

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN MARCH 2016

U.S. natural soda ash production in March was 1.01 million metric tons (Mt), an 11% increase from the previous month's production and the same as that of March 2015 (table 1).

Ending inventories for March 2016 were 315,000 metric tons (t), slightly less than the preceding month's inventories.

Wyoming trona production in March 2016 was 1.24 Mt, 15% less than that of February 2016 and 19% less than that of March 2015.

Exports and imports of soda ash in February 2016 were 547,000 t and 3,670 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for February 2016, compared with those of February 2015, were as follows: production was slightly lower, exports were 9% higher, imports were 21% higher, and apparent consumption was 6% lower. 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.

Note: The annual average value of U.S. soda ash production for 2015 was revised to \$140.88 per short ton, slightly less than that reported in the Soda Ash February 2016 Mineral Industry Surveys.

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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–March	2,940	361	4,620 ^r
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	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
January–March	2,870	315	4,280

^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			January–February		
		Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	13,100	62	\$25	\$403	13,200	1	\$2,880
Australia	--	31,900	5,050	158	31,900	3	5,050
Brazil	92,200	71,700	14,400	201	164,000	16	33,600
Canada	17,300	21,900	3,690	169	39,200	4	7,220
Chile	9,180	36,200	7,840	217	45,400	4	9,670
Colombia	5,000	16,900	3,250	192	21,900	2	4,220
EL Salvador	--	6,000	1,220	203	6,000	1	1,220
France	5,940	--	--	--	5,940	1	953
Guatemala	--	6,320	1,370	216	6,320	1	1,370
Indonesia	52,700	61,500	11,600	189	114,000	11	21,400
Japan	30,500	14,100	2,610	185	44,600	4	7,290
Korea, Republic of	24,600	21,600	3,760	174	46,100	4	8,290
Malaysia	16,100	11,000	2,360	215	27,100	3	5,500
Mexico	96,800	91,900	21,300	232	189,000	18	43,600
Netherlands	16,100	--	--	--	16,100	2	2,520
New Zealand	--	7,000	1,350	193	7,000	1	1,350
Philippines	6,700	12,000	2,320	194	18,700	2	3,540
Saudi Arabia	1,210	17,500	2,890	165	18,700	2	3,020
South Africa	12,500	7,480	1,260	169	20,000	2	3,380
Taiwan	6,950	26,400	4,600	174	33,400	3	5,820
Thailand	29,000	23,300	4,170	179	52,200	5	9,920
United Arab Emirates	15	6,500	1,060	163	6,520	1	1,070
United Kingdom	20,100	20,000	3,370	169	40,100	4	7,470
Venezuela	--	8,890	2,110	237	8,890	1	2,110
Vietnam	26,500	14,400	2,680	186	40,900	4	7,770
Other	832	12,700	2,600	205	13,500	1	2,730
Total	483,000	547,000	107,000	195	1,030,000	100	203,000

-- Zero.

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

²March 2016 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 2016^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February			January–February		
		Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
China	7	144	\$26	\$181	151	3	\$41
France	153	--	--	--	153	3	69
Germany	632	2,080	312	150	2,720	53	408
Italy	--	571	147	257	571	11	147
Taiwan	117	--	--	--	117	2	17
Turkey	8	95	12	126	103	2	17
United Kingdom	513	752	122	162	1,270	25	223
Other	8	23	18	783	31	(4)	39
Total	1,440	3,670	637	174	5,110	100	961

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

²March 2016 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	
2015:						
January–December	11,600,000	6,390,000	39,800	14,600	--	5,200,000
January–February	1,930,000	1,070,000	5,510	94,300	--	774,000
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	435,000
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–February	1,860,000	1,030,000	5,110	24,700	--	815,000
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	NA	NA	5,020	--	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.