

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 MARCH 2005

Natural soda ash production in March was 894,000 metric tons (t), 4% higher than the previous month's revised production of 858,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 285,000 t, 21% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in March was 1.41million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in February was 501,000 t, 18% higher than the February 2004 level of 533,000 t.

Exports and imports of soda ash in February 2005 were 330,000 t and 807 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through February 2004, compared with those of February 2003, were as follows: production was 4% higher, exports 9% lower, imports 48% higher, ending stocks 2% lower, and apparent consumption 8% higher.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2004:			
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	295	1,370
December	936	338	1,210
Total (January-March)	2,650	XX	4,150
Year total	11,000	XX	16,500
2005:			
January	925	332	1,440
February	858 ^r	360	1,350
March	894	285	1,410
Total	2,680	XX	4,200

^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 FEBRUARY 2005^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	51,600	\$6,690	\$130
Japan	45,800	5,790	127
Canada	34,200	3,650	107
Venezuela	32,100	4,880	152
Taiwan	20,600	2,340	114
Korea, Republic of	20,300	2,950	145
Belgium	20,000	2,450	122
Argentina	14,700	2,350	160
Philippines	14,000	1,910	136
South Africa	13,000	1,630	125
Other	63,700	8,140	128
Total or average	330,000	42,800	130

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

²March 2005 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 2005^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	Total	% of total
Argentina	1,400	14,700	16,100	2
Australia	7,000	9,000	16,000	2
Belgium	--	20,000	20,000	3
Brazil	55,000	6,010	61,000	8
Canada	35,100	34,200	69,300	10
Chile	26,100	8,280	34,400	5
China	--	12,200	12,200	2
Colombia	13,300	8,500	21,800	3
Finland	--	17	17	(3)
Indonesia	60,800	--	60,800	8
Italy	--	44	44	(3)
Japan	10,400	45,800	56,200	8
Korea, Republic of	13,000	20,300	33,300	5
Malaysia	10,500	--	10,500	1
Mexico	63,600	51,600	115,000	16
Netherlands	9,510	9,110	18,600	3
New Zealand	6,000	--	6,000	1
Pakistan	4	--	4	(3)
Panama	2,000	--	2,000	(3)
Peru	8,850	--	8,850	1
Philippines	--	14,000	14,000	2
Russia	1,830	--	1,830	(3)
Saudi Arabia	13,000	--	13,000	2
South Africa	--	13,000	13,000	2
Spain	10,000	10,000	20,000	3
Taiwan	18,500	20,600	39,100	5
Thailand	16,500	598	17,100	2
United Arab Emirates	5,500	--	5,500	1
Venezuela	--	32,100	32,100	4
Total	388,000	330,000	718,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²March 2005 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)
2004:		
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
December	626	140
Total (January-February)	981	278
Year total	6,310	1,880
2005:		
January	644	158
February	807	220
Total	1,450	378

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

²March 2005 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	
2004:						
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	659	426,000	--	28,500	505,000
December	936,000	626	397,000	43,200	--	496,000
Total (January-February)	1,710,000	981	790,000		39,500	959,000
Total	11,000,000	6,310	4,670,000	7,650	--	6,290,000
2005:						
January	925,000	644	388,000	--	6,180 ^r	544,000
February	858,000 ^r	807	330,000	28,400	--	501,000
March	894,000	NA	NA	--	74,600	NA
January-February	1,780,000	1,450	718,000	22,200	--	1,040,000

^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.