

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN FEBRUARY 2011

U.S. natural soda ash production in February was 798,000 metric tons (t), which is 9% lower than the previous month's production of 873,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for February 2011 were 208,000 t, 7% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in February was 1.4 million metric tons.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in January 2011 was 487,000 t, which is 22% higher than that of January 2010, and ending stocks were 7% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in January 2011 were 384,000 t and 422 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for January 2011, compared with those of January 2010, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were 26% lower; exports were 12% higher; and apparent consumption, 22% higher.

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	Ending stocks	
2010:			
January	857	241	1,530
February	795	196	1,260
March	826	175	1,300
April	856	166	1,100
May	896	236	1,410
June	799	177	1,350
July	853	176	1,270
August	923	182	1,380
September	828	150	1,280
October	904	178	1,330
November	898	201	1,330
December	915	220	1,420
January-December	10,400	XX	15,900
2011:			
January	873	223	1,500
February	798	208	1,410
January-February	1,670	XX	2,910

XX Not applicable.

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}

Country	January			Year to date		
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity (metric tons)	% of total	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Australia	29,000	5,690	196	29,000	8	5,690
Belgium	18,000	2,410	133	18,000	5	2,410
Brazil	32,500	5,210	160	32,500	8	5,210
Canada	20,500	4,300	210	20,500	5	4,300
Chile	34,500	5,790	168	34,500	9	5,790
Colombia	6,350	876	138	6,350	2	876
Indonesia	28,000	5,040	180	28,000	7	5,040
Japan	33,700	5,700	169	33,700	9	5,700
Korea, Republic of	16,100	3,050	189	16,100	4	3,050
Mexico	63,400	13,800	218	63,400	17	13,800
Netherlands	8,300	1,360	164	8,300	2	1,360
Peru	13,500	2,520	187	13,500	4	2,520
Philippines	10,500	1,700	161	10,500	3	1,700
South Africa	25,700	3,860	150	25,700	7	3,860
Taiwan	21,800	3,890	178	21,800	6	3,890
Thailand	16,500	2,500	151	16,500	4	2,500
United Kingdom	3,000	570	190	3,000	1	570
Other	2,460	455	185	2,460	1	455
Total	384,000	68,700	179	384,000	100	68,700

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

²February 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^{1, 2}

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2010:		
January	568	279
February	887	262
March	488	249
April	324	165
May	628	222
June	1,490	588
July	10,600	2,110
August	2,420	1,060
September	343	208
October	771	255
November	649	198
December	538	175
January-December	19,700	5,770
2011, January	422	202

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

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

³Cost, insurance, and freight value at U.S. ports.

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	857,000	568	435,000	24,600	--	398,000
February	795,000	887	481,000	--	45,100	359,000
March	826,000	488	380,000	--	20,700	467,000
April	856,000	324	380,000	--	9,610	486,000
May	896,000	628	496,000	70,100	--	331,000
June	799,000	1,490	492,000	--	58,600	368,000
July	853,000	10,600	407,000	--	1,460	458,000
August	923,000	2,420	511,000	6,460	--	409,000
September	828,000	343	434,000	--	32,400	427,000
October	904,000	771	419,000	27,900	--	457,000
November	898,000	649	464,000	23,100	--	412,000
December	915,000	538	492,000	19,200	--	404,000
January-December	10,400,000	19,700	5,390,000	3,520	--	4,980,000
2011:						
January	873,000	422	384,000	2,640	--	487,000
February	798,000	NA	NA	--	15,000	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.