

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN DECEMBER 2011

U.S. natural soda ash production in December was 975,000 metric tons (t), 13% higher than the previous month's production of 864,000 t. The preliminary total soda ash production in 2011 was 10.7 million metric tons (Mt).

Ending inventories for December 2011 were 282,000 t, 10% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in December 2011 was 1.42 Mt.

Exports and imports of soda ash in November 2011 were 507,000 t and 1,120 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for November 2011, compared with those of November 2010, were as follows: production was 5% lower, imports were 73% higher, exports were 9% higher, and apparent consumption was 10% lower.

All percentages in this report were computed using unrounded data.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2010:			
December	927	220	1,420
January–December	10,600	220	15,900
2011:			
January	888	223	1,510 ^r
February	813	208	1,410
March	904	212	1,480
April	824 ^r	182	1,270
May	881	205	1,290
June	899 ^r	204	1,370 ^r
July	918 ^r	269	1,130 ^r
August	970 ^r	275	1,450 ^r
September	849 ^r	267	1,300 ^r
October	941 ^r	279	1,480 ^r
November	864	256	1,360
December	975	282	1,420
January–December	10,700	282	16,500

^rRevised.

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

²Production data include 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 2011^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November			January–November		
											Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	% of total	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	78	13,000	23,500	--	13,200	--	--	9,950	59	8,070	12,000	2,330	\$195	79,800	2	15,100
Australia	29,000	5,850	5,700	--	24,700	7,000	5,700	5,700	5,700	18,000	17,200	3,360	195	125,000	3	26,100
Belgium	18,000	15,000	11,600	--	5,000	3,930	35,500	8,000	11,200	--	20,000	2,500	125	128,000	3	19,400
Brazil	32,500	44,100	47,700	77,000	28,200	51,100	57,900	65,200	48,900	67,600	45,000	7,470	166	565,000	11	95,100
Canada	20,500	23,900	23,600	24,900	23,500	24,100	22,500	24,500	24,500	25,500	25,300	5,140	204	263,000	5	52,800
Chile	34,500	--	34,300	14,500	33,700	24,700	--	22,000	70,400	24,400	31,900	5,600	175	290,000	6	51,100
Colombia	6,350	14,200	14,000	17,200	5,000	6,340	7,000	16,300	15,300	--	17,000	3,120	184	119,000	2	20,500
France	39	--	25	15,000	--	5,030	8,000	--	4,970	10,000	6,020	782	130	49,200	1	6,910
Guatemala	--	7,300	--	7,000	--	7,100	--	1,850	6,850	--	6,600	1,290	196	36,700	1	7,340
Indonesia	28,000	88,600	42,500	21,100	18,000	38,200	60,300	61,200	11,700	56,000	24,400	5,940	244	450,000	9	93,000
Japan	33,700	13,400	38,400	19,500	756	31,800	583	24,200	31,700	18,100	26,900	4,100	152	239,000	5	43,700
Korea, Republic of	16,100	17,700	16,200	27,900	112	26,900	16,500	18,900	8,050	37,900	17,600	3,870	220	204,000	4	43,600
Lithuania	--	15,200	--	--	--	--	22,700	--	17,500	--	15,300	2,900	190	70,700	1	10,800
Malaysia	--	8,500	6,000	--	--	7,500	--	--	12,500	--	--	--	--	34,500	1	7,620
Mexico	63,400	48,000	72,100	77,400	79,600	78,100	83,900	76,100	70,300	83,000	74,100	16,700	226	806,000	16	174,000
Netherlands	8,300	--	810	21,000	25,000	11,900	20,500	12,400	20,800	16,400	56,000	9,080	162	193,000	4	33,500
Peru	13,500	--	3,500	8,540	12,700	6,070	--	16,700	4,350	12,400	13,300	2,750	207	91,000	2	17,200
Philippines	10,500	--	7,800	10,500	--	9,000	--	8,500	--	8,000	--	--	--	54,300	1	10,400
Saudi Arabia	--	14,800	--	--	14,500	--	14,800	--	16,000	--	17,000	2,580	152	77,100	2	11,900
South Africa	25,700	8,020	28,800	7,670	--	50,700	7,800	18,700	17,000	19,200	12,800	1,610	126	196,000	4	26,700
Spain	--	--	--	21,900	--	9,560	--	24,600	--	6,330	223	24	108	62,700	1	9,190
Taiwan	21,800	399	43,300	17,800	324	17,700	15,800	21,100	23,600	11,300	18,700	4,800	257	192,000	4	38,200
Thailand	16,500	--	20,800	--	13,500	22,500	15,000	--	26,000	18,500	--	--	--	133,000	3	25,600
Tunisia	--	14,400	--	14,900	11,000	16,300	--	11,100	--	16,700	--	--	--	84,400	2	11,700
United Arab Emirates	--	10,200	--	--	4,000	--	10,200	--	9,000	--	8,000	1,070	134	41,400	1	6,420
Venezuela	--	28,400	14,800	--	29,600	34,200	--	--	20,700	28,700	19,700	4,400	224	176,000	4	39,800
Other	5,350	26,300	13,700	29,200	26,300	21,900	15,000	16,700	1,080	16,100	22,200	4,170	188	194,000	4	37,000
Total	384,000	417,000	469,000	433,000	369,000	511,000	420,000	464,000	478,000	502,000	507,000	95,600	189	4,950,000	100	935,000

