

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Dennis S. Kostick, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
983 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7715, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: dkostick@usgs.gov

Jeff Milanovich (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7982
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: jmilanov@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

SODA ASH IN FEBRUARY 2004

Natural soda ash production in February was 852,000 metric tons (t), slightly lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 291,000 t, 12% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in February was 1.33 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in January was 533,000 t, 29% higher than the January 2003 level of 413,000 t.

Exports and imports of soda ash in January 2004 were 324,000 t and 511 t, respectively.

Soda ash statistics in January 2004, compared with those of January 2003, were as follows: production was 1% lower, imports 17% lower, exports 19% higher, ending stocks 19% lower, and apparent consumption 29% higher.

Note: The average value of soda ash in 2003 was \$65.21 per short ton.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2003:			
January	867	278	1,470
February	820	251	1,240
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-February)	1,690	XX	2,710
Year total	10,600	XX	15,500
2004:			
January	857	331	1,310
February	852	291	1,330
Total	1,710	XX	2,640

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 JANUARY 2004^{1, 2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Indonesia	42,300	\$4,590	\$108
Japan	37,900	4,520	119
Mexico	36,800	4,450	121
Canada	28,100	2,170	77
China	23,000	1,380	60
Belgium	21,200	2,690	127
Argentina	20,500	2,360	115
Thailand	19,000	1,990	104
Korea, Republic of	18,100	1,770	98
Brazil	15,000	1,810	121
Other	62,000	6,740	109
Total or average	324,000	34,500	106

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

²February 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	% of total
Argentina	20,500	6
Belgium	21,200	7
Brazil	15,000	5
Canada	28,100	9
Chile	409	(3)
China	23,000	7
Colombia	9,340	3
Ecuador	5,310	2
France	6,940	2
Germany	347	(3)
Indonesia	42,300	13
Italy	31	(3)
Japan	37,900	12
Korea, Republic of	18,100	6
Mexico	36,800	11
Netherlands	6,020	2
New Zealand	6,600	2
Peru	1,580	(3)
Philippines	7,500	2
Russia	3	(3)
South Africa	6,500	2
Spain	49	(3)
Taiwan	11,000	3
Thailand	19,000	6
Venezuela	366	(3)
Total	324,000	100

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

²February 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:		
January	615	\$135
February	375	133
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	5,330	1,510
2004:		
January	511	155

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

²February 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:						
January	867,000	615	398,000	56,700	--	413,000
February	820,000	375	327,000	--	27,200	521,000
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	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	NA	NA	--	40,200	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.