

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JANUARY 2012

U.S. natural soda ash production in January was 929,000 metric tons (t), 5% lower than the previous month's production of 975,000 t. Total soda ash production in 2011 was 10.7 million metric tons (Mt).

Ending inventories for January 2012 were 341,000 t, 21% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in January 2012 was 1.52 Mt.

Exports and imports of soda ash in December 2011 were 517,000 t and 1,560 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for December 2011, compared with those of December 2010, were as follows: production was 5% higher; imports were 190% higher; exports were 5% higher; and apparent consumption was 4% higher.

The soda ash end use data for 2011 are shown in table 5.

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:			
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

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	December			January–December		
												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	19,800	3,950	\$200	99,600	2	19,000
Australia	29,000	5,850	5,700	--	24,700	7,000	5,700	5,700	5,700	18,000	17,200	11,700	2,450	210	136,000	2	28,600
Belgium	18,000	15,000	11,600	--	5,000	3,930	35,500	8,000	11,200	--	20,000	10,000	2,000	200	138,000	3	21,400
Brazil	32,500	44,100	47,700	77,000	28,200	51,100	57,900	65,200	48,900	67,600	45,000	93,800	16,300	173	659,000	12	111,000
Canada	20,500	23,900	23,600	24,900	23,500	24,100	22,500	24,500	24,500	25,500	25,300	25,200	4,730	188	288,000	5	57,500
Chile	34,500	--	34,300	14,500	33,700	24,700	--	22,000	70,400	24,400	31,900	4,000	745	186	294,000	5	51,900
Colombia	6,350	14,200	14,000	17,200	5,000	6,340	7,000	16,300	15,300	--	17,000	13,200	2,300	174	132,000	2	22,800
France	39	--	25	15,000	--	5,030	8,000	--	4,970	10,000	6,020	--	--	--	49,200	1	6,910
Guatemala	--	7,300	--	7,000	--	7,100	--	1,850	6,850	--	6,600	--	--	--	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	76,300	18,700	245	526,000	10	112,000
Japan	33,700	13,400	38,400	19,500	756	31,800	583	24,200	31,700	18,100	26,900	752	193	257	240,000	4	43,900
Korea, Republic of	16,100	17,700	16,200	27,900	112	26,900	16,500	18,900	8,050	37,900	17,600	11,900	2,830	238	216,000	4	46,400
Lithuania	--	15,200	--	--	--	--	22,700	--	17,500	--	15,300	--	--	--	70,700	1	10,800
Malaysia	--	8,500	6,000	--	--	7,500	--	--	12,500	--	--	8,000	1,900	238	42,500	1	9,520
Mexico	63,400	48,000	72,100	77,400	79,600	78,100	83,900	76,100	70,300	83,000	74,100	80,600	18,200	226	886,000	16	192,000
Netherlands	8,300	--	810	21,000	25,000	11,900	20,500	12,400	20,800	16,400	56,000	10,500	1,730	165	204,000	4	35,200
Peru	13,500	--	3,500	8,540	12,700	6,070	--	16,700	4,350	12,400	13,300	13,000	2,640	203	104,000	2	19,800
Philippines	10,500	--	7,800	10,500	--	9,000	--	8,500	--	8,000	--	11,500	2,390	208	65,800	1	12,700
Saudi Arabia	--	14,800	--	--	14,500	--	14,800	--	16,000	--	17,000	11,000	1,550	141	88,100	2	13,500
South Africa	25,700	8,020	28,800	7,670	--	50,700	7,800	18,700	17,000	19,200	12,800	19,300	3,040	158	216,000	4	29,800
Spain	--	--	--	21,900	--	9,560	--	24,600	--	6,330	223	6,000	1,170	195	68,700	1	10,400
Taiwan	21,800	399	43,300	17,800	324	17,700	15,800	21,100	23,600	11,300	18,700	19,100	4,900	256	211,000	4	43,100
Thailand	16,500	--	20,800	--	13,500	22,500	15,000	--	26,000	18,500	--	20,200	3,800	188	153,000	3	29,400
Tunisia	--	14,400	--	14,900	11,000	16,300	--	11,100	--	16,700	--	18,500	2,410	130	103,000	2	14,100
United Arab Emirates	--	10,200	--	--	4,000	--	10,200	--	9,000	--	8,000	14,000	1,970	140	55,400	1	8,390
Venezuela	--	28,400	14,800	--	29,600	34,200	--	--	20,700	28,700	19,700	13,000	3,590	276	189,000	3	43,400
Other	5,350	26,300	13,700	29,200	26,300	21,900	15,000	16,700	1,080	16,100	22,200	5,460	1,260	231	199,000	4	38,200
Total	384,000	417,000	469,000	433,000	369,000	511,000	420,000	464,000	478,000	502,000	507,000	517,000	105,000	203	5,470,000	100	1,040,000

