

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN APRIL 2004

Natural soda ash production in April was 913,000 metric tons (t), 3% lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 281,000 t, 6% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in April was 1.43 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in March was 541,000 t, 6% higher than the March 2003 level of 510,000 t. Exports and

imports of soda ash in March 2004 were 423,000 t and 438 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through March 2004, compared with those of March 2003, were as follows: production was 3% higher, imports 7% lower, exports 10% higher, ending stocks slightly higher, and apparent consumption 4% higher.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2003:			
March	897	263	1,410
April	872	234	1,320
May	926	298	1,340
June	878	255	1,110
July	923	297	1,110
August	888	323	1,110
September	869	286	1,300
October	913	291	1,390
November	860	309	1,250
December	925	330	1,450
Total (January-April)	3,460	XX	5,440
Year total	10,600	XX	15,500
2004:			
January	857	331	1,310
February	852	291	1,330
March	937	264	1,500
April	913	281	1,430
Total	3,560	XX	5,580

XX Not applicable.

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

²Production data includes 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 MARCH 2004^{1, 2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	46,900	\$5,920	\$126
Indonesia	38,800	3,680	95
Belgium	38,400	4,670	122
Canada	37,500	2,930	78
Argentina	31,500	4,000	127
Venezuela	31,300	4,270	136
China	22,900	1,490	65
Colombia	20,200	3,190	158
Korea, Republic of	19,000	1,800	94
Malaysia	16,500	1,990	121
Other	120,000	14,200	119
Total or average	423,000	48,200	114

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

²April 2004 data were not available at time of publication.

³Free alongside ship value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2004^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	Total	% of total
Argentina	20,500	19,600	31,500	71,600	6
Australia	--	15,500	7,500	23,000	2
Belgium	21,200	10,000	38,400	69,600	6
Brazil	15,000	28,200	8,550	51,700	4
Canada	28,100	28,800	37,500	94,400	8
Chile	409	30,700	11,200	42,300	3
China	23,000	31,400	22,900	77,300	6
Colombia	9,340	11,000	20,200	40,500	3
Costa Rica	--	2,000	--	2,000	(3)
Dominican Republic	--	--	27	27	(3)
Ecuador	5,310	--	--	5,310	(3)
France	6,940	21,000	7,540	35,500	3
Germany	347	--	578	925	(3)
Guatemala	--	5	--	5	(3)
Indonesia	42,300	--	38,800	81,100	7
Ireland	--	40	--	40	(3)
Italy	31	--	--	31	(3)
Japan	37,900	56,900	8,500	103,000	9
Korea, Republic of	18,100	16,900	19,000	54,000	4
Malaysia	--	8,000	16,500	24,500	2
Mexico	36,800	46,800	46,900	130,000	11
Netherlands	6,020	9,470	10,100	25,600	2
New Zealand	6,600	5,000	--	11,600	1
Peru	1,580	3,900	--	5,480	(3)
Philippines	7,500	--	12,000	19,500	2
Portugal	--	--	9,500	9,500	1
Russia	3	--	158	161	(3)
Saudi Arabia	--	20,000	16,000	36,000	3
South Africa	6,500	--	--	6,500	1
Spain	49	14,700	5,090	19,900	2
Taiwan	11,000	45,800	--	56,800	5
Thailand	19,000	16,200	14,900	50,100	4
United Arab Emirates	--	8,000	8,000	16,000	1
United Kingdom	--	--	24	24	(3)
Venezuela	366	16,700	31,300	48,300	4
Total	324,000	467,000	423,000	1,210,000	100

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

²April 2004 data were not available at time of publication.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH^{1,2}

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2003:		
March	540	\$165
April	784	145
May	662	165
June	138	78
July	380	134
August	263	78
September	266	104
October	331	103
November	435	126
December	543	144
Total (January-March)	1,530	433
Year total	5,330	1,510
2004:		
January	511	155
February	470	123
March	438	141
Total	1,420	418

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

²April 2004 data were not available at time of publication.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2003:						
March	897,000	540	375,000	11,500	--	510,000
April	872,000	784	350,000	--	28,300	551,000
May	926,000	662	340,000	63,900	--	523,000
June	878,000	138	374,000	--	43,300	547,000
July	923,000	380	356,000	41,700	--	526,000
August	888,000	263	422,000	26,000	--	440,000
September	869,000	266	385,000	--	36,800	522,000
October	913,000	331	295,000	4,910	--	613,000
November	860,000	435	404,000	18,000	--	439,000
December	925,000	543	426,000	21,300	--	478,000
Total (January-March)	2,580,000	1,530	1,100,000	41,000	--	1,440,000
Year total	10,600,000	5,330	4,450,000	108,000	--	6,090,000
2004:						
January	857,000	511	324,000	660	--	533,000
February	852,000	470	467,000	--	40,200	426,000
March	937,000	438	423,000	--	26,900	541,000
April	913,000	NA	NA	16,800	--	NA
January-March	2,650,000	1,420	1,210,000	--	66,400	1,500,000

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.