

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN MAY 2016

U.S. natural soda ash production in May was 987,000 metric tons (t), a 3% increase from the previous month's production and 7% more than that of May 2015 (table 1).

Ending inventories for May 2016 were 280,000 t, 7% less than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in May 2016 was 1.42 million metric tons (Mt), slightly less than that of April 2016 and May 2015.

Exports and imports of soda ash in April 2016 were 537,000 t and 3,740 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for April 2016, compared with those of April 2015, were as follows: production was 3% lower, exports were 15% lower, imports were 11% higher, and

apparent consumption increased slightly. 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–May	4,840	342	7,460 ^r
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
April	955	301	1,450
May	987	280	1,420
January–May	4,820	280	7,150

^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			January–April		
				Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	13,100	62	24,000	16,200	\$3,430	\$211	53,400	3	\$11,400
Australia	--	31,900	--	35,200	6,640	189	67,100	3	11,700
Brazil	92,200	71,700	52,500	112,000	22,600	203	328,000	16	66,400
Canada	17,300	21,900	19,200	21,300	4,100	193	79,700	4	15,100
Chile	9,180	36,200	37,200	25,600	5,640	220	108,000	5	23,200
China	41	41	35,000	82	19	233	35,200	2	4,320
Colombia	5,000	16,900	--	6,160	1,300	212	28,100	1	5,520
EL Salvador	--	6,000	--	--	--	--	6,000	(4)	1,220
France	5,940	--	9,000	--	--	--	14,900	1	2,440
Guatemala	--	6,320	--	5,000	1,080	216	11,300	(4)	2,440
Indonesia	52,700	61,500	31,700	59,400	11,100	188	205,000	10	38,400
Japan	30,500	14,100	39,000	19,100	3,430	180	103,000	5	17,800
Korea, Republic of	24,600	21,600	6,000	29,100	5,280	181	81,300	4	14,800
Malaysia	16,100	11,000	--	--	--	--	27,100	1	5,500
Mexico	96,800	91,900	74,400	102,000	22,400	220	365,000	17	83,000
Netherlands	16,100	--	19,200	80	9	110	35,300	2	5,580
New Zealand	--	7,000	--	--	--	--	7,000	(4)	1,350
Philippines	6,700	12,000	--	11,000	2,180	198	29,700	1	5,710
Saudi Arabia	1,210	17,500	18,500	--	--	--	37,200	2	6,140
South Africa	12,500	7,480	--	--	--	--	20,000	1	3,380
Taiwan	6,950	26,400	--	19,400	3,330	172	52,800	3	9,150
Thailand	29,000	23,300	37,100	12,000	2,190	183	101,000	5	18,600
United Arab Emirates	15	6,500	12,000	--	--	--	18,500	1	3,090
United Kingdom	20,100	20,000	24,000	19,900	4,060	203	84,000	4	16,400
Venezuela	--	8,890	--	11,300	2,580	228	20,200	1	4,690
Vietnam	26,500	14,400	11,000	32,000	6,180	193	83,900	4	16,100
Other	791 ^r	12,700	87,000	476	121	254	101,000	5	17,800
Total	483,000	547,000	537,000	537,000	108,000	201	2,100,000	100	411,000

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²May 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			January–April		
				Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
China	7	144	3	21	\$8	\$370	176	1	\$52
France	153	--	--	--	--	--	153	1	69
Germany	632	2,080	2,330	1,630	244	150	6,680	49	1000
Italy	--	571	1,370	1,310	294	225	3,250	24	741
Japan	2	--	--	226	28	125	229	2	41
Taiwan	117	--	--	--	--	--	117	1	17
Turkey	8	95	245	--	--	--	348	3	81
United Kingdom	513	752	705	518	91	175	2,490	18	330
Other	5 ^r	23	60	39	14	359	127	(4)	161
Total	1,440	3,670	4,710	3,740	679	182	13,600	100	2,490

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²May 2016 data were not available at time of publication.

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

⁴Less than ½ unit.

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–April	3,920,000	2,260,000	12,500	12,100 ^r	--	1,660,000
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–April	3,830,000	2,100,000	13,600	15,700	--	1,720,000
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	NA	NA	--	21,100	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.