-- Zero.

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

²January 2012 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	December			January–December		
												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	--	--	--	12,800	47	1,380
China	62	1	17	--	452	--	502	--	--	500	4	--	--	--	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	97	19	196	1,130	4	234
Hong Kong ⁴	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(5)	2	1	2	(5)	8
India	--	--	9	--	--	487	1	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	501	2	89
Italy	--	37	408	18	--	646	40	784	1,620	631	497	637	142	223	5,320	20	1,370
Japan	111	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	2	118	2	620	86	139	856	3	156
Mexico	80	--	136	156	157	293	39	252	162	64	97	20	6	300	1,460	5	516
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	22	22	240	240	--	--	--	525	2	222
Romania	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	21	8	381	21	(5)	8
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	50	23	460	50	(5)	23
United Kingdom	168	70	205	198	110	108	841	128	318	106	127	115	52	452	2,490	9	938
Total	422	119	777	1,130	815	2,760	4,070	4,150	6,410	3,570	1,120	1,560	339	217	26,900	100	5,660

-- Zero.

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

²January 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.

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:						
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–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 ^r	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	NA	NA	58,600		NA

[†]Revised. 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.

TABLE 5
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTER¹

(Thousand metric tons)

NAICS ² code	End use	2010	2011				
			First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First-fourth quarter
3272	Glass:						
327213	Container	1,280	299	319	322	315	1,260
327211	Flat	965	248	239	242	244	973
327993	Fiber	139	34	35	32	32	132
327212	Other	119	34	28	30	30	122
	Total	2,510	615	621	626	620	2,480
32518	Chemicals	1,520	379	385	386	361	1,510
325611	Soaps and detergents	513	116	119	95	101	430
322	Pulp and paper	89	22	21	19	23	85
221310	Water treatment ³	46	13	14	16	15	58
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	191	36	32	48	44	160
422	Distributors	271	73	70	72	66	282
	Other	138	32	34	35	36	138
	Total domestic consumption ⁴	5,270	1,290	1,300	1,300	1,270	5,150
	Exports ⁵	5,360	1,300	1,320	1,380	1,480	5,470
	Canada	231	64	62	60	63	249
	Total industry sales ⁶	10,600	2,590	2,610	2,680	2,740	10,600
	Total sales from plants	10,800	2,630	2,630	2,700	2,800	10,800
	Total production	10,600	2,600	2,600	2,740	2,780	10,700

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

²North American Industry Classification System.

³Includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors and purge liquors sold to powerplants for water treatment. Sales of mine water are excluded.

⁴Imports reported by the producer/importer have been distributed into appropriate end-use categories listed above.

⁵As reported by producers; includes Canada. Data may not necessarily agree with those reported by the U.S. Census Bureau for the same periods.

⁶Represents soda ash from domestic origin (production and inventory changes) and imports and exports. Includes soda ash sold by coproducers and distributed by purchasers into appropriate end-use categories.