

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN MAY 2019

U.S. natural soda ash production in May was 990,000 metric tons (t), a slight decrease compared with that of the previous month but 4% more than that of May 2018. Ending stocks were 275,000 t, 18% less than those of the preceding month (table 1,4). Wyoming trona production in May 2019 was 1.24 million metric tons (Mt), 19% less than that of April 2019 and 15% less than that of May 2018.

Exports of soda ash in May 2019 were 641,000 t, 14% more than those of April 2019 and 18% more than those of May 2018 (tables 2, 4). May 2019 imports of soda ash were 1,160 t, 10% less than those of April 2019 and 19% less than those of May 2018 (tables 3, 4). Soda ash import tonnages can differ significantly from month to month, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages.

Apparent consumption for May 2019 was 412,000 t, a 9% increase from that of April 2019 but slightly less than that of May 2018. Apparent consumption can change significantly from month to month mostly owing to changes in the quantity of exports but usually stabilizes over the course of the year (table 4).

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	
2018:			
January–May	4,870	259 ^r	7,670 ^r
May	952	259	1,450
June	961	248	1,420
July	1,070	282	1,490
August	930	293	1,180
September	988	268	1,320
October	1,010	237	1,500
November	997	309	1,490
December	1,060	297	1,580
January–December	11,900	297	17,600
2019:			
January	1,000	300	1,680
February	920	270	1,500
March	941	276	1,680
April	999	337	1,530
May	990	275	1,240
January–May	4,850	275	7,630

^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 OR LOCALITY, IN 2019¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May			January–May		
					Quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Argentina	7,000	7,700	--	16,700	79	\$17	\$221	31,500	1	\$7,310
Australia	35,000	4,040	34,000	29,000	34,000	9,400	276	136,000	5	32,900
Brazil	94,500	104,000	35,000	60,800	83,400	16,900	203	377,000	13	79,100
Canada	15,800	17,500	15,200	18,300	18,400	4,470	243	85,200	3	20,300
Chile	13,000	45,200	31,500	14,200	46,800	10,700	229	151,000	5	34,500
China	--	61	--	--	36,000	7,180	200	36,100	1	7,200
Colombia	8,000	21,400	10,500	8,750	8,200	1,890	230	56,900	2	12,900
Ecuador	9,500	--	10,000	--	--	--	--	19,500	1	4,390
Guatemala	4,000	7,000	--	--	11,500	2,660	232	22,500	1	5,150
India	--	43,500	--	65,700	12,500	2,190	175	122,000	4	21,800
Indonesia	88,100	21,300	90,800	19,400	105,000	23,800	228	324,000	11	73,400
Japan	3,000	34,400	15,100	21,500	--	--	--	74,100	3	14,500
Korea, Republic of	11,500	18,000	15,700	34,200	26	25	980	79,500	3	16,900
Malaysia	46,100	62,800	52,500	39,300	43,200	9,730	225	244,000	8	54,200
Mexico	144,000	106,000	112,000	114,000	111,000	27,000	244	586,000	20	137,000
Nigeria	--	10,000	--	--	8,500	2,850	335	18,500	1	6,220
Peru	17,000	--	16,300	1,280	10,800	2,440	226	45,300	2	10,200
Philippines	7,500	--	--	9,000	14,600	2,930	201	31,100	1	6,680
Saudi Arabia	98	10,300	39	15,100	536	59	110	26,100	1	4,580
South Africa	--	10,100	--	4,790	--	--	--	14,900	1	3,040
Taiwan	16,500	9,500	15,200	38,800	8,000	1,800	225	88,000	3	20,300
Thailand	35,100	26,600	35,600	7,500	10,000	2,160	216	115,000	4	26,600
Tunisia	--	20,000	--	--	15,000	3,600	240	35,000	1	8,500
United Arab Emirates	--	15,500	--	6,000	--	--	--	21,500	1	3,900
Vietnam	31,000	15,000	18,500	31,500	35,500	7,860	221	132,000	5	29,400
Other	476 [†]	11,600 [†]	462	6,540	28,300	7,200	254	47,400	2	11,100
Total	587,000	621,000	508,000	562,000	641,000	147,000	229	2,920,000	100	652,000

[†]Revised. -- Zero.

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

²Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY, IN 2019¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	Quantity	May		January–May		
						Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Bulgaria	288	612	432	882	648	\$237	\$366	2,860	50	\$1,010
China	77	72	180	41	56	31	565	426	7	275
France	44	91	41	91	64	84	1,320	331	6	446
Mexico	304	97	252	150	244	95	389	1,050	18	390
Romania	95	172	38	38	--	--	--	343	6	152
United Kingdom	146	197	91	73	143	92	644	650	11	435
Other	24	9	3	10	(³)	4	(³)	45	1	180
Total	978	1,250	1,040	1,280	1,150	543	470	5,700	100	2,890

-- Zero.

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

²Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

³Less 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	
2018:						
January–December	11,900,000	6,960,000	16,300	3,910	--	4,940,000
January–May	4,870,000	2,900,000	6,730	-- ^r	34,600 ^r	2,020,000 ^r
May	952,000	544,000	1,420	--	8,440	417,000
June	961,000	512,000	1,230	--	10,400	461,000
July	1,070,000	609,000	1,560	34,000	--	428,000
August	930,000	542,000	1,020	10,600	--	378,000
September	988,000	529,000	1,500	--	24,700	485,000
October	1,010,000	670,000	1,940	--	31,800	376,000
November	997,000	506,000	1,720	72,500	--	420,000
December	1,060,000	698,000	627	--	11,700	374,000
2019:						
January–May	4,850,000	2,920,000	5,700	--	22,200	1,960,000
January	1,000,000	587,000	978	2,640	--	415,000
February	920,000	621,000	1,250	--	30,500	331,000
March	941,000	508,000	1,040	6,870	--	427,000
April	999,000	562,000	1,280	60,300	--	378,000
May	990,000	641,000	1,150	--	61,600	412,000

^rRevised. -- 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.