

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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**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](mailto:dkostick@usgs.gov)

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

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

## SODA ASH IN FEBRUARY 2005

Natural soda ash production in February was 867,000 metric tons (t), 6% lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 360,000 t, 8% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in February was 1.35 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in January was 544,000 t, 2% higher than the January 2004 level of 533,000 t.

Exports and imports of soda ash in January 2005 were 388,000 t and 644 t, respectively.

Soda ash statistics in January 2005, compared with those of January 2004, were as follows: production was 8% higher, imports 26% higher, exports 20% higher, ending stocks slightly higher, and apparent consumption 2% higher.

The 2004 quarterly end-use data are included in table 6 of this report.

**Note:** The average value of soda ash in 2004 was \$63.75 per short ton.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Ending stocks	
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	295	1,370
December	936	338	1,210
Total (January-February)	1,710	XX	2,640
Year total	11,000	XX	16,500
2005:			
January	925	332	1,440
February	867	360	1,350
Total	1,790	XX	2,790

XX Not applicable.

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

<sup>2</sup>Production 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 2005<sup>1,2</sup>

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	63,600	\$8,070	\$127
Indonesia	60,800	7,860	129
Brazil	55,000	7,410	135
Canada	35,100	3,810	108
Chile	26,100	3,640	139
Taiwan	18,500	2,140	116
Thailand	16,500	2,570	156
Colombia	13,300	1,830	138
Korea, Republic of	13,000	2,080	160
Saudi Arabia	13,000	1,600	123
Other	73,000	9,880	135
Total or average	388,000	50,900	131

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

<sup>2</sup>February 2005 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Free alongside ship value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY,  
IN 2005<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	January	% of total
Argentina	1,400	(3)
Australia	7,000	2
Brazil	55,000	14
Canada	35,100	9
Chile	26,100	7
Colombia	13,300	3
Indonesia	60,800	16
Japan	10,400	3
Korea, Republic of	13,000	3
Malaysia	10,500	3
Mexico	63,600	16
Netherlands	9,510	2
New Zealand	6,000	2
Pakistan	4	(3)
Panama	2,000	1
Peru	8,850	2
Russia	1,830	(3)
Saudi Arabia	13,000	3
Spain	10,000	3
Taiwan	18,500	5
Thailand	16,500	4
United Arab Emirates	5,500	1
Total	388,000	100

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>February 2005 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH<sup>1,2</sup>

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)
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
December	626	140
Total	6,310	1,880
2005:		
January	644	158

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

<sup>2</sup>February 2005 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Cost, insurance, and freight value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption <sup>2</sup>
				Increase	Decrease	
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	659	426,000	--	28,500	505,000
December	936,000	626	397,000	43,200	--	496,000
Total	11,000,000	6,310	4,670,000	7,650	--	6,290,000
2005:						
January	925,000	644	388,000	--	6,130	544,000
February	867,000	NA	NA	28,400	--	NA

NA Not available. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.

TABLE 6  
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTERS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

SIC code	End use	2003	2004				Total
			First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	
32	Glass:						
3221	Container	1,580	381	402	400	336	1,520
3211	Flat	1,060	263	280	288	303	1,130
3296	Fiber	269	69	69	72	73	283
3229	Other	196	47	47	47	47	188
	Total	3,100	760	798	807	758	3,120
281	Chemicals	1,730	395	389	411	422	1,620
284	Soaps and detergents	674	169	153	177	162	661
26	Pulp and paper	114	22	22	21	25	90
2899	Water treatment <sup>2</sup>	70	20	22	21	19	82
	Flue gas desulfurization	124	31	27	39	32	128
	Distributors	277	76	79	76	69	300
	Other	180	56	42	75	83	255
	Total domestic consumption <sup>3</sup>	6,270	1,530	1,530	1,630	1,570	6,260
	Exports <sup>4</sup>	4,320	1,150	1,120	1,190	1,150	4,610
	Canada	319	81	78	85	87	332
	Total industry sales <sup>5</sup>	10,600	2,670	2,650	2,820	2,720	10,900
	Total sales from plants	10,700	2,830	2,860	2,970	2,840	11,500
	Total production	10,600	2,650	2,740	2,800	2,770	11,000

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors and purge liquors sold to powerplant for water treatment. Sales of mine water are excluded.

<sup>3</sup>Imports reported by the producer/importer have been distributed into appropriate end-use categories listed above.

<sup>4</sup>As reported by producers. Includes Canada. Data may not necessarily agree with that reported by the U.S. Census Bureau for the same periods.

<sup>5</sup>Represents soda ash from domestic origin (production and inventory changes) and imports and for exports. Includes soda ash sold by coproducers and distributed by purchasers into appropriate end-use categories.