

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN NOVEMBER 2015

U.S. natural soda ash production in November was 973,000 metric tons (t), a 5% increase from the previous month's revised production.

Ending inventories for November 2015 were 348,000 t, 18% more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in November 2015 was 1.51 million metric tons, 18% more than that of October 2015.

Exports and imports of soda ash in October 2015 were 458,000 t and 3,830 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for October 2015, compared with those of October 2014, were as follows: production was 6% lower; exports were 18% lower; imports were 88% higher; and apparent consumption was slightly higher. 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			
January–November	10,600	346	16,000
November	996	346	1,450
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	277	1,480
October	927 ^r	295	1,280
November	973	348	1,510
January–November	10,600	348	16,500

^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			January–October		
										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	\$2,670	\$196	71,700	1	\$14,700
Australia	33,000	27,100	32,500	--	35,100	--	28,500	--	35,000	67,500	14,400	213	259,000	5	52,000
Belgium	15,600	13,600	10,500	3,980	21,100	--	15,100	6,030	13,200	90	10	111	99,300	2	13,900
Brazil	109,000	86,700	74,100	75,100	103,000	59,500	113,000	91,700	57,900	71,200	15,000	211	841,000	16	173,000
Canada	20,500	19,700	23,800	21,500 ^r	19,500	21,900	24,900	20,200	20,400	21,400	4,370	205	214,000	4	44,300
Chile	--	30,200	25,000	33,700	15,200	45,900	21,500	36,900	23,700	10,500	2,080	198	243,000	5	52,200
Colombia	--	17,400	14,200	14,000	--	15,300	19,400	7,970	17,400	11,700	2,300	196	117,000	2	23,600
France	15,000	--	15,000	28	49	28	--	9,970	--	--	--	--	40,100	1	7,080
Indonesia	76,500	36,000	108,000	55,800	31,500	56,000	58,000	37,000	63,500	17,500	3,740	213	540,000	10	114,000
Japan	3,000	51,500	--	25,800	24,000	23,200	34,400	--	32,000	25,700	4,740	184	220,000	4	39,400
Korea, Republic of	15,900	31,100	--	31,500	25	30,400	13,600	17,600	19,500	7,310	1,240	169	167,000	3	32,300
Malaysia	7,500	--	16,000	--	6,500	11,000	11,000	5,500	--	22,500	4,600	204	80,000	2	16,700
Mexico	83,900	75,300	86,500	81,800	73,700	95,500	98,000	80,200	65,100	66,500	15,700	237	806,000	15	192,000
Netherlands	15,300	21,800	12,700	10,000	10,000	81	10,000	10,100	10	--	--	--	90,000	2	14,800
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	4,070	185	137,000	3	25,200
South Africa	12,200	--	5,420	7,500	10,300	--	5,040	15,000	19,700	10,600	2,010	189	85,800	2	16,500
Taiwan	29,100	10,100	15,700	36,700	24,200	10,900	15,500	27,900	12,200	--	--	--	182,000	3	35,100
Thailand	10,000	13,500	19,500	23,200	27,100	13,500	18,000	26,000	--	28,500	5,810	204	179,000	3	37,300
Tunisia	15,500	--	19,900	--	--	27,000	20,000	--	--	24,900	5,320	213	107,000	2	19,300
United Arab Emirates	13,500	--	9,000	32,000	--	40,700	11,000	8,000	11,300	8,000	1,480	185	134,000	3	25,800
United Kingdom	24,600	5,470	22,500	23,500	--	22,000	24,100	24,000	--	--	--	--	146,000	3	30,500
Venezuela	5,930	21,800	11,900	19,600	12,200	15,200	--	12,500	24,600	--	--	--	124,000	2	28,900
Vietnam	26,500	--	8,000	24,300	2,500	8,000	6,500	10,600	11,000	--	--	--	97,400	2	21,700
Other	7,280	29,000 ^r	9,890	71,100	15,300	11,700 ^r	39,000	43,100 ^r	29,900	29,000	6,270	217	285,000	5	57,000
Total	565,000	504,000	565,000	629,000	447,000	527,000	624,000	514,000	481,000	458,000	95,800	209	5,310,000	100	1,100,000

^rRevised – Zero.

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

²November 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			January–October		
										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	\$234	\$138	19,100	53	2,740
India	--	--	--	3	4	1,330	2	--	--	3	5	1,670	1,340	4	193
Italy	40	494	969	722	457	760	515	77	37	941	205	218	5,010	14	809
Japan	--	--	154	39	--	2	1	193	--	--	--	--	388	1	90
Mexico	253	161	97	219	356	180	61	218	80	103	51	495	1,730	5	623
United Kingdom	498	146	530	735	991	821	826	845	589	892	115	129	6,870	19	1,140
Other	--	1	9	7	12	20	291	62	17	186	41	220	603	2	183
Total	2,480	3,030	3,630	3,370 ^r	3,610	5,030	4,980	3,490	2,340	3,830	651	170	35,800	100	6,020

^rRevised -- Zero.

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

²November 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–October	9,640,000 ^r	5,500,000	31,900	--	20,600 ^r	4,200,000 ^r
October	985,000	559,000	2,040	--	23,900	452,000
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–October	9,640,000	5,310,000	35,800	24,500	--	4,340,000
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	--	78,200	435,000
May	920,000	447,000	3,610	59,500	--	417,000
June	980,000	527,000	5,030	--	50,600	509,000
July	1,010,000	624,000	4,980	15,100	--	371,000
August	971,000	514,000	3,490	--	22,400	483,000
September	915,000	481,000	2,340	--	7,630	444,000
October	927,000 ^r	458,000	3,830	18,500 ^r	--	454,000
November	973,000	NA	NA	52,600	--	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.