

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN DECEMBER 2012

U.S. natural soda ash production in December was 966,000 metric tons (t), slightly lower than the previous month's production of 969,000 t.

Ending inventories for December 2012 were 315,000 t, slightly higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in December 2012 was 1.4 million metric tons.

Exports and imports of soda ash in November 2012 were 588,000 t and 727 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for November 2012, compared with those of November 2011, were as follows: production was 12% higher; imports were about 35% lower; exports were 16% higher; and apparent consumption was 3% higher. Imports fluctuate widely and are insignificant relative to exports.

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	
2011:			
December	975	282	1,420
January–December	10,700	282	16,500
2012:			
January	929	341	1,520
February	833	306	1,410
March	964	317	1,560
April	861	298	1,380
May	833	243	1,330
June	952	265	1,470
July	933	312	1,320
August	1,020	350	1,460
September	892	339	1,130
October	982	324	1,540
November	969	313	1,570
December	966	315	1,440
January–December	11,100	315	17,100

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 2012^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November			January–November ³		
											Quantity	Value ⁴ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ⁴ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	--	21,500	--	25,400	8,000	27,600	49	19,400	--	16,900	3,760	\$222	119,000	2	24,500
Australia	12,300	14,500	5,800	12,000	15,200	7,500	--	7,030	14,500	19,000	--	--	--	108,000	2	23,500
Belgium	13,800	11,100	12,000	--	19,500	78	10,000	11,100	10,000	--	8,070	967	120	95,700	2	12,700
Brazil	36,900	46,500	98,900	30,200	83,900	39,600	42,500	73,200	70,500	75,000	76,300	14,700	192	673,000	12	136,000
Canada	24,600	24,300	25,200	19,700	25,700	22,800	22,900	26,100	22,900	27,500	24,200	5,080	210	266,000	5	51,400
Chile	52,000	9,990	41,300	8,850	29,600	40,100	22,200	34,400	51,900	22,200	26,300	5,610	214	339,000	6	72,600
Colombia	6,710	11,000	10,200	29,400	--	6,130	24,300	40,500	--	15,700	19,200	3,600	187	163,000	3	30,600
France	15,200	--	--	16,000	--	--	--	5,090	--	--	--	--	--	36,300	1	5,380
India	--	--	22,000	--	22,000	--	--	--	--	--	20,000	3,910	196	64,000	1	10,700
Indonesia	17,000	74,500	16,500	74,500	32,500	76,000	33,000	66,000	103,000	64,900	48,500	9,700	200	607,000	11	128,000
Japan	31,600	13,400	19,100	24,900	234	44,300	496	29,800	13,600	432	47,600	9,120	192	225,000	4	43,600
Korea, Republic of	15,000	29,700	24,500	11,800	--	40,800	12,500	17,000	5,000	15,400	21,300	4,300	202	193,000	3	43,500
Mexico	81,700	86,800	101,000	78,700	89,700	98,000	76,800	93,500	72,900	82,900	140,000	25,500	182	1,000,000	18	220,000
Netherlands	22,700	14,300	26,500	23,000	16,100	39,000	56,000	25	12,600	21,000	9,970	2,030	203	241,000	4	39,400
Peru	3,840	17,100	7,500	5,000	13,700	5,610	--	8,220	83	14,500	145	16	110	75,700	1	16,900
Philippines	--	8,500	--	11,500	--	8,500	8,500	--	36	11,000	5,000	1,210	243	53,000	1	11,800
Saudi Arabia	--	15,000	18,000	--	--	14,600	14,300	333	18,700	333	333	114	342	81,600	1	16,900
South Africa	15,000	--	14,000	37,400	4,970	12,000	11,100	--	28,600	11,400	--	--	--	134,000	2	19,900
Spain	10,200	--	16,000	7,950	5,000	--	65	--	520	--	5,040	650	129	44,800	1	7,240
Taiwan	15,700	68	28,800	26,100	--	20,500	19,500	17,600	13,300	16,200	21,500	3,960	184	179,000	3	37,800
Thailand	21,000	--	404	22,500	20,500	13,000	--	23,000	22,500	24,000	21,000	5,130	244	168,000	3	38,200
Tunisia	25,100	--	12,200	--	25,800	20,000	--	22,000	29,900	6,000	6,000	1,440	240	147,000	3	26,100
United Arab Emirates	--	10,800	7,000	--	--	11,000	12,000	--	12,000	--	--	--	--	52,800	1	10,900
Venezuela	4,810	--	37,600	--	17,200	25,900	--	11,300	11,100	30,200	33,400	8,460	253	172,000	3	43,300
Other	28,800	15,000	36,400	33,100	17,800	14,900	36,800	26,400	36,700	63,900	37,400	6,730	180	347,000	6	64,900
Total	454,000	403,000	602,000	473,000	465,000	568,000	431,000	513,000	570,000	522,000	588,000	116,000	197	5,590,000	100	1,140,000

-- Zero.

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

²December 2012 data were not available at time of publication.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2012^{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	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada ⁴	(5)	1	425	874	866	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	2,170	19	260
China	--	--	229	8	444	18	--	--	20	--	--	--	--	719	6	272
Dominican Republic ⁴	--	225	252	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	477	4	74
France	208	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	211	2	49
Germany	1	210	3	(5)	(5)	(5)	3	--	144	--	215	27	\$126	576	5	177
Greece ⁴	60	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	60	1	23
Hong Kong	--	--	--	(5)	2	--	--	102	--	--	(5)	3	7	105	1	26
Italy	701	54	760	36	61	54	36	325	870	368	36	16	444	3,300	29	719
Japan	--	--	--	346	1	3	--	--	--	101	101	14	139	551	5	96
Mexico	19	19	--	51	173	78	256	275	153	96	245	80	327	1,360	12	421
Poland	22	22	--	--	22	--	22	--	22	--	22	9	409	133	1	53
Turkey	--	--	--	--	--	300	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	300	3	111
United Kingdom	108	90	57	145	160	55	128	165	193	93	88	47	534	1,280	11	675
Other	--	--	4	--	3	--	--	62	52	4	21	13	619	144	1	85
Total	1,120	622	1,730	1,460	1,730	508	445	929	1,460	661	727	208	286	11,400	100	3,040

-- Zero.

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

²December 2012 data were not available at time of publication.

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

⁴Not a soda-ash-producing country, material transshipped or possible erroneous data, according to the Journal of Commerce PIERS trade data.

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	
2011:						
January–December	10,700,000	26,900	5,470,000	61,800	--	5,220,000
January–November	9,750,000	25,300	4,950,000	35,700	--	4,790,000
November	864,000	1,120	507,000	--	22,800	381,000
December	975,000	1,560	517,000	26,100	--	434,000
2012:						
January–November	10,200,000	11,400	5,590,000	31,300	--	4,560,000
January	929,000	1,120	454,000	58,600	--	418,000
February	833,000	622	403,000	--	34,600	465,000
March	964,000	1,730	602,000	11,100	--	352,000
April	861,000	1,460	473,000	--	19,100	409,000
May	833,000	1,730	465,000	--	55,000	425,000
June	952,000	508	568,000	22,000	--	362,000
July	933,000	445	431,000	47,100	--	455,000
August	1,020,000	929	513,000	38,400	--	468,000
September	892,000	1,460	570,000	--	11,700	336,000
October	982,000	661	522,000	--	14,800	476,000
November	969,000	727	588,000	--	10,600	392,000
December	966,000	NA	NA	1,650	--	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.