 | 36,200 | 37,200 | 25,600 | 36,200 | 7,690 | 212 | 144,000 | 5 | 30,900 |
| China | 41 | 41 | 35,000 | 82 | 34,200 | 5,640 | 165 | 69,400 | 2 | 9,960 |
| Colombia | 5,000 | 16,900 | -- | 6,160 | 18,000 | 3,550 | 197 | 46,100 | 2 | 9,060 |
| EL Salvador | -- | 6,000 | -- | -- | 6,150 | 1,290 | 210 | 12,100 | (4) | 2,510 |
| France | 5,940 | -- | 9,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 14,900 | 1 | 2,440 |
| Guatemala | -- | 6,320 | -- | 5,000 | -- | -- | -- | 11,300 | (4) | 2,440 |
| Indonesia | 52,700 | 61,500 | 31,700 | 59,400 | 61,100 | 11,900 | 195 | 266,000 | 10 | 50,300 |
| Japan | 30,500 | 14,100 | 39,000 | 19,100 | 31,500 | 6,460 | 205 | 134,000 | 5 | 24,200 |
| Korea, Republic of | 24,600 | 21,600 | 6,000 | 29,100 | 21,500 | 3,840 | 178 | 103,000 | 4 | 18,600 |
| Malaysia | 16,100 | 11,000 | -- | -- | 9,500 | 1,870 | 197 | 36,600 | 1 | 7,370 |
| Mexico | 96,800 | 91,900 | 74,400 | 102,000 | 107,000 | 22,700 | 212 | 472,000 | 17 | 106,000 |
| Netherlands | 16,100 | -- | 19,200 | 80 | 20,500 | 3,300 | 161 | 55,900 | 2 | 8,880 |
| New Zealand | -- | 7,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 7,000 | (4) | 1,350 |
| Philippines | 6,700 | 12,000 | -- | 11,000 | -- | -- | -- | 29,700 | 1 | 5,710 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1,210 | 17,500 | 18,500 | -- | 15,500 | 2,740 | 177 | 52,700 | 2 | 8,880 |
| South Africa | 12,500 | 7,480 | -- | -- | 7,520 | 1,270 | 169 | 27,500 | 1 | 4,650 |
| Taiwan | 6,950 | 26,400 | -- | 19,400 | 10,000 | 1,820 | 182 | 62,800 | 2 | 11,000 |
| Thailand | 29,000 | 23,300 | 37,100 | 12,000 | 22,000 | 4,280 | 195 | 123,000 | 4 | 22,900 |
| United Arab Emirates | 15 | 6,500 | 12,000 | -- | 6,500 | 1,090 | 168 | 25,000 | 1 | 4,180 |
| United Kingdom | 20,100 | 20,000 | 24,000 | 19,900 | 26,900 | 4,870 | 181 | 111,000 | 4 | 21,300 |
| Venezuela | -- | 8,890 | -- | 11,300 | 15,400 | 3,760 | 244 | 35,600 | 1 | 8,440 |
| Vietnam | 26,500 | 14,400 | 11,000 | 32,000 | 23,800 | 4,680 | 197 | 108,000 | 4 | 20,800 |
| Other | 792 [†] | 12,700 | 87,000 | 476 | 51,900 | 9,790 | 188 | 153,000 | 5 | 27,500 |
| Total | 483,000 | 547,000 | 537,000 | 537,000 | 699,000 | 136,000 | 195 | 2,800,000 | 100 | 547,000 |

[†]Revised. -- Zero.

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

²June 2016 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, IN 2016^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

| Country | January | February | March | April | May | | | January–May | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------|-------|----------|--|------------|-------------|---------------------------|--|
| | | | | | Quantity | Value ³ (thousand dollars) | Unit value | Quantity | Percent of total quantity | Value ³ (thousand dollars) |
| China | 7 | 144 | 3 | 21 | 86 | \$45 | \$525 | 262 | 1 | \$97 |
| France | 153 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 153 | 1 | 69 |
| Germany | 632 | 2,080 | 2,330 | 1,630 | 3,030 | 459 | 151 | 9,710 | 55 | 1,460 |
| Italy | -- | 571 | 1,370 | 1,310 | 190 | 34 | 179 | 3,440 | 19 | 775 |
| Japan | 2 | 1 ^r | -- | 226 | 120 | 15 | 121 | 350 | 2 | 56 |
| Taiwan | 117 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 117 | 1 | 17 |
| Turkey | 8 | 95 | 245 | -- | 8 | 6 | 773 | 355 | 2 | 87 |
| United Kingdom | 513 | 752 | 705 | 518 | 602 | 104 | 173 | 3,090 | 17 | 526 |
| Other | 6 ^r | 22 ^r | 60 | 39 | 235 | 49 | 208 | 361 | 2 | 120 |
| Total | 1,440 | 3,670 | 4,710 | 3,740 | 4,270 | 712 | 167 | 17,800 | 100 | 3,200 |

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²June 2016 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 | |
| 2015: | | | | | | |
| January–December | 11,600,000 | 6,390,000 | 39,800 | 14,600 | -- | 5,200,000 |
| January–May | 4,840,000 | 2,710,000 | 16,100 | 71,500 | -- | 2,080,000 |
| May | 920,000 | 447,000 | 3,610 | 59,500 | -- | 417,000 |
| June | 980,000 | 527,000 | 5,030 | -- | 50,500 | 509,000 |
| July | 1,010,000 | 624,000 | 4,980 | 15,200 | -- | 371,000 |
| August | 971,000 | 514,000 | 3,490 | -- | 22,400 | 483,000 |
| September | 915,000 | 481,000 | 2,340 | -- | 6,790 | 443,000 |
| October | 927,000 | 458,000 | 3,830 | 17,600 | -- | 455,000 |
| November | 973,000 | 507,000 | 1,800 | 52,600 | -- | 415,000 |
| December | 952,000 | 571,000 | 2,280 | -- | 62,700 | 446,000 |
| 2016: | | | | | | |
| January–May | 4,820,000 | 2,800,000 | 17,800 | -- | 5,410 | 2,040,000 |
| January | 956,000 | 483,000 | 1,440 | 40,300 | -- | 434,000 |
| February | 909,000 | 547,000 | 3,670 | -- | 15,600 | 381,000 |
| March | 1,010,000 | 537,000 | 4,710 | 5,020 | -- | 472,000 |
| April | 955,000 | 537,000 | 3,740 | -- | 14,000 | 436,000 |
| May | 987,000 | 699,000 | 4,270 | -- | 21,100 | 314,000 |
| June | 989,000 | NA | NA | 25,900 | -- | NA |

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.