

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN FEBRUARY 2012

U.S. natural soda ash production in February was 833,000 metric tons (t), 10% lower than the previous month's production of 929,000 t.

Ending inventories for February 2012 were 306,000 t, 10% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in February 2012 was 1.41 Mt.

Exports and imports of soda ash in January 2012 were 454,000 t and 1,120 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for January 2012, compared with those of January 2011, were as follows: production was 5% higher; imports were about 165% higher; exports were 18% higher; and apparent consumption was 17% lower.

All percentages in this report were computed using unrounded data.

Note: The annual average value of U.S. soda ash production for 2011 was \$133.57 per short ton.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2011:			
January	888	223	1,510
February	813	208	1,410
March	904	212	1,480
April	824	182	1,270
May	881	205	1,290
June	899	204	1,370
July	918	269	1,130
August	970	275	1,450
September	849	267	1,300
October	941	279	1,480
November	864	256	1,360
December	975	282	1,420
January–December	10,700	282	16,500
2012:			
January	929	341	1,520
February	833	306	1,410
January–February	1,760	306	2,930

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	Quantity	January		
		Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Percent of total quantity
Australia	12,300	2,630	\$215	3
Belgium	13,800	1,650	120	3
Brazil	36,900	6,190	168	8
Canada	24,600	4,660	190	5
Chile	52,000	11,700	225	11
Colombia	6,710	1,200	178	1
France	15,200	2,290	150	3
Indonesia	17,000	3,740	220	4
Japan	31,600	5,590	177	7
Korea, Republic of	15,000	2,940	196	3
Lithuania	15,100	1,230	82	3
Malaysia	6,000	1,450	241	1
Mexico	81,700	19,200	235	18
Netherlands	22,700	4,040	178	5
Peru	3,840	856	223	1
Portugal	5,500	850	155	1
South Africa	15,000	2,070	138	3
Spain	10,200	1,530	150	2
Taiwan	15,700	3,280	209	3
Thailand	21,000	4,600	219	5
Tunisia	25,100	4,330	173	6
Venezuela	4,810	1,050	218	1
Other	2,210	428	194	(4)
Total	454,000	87,500	193	100

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

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

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

⁴Less than ½ unit.

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	Quantity	January		Percent of total quantity
		Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	
France	208	26	\$125	19
Greece ⁴	60	23	383	5
Italy	701	154	220	63
Mexico	19	6	316	2
Poland	22	9	409	2
United Kingdom	108	57	528	10
Other ⁵	1	40	40,000	(6)
Total	1,120	315	282	100

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

²February 2012 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 or possible erroneous data, according to the Journal of Commerce PERS trade data.

⁵Quantity and (or) value may be erroneous, according to the Journal of Commerce PERS trade data.

⁶Less 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	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	824,000	1,130	433,000	--	30,400	422,000
May	881,000	815	369,000	23,600	--	490,000
June	899,000	2,760	511,000	--	1,630	392,000
July	918,000	4,070	420,000	65,200	--	437,000
August	970,000	4,150	464,000	6,510	--	504,000
September	849,000	6,410	478,000	--	8,350	386,000
October	941,000	3,570	502,000	11,800	--	430,000
November	864,000	1,120	507,000	--	22,800	381,000
December	975,000	1,560	517,000	26,100	--	434,000
2012:						
January	929,000	1,120	454,000	58,600	--	418,000
February	833,000	NA	NA	--	34,600	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.