-- Zero.

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

²December 2011 data were not available at time of publication.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2011^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November			January–November		
											Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	% of total	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada ⁴	1	7	--	(5)	95	1,220	2,640	2,690	4,150	1,800	152	15	\$99	12,800	50	1,380
China	62	1	17	--	452	--	502	--	--	500	4	4	1,000	1,540	6	653
Dominican Republic ⁴	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	131	113	--	--	--	243	1	49
France	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	(5)	10
Germany	(5)	--	(5)	759	1	--	(5)	269	(5)	(5)	1	3	3,000	1,030	4	216
Hong Kong ⁴	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	(5)	5
India	--	--	9	--	--	487	1	--	5	--	--	--	--	501	2	89
Italy	--	37	408	18	--	646	40	784	1,620	631	497	130	262	4,680	18	1,230
Japan	111	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	2	118	2	10	5,000	237	1	69
Mexico	80	--	136	156	157	293	39	252	162	64	97	32	330	1,440	6	510
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	22	22	240	240	101	421	525	2	222
United Kingdom	168	70	205	198	110	108	841	128	318	106	127	71	559	2,380	9	885
Total	422	119	777	1,130	815	2,760	4,070	4,150	6,410	3,570	1,120	367	328	25,300	100	5,320

-- Zero.

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

²December 2011 data were not available at time of publication.

³Customs, insurance and freight values at U.S. ports.

⁴Not a soda-ash-producing country; material transshipped.

⁵Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2010:						
January–November	9,640,000 ^r	19,200	4,900,000	--	15,700	4,780,000
November	911,000	649	464,000	23,100	--	425,000
December	927,000	538	492,000	19,200	--	416,000
January–December	10,600,000	19,700	5,390,000	3,520	--	5,190,000
2011:						
January–November	9,750,000	25,300	4,950,000	35,700	--	4,790,000
January	888,000	422	384,000	2,650	--	502,000
February	813,000	119	417,000	--	15,000	410,000
March	904,000	777	469,000	4,150	--	431,000
April	823,000	1,130	433,000	--	30,400	422,000
May	881,000	815	369,000	23,600	--	490,000
June	899,000 ^r	2,760	511,000	--	1,630	392,000 ^r
July	918,000 ^r	4,070	420,000	65,200	--	437,000 ^r
August	970,000 ^r	4,150	464,000	6,510	--	504,000 ^r
September	849,000 ^r	6,410	478,000	--	8,350	386,000 ^r
October	941,000 ^r	3,570	502,000	11,800	--	430,000 ^r
November	864,000	1,120	507,000	--	22,800	381,000
December	975,000	NA	NA	26,100	--	NA

^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.