

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN DECEMBER 2004

Natural soda ash production in December was 936,000 metric tons (t), 4% higher than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 338,000 t, 15% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in December was 1.21 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in November was 505,000 t, 15% higher than the November 2003 level of 439,000 t.

Exports and imports of soda ash in November 2004 were 426,000 t and 659 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through November 2004, compared with those of November 2003, were as follows: production was 3% higher, imports 19% higher, exports 6% higher, ending stocks 5% lower, and apparent consumption 3% higher.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2003:			
December	925	330	1,450
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
May	935	299	1,340
June	894	252	1,240
July	963	318	1,400
August	929	266	1,490
September	907	230	1,420
October	933	323	1,400
November	902 ^r	295 ^r	1,370
December	936	338	1,210
Total	11,000	XX	16,500

^rRevised. 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 NOVEMBER 2004^{1, 2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	59,200	\$7,220	\$122
Japan	47,000	5,220	111
Argentina	45,900	6,560	143
Venezuela	45,900	5,980	130
Brazil	39,600	4,400	111
Canada	37,100	3,310	89
Indonesia	30,500	2,710	89
Chile	30,300	3,990	132
Korea, Republic of	27,700	2,920	106
Saudi Arabia	20,000	1,780	89
Other	42,700	5,240	123
Total or average	426,000	49,300	116

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

²December 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	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	Total	% of total
Argentina	20,500	19,600	31,500	--	13,500	4,000	9,010	15,100	14,900	--	45,900	174,000	4
Australia	--	15,500	7,500	15,500	--	--	14,700	9,500	13,000	8,720	7,500	92,000	2
Belgium	21,200	10,000	38,400	9,670	32,400	8,920	--	12,400	24,300	12,800	9,280	179,000	4
Brazil	15,000	28,200	8,550	39,600	10,000	33,200	18,600	45,500	34,600	--	39,600	273,000	6
Canada	28,100	28,800	37,500	30,700	27,400	30,400	33,900	36,200	36,100	38,000	37,100	364,000	9
Chile	409	30,700	11,200	30,600	29,900	32,500	--	30,100	--	--	30,300	196,000	5
China	23,000	31,400	22,900	5,000	17,400	6	8,010	18,200	10,200	30,300	--	166,000	4
Colombia	9,340	11,000	20,200	11,100	9,250	9,000	9,300	14,700	--	--	--	93,800	2
Costa Rica	--	2,000	--	2,000	--	2,000	--	--	--	--	--	6,000	(3)
Dominican Republic	--	--	27	36	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	63	(3)
Ecuador	5,310	--	--	--	--	--	6,000	--	--	--	--	11,300	(3)
Finland	--	--	--	34	--	--	--	--	17	--	--	51	(3)
France	6,940	21,000	7,540	--	10,000	17,400	8,940	--	--	7,500	--	79,300	2
Germany	347	--	578	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	925	(3)
Guatemala	--	5	--	2,500	3,000	3,500	--	3,000	--	--	6,000	18,000	(3)
Indonesia	42,300	--	38,800	22,600	45,300	31,300	28,700	--	32,400	35,400	30,500	307,000	7
Ireland	--	40	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	40	(3)
Italy	31	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	31	(3)
Japan	37,900	56,900	8,500	45,900	27,600	30,800	58,300	35,500	23,800	22,500	47,000	395,000	9
Korea, Republic of	18,100	16,900	19,000	20,900	14,900	23,600	--	22,600	22,800	21,100	27,700	208,000	5
Malaysia	--	8,000	16,500	8,000	--	17,700	--	19,000	--	17,000	--	86,200	2
Mexico	36,800	46,800	46,900	54,400	57,400	39,100	41,800	48,100	52,200	64,400	59,200	547,000	13
Netherlands	6,020	9,470	10,100	--	14,000	--	--	16,800	--	24,000	--	80,400	2
Netherlands Antilles	--	--	--	--	20	--	17	--	--	--	18	55	(3)
New Zealand	6,600	5,000	--	6,000	--	--	5,000	7,500	--	5,000	--	35,100	1
Pakistan	--	--	--	--	--	5,000	--	--	--	--	--	5,000	(3)
Panama	--	--	--	--	--	2,000	--	2,000	--	--	--	4,000	(3)
Peru	1,580	3,900	--	2,500	2,000	7,500	--	--	--	--	4,000	21,500	1
Philippines	7,500	--	12,000	--	8,000	8,000	4,500	--	11,800	9,000	--	60,800	1
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	11	34	138	--	--	183	(3)
Portugal	--	--	9,500	--	--	--	8,500	--	--	7,500	--	25,500	1
Russia	3	--	158	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	161	(3)
Saudi Arabia	--	20,000	16,000	--	17,000	23,000	--	18,000	--	12,500	20,000	127,000	3
South Africa	6,500	--	--	9,500	--	--	15,200	--	--	6,500	--	37,700	1
Spain	49	14,700	5,090	15,100	13,000	10,700	5,050	9,400	13,000	14,400	29	101,000	2
Suriname	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	4	(3)
Taiwan	11,000	45,800	--	29,300	16,400	15,000	11,000	--	12,500	10,500	15,900	167,000	4
Thailand	19,000	16,200	14,900	10,000	--	21,200	26,200	22,000	21,500	12,100	--	163,000	4
United Arab Emirates	--	8,000	8,000	--	6,000	--	--	9,000	--	7,500	--	38,500	1
United Kingdom	--	--	24	7,700	--	2	60	--	--	--	1	7,790	(3)
Venezuela	366	16,700	31,300	24,100	12,800	25,800	9,500	8,790	16,000	2	45,900	191,000	4
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	10,000	--	--	--	--	--	10,000	(3)
Total	324,000	467,000	423,000	403,000	387,000	412,000	322,000	403,000	339,000	367,000	426,000	4,270,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²December 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:		
November	435	\$126
December	543	144
Total (January-November)	4,790	1,370
Year total	5,330	1,510
2004:		
January	511	155
February	470	123
March	438	141
April	332	137
May	448	174
June	517	193
July	600	189
August	504	163
September	627	137
October	573	149
November	659	177
Total	5,680	1,740

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

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²December 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:						
November	860,000	435	404,000	18,000	--	439,000
December	925,000	543	426,000	21,300	--	478,000
Total (January-November)	9,710,000	4,790	4,030,000	87,100	--	5,610,000
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	332	403,000	16,800	--	494,000
May	935,000	448	387,000	18,700	--	529,000
June	894,000	517	412,000	--	47,000	530,000
July	963,000	600	322,000	65,600	--	576,000
August	929,000	504	403,000	--	51,300	578,000
September	907,000	627	339,000	--	36,600	605,000
October	933,000	573	367,000	93,200	--	474,000
November	902,000 ^r	659	426,000	--	28,500 ^r	505,000
December	936,000	NA	NA	43,200	--	NA
January-November	10,000,000	5,680	4,270,000	--	35,500	5,790,000

^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.