

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JANUARY 2019

U.S. natural soda ash production in January was 957,000 metric tons (t), a 5% decrease compared with that of the previous month's production and 4% less than that of January 2018. Ending stocks were 300,000 t, slightly more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in January 2019 was 1.64 million metric tons, 11% more than that of December 2018 and slightly more than that of January 2018 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash in January 2019 were 587,000 t, 16% less than those of December 2018 but 5% more than those of January 2018 (tables 2, 4).

January 2019 imports of soda ash were 978 t, 56% more than those of December 2018 and 26% more than those of January 2018. Soda ash import tonnages can differ significantly from month to month, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages.

Apparent consumption for January 2019 was 368,000 t, a 15% increase from that of December 2018 but an 11% decrease from that of January 2018. Apparent consumption can change significantly from month to month mostly owing to changes in the quantity of exports but usually stabilizes over the course of the year (table 4).

All percentages in this report were calculated using unrounded data.

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TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2018:			
January	992	314	1,630
February	945	310	1,490
March	1,020	240	1,620
April	966	267	1,480
May	952	259	1,450
June	961	248	1,420
July	1,070	282	1,490
August	930	293	1,180
September	988	268	1,320
October	1,010	237	1,500
November	997	309	1,490
December	1,010	297	1,470
January–December	11,800	297	17,500
2019, January	957	300	1,640

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 OR LOCALITY, IN 2019¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January			
	Quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Percent of total quantity
Argentina	7,000	\$1,414	\$202	1
Australia	35,000	7,570	216	6
Brazil	94,500	21,000	222	16
Canada	15,800	3,720	235	3
Chile	13,000	3,110	239	2
Colombia	8,000	1,730	216	1
Ecuador	9,500	2,110	222	2
Guatemala	4,000	874	219	1
Indonesia	88,100	19,700	224	15
Japan	3,000	660	220	1
Korea, Republic of	11,500	2,440	212	2
Malaysia	46,100	9,630	209	8
Mexico	144,000	30,900	215	25
Peru	17,000	3,810	224	3
Philippines	7,500	1,680	224	1
Poland	255	28	110	(3)
Taiwan	16,500	3,520	213	3
Thailand	35,100	8,220	234	6
Vietnam	31,000	6,940	224	5
Other	319	90	281	(3)
Total	587,000	129,000	220	100

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

²Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY, IN 2019¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	Quantity	January		
		Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Percent of total quantity
Bulgaria	288	\$105	\$366	29
China	77	50	649	8
Mexico	304	107	351	31
Romania	95	39	409	10
United Kingdom	146	101	691	15
Other	68	133	1,965	7
Total	978	536	547	100

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

²Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Exports	Imports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2018:						
January–December	11,800,000	6,960,000	16,300	3,910	--	4,890,000
January	992,000	559,000	776	20,600	--	414,000
February	945,000	536,000	1,280	--	3,560	414,000
March	1,020,000	671,000	1,710	--	70,800	422,000
April	966,000	588,000	1,550	27,700	--	352,000
May	952,000	544,000	1,420	--	8,440	417,000
June	961,000	512,000	1,230	--	10,400	461,000
July	1,070,000	609,000	1,560	34,000	--	428,000
August	930,000	542,000	1,020	10,600	--	378,000
September	988,000	529,000	1,510	--	24,700	485,000
October	1,010,000	670,000	1,940	--	31,800	376,000
November	997,000	506,000	1,720	72,500	--	420,000
December	1,010,000	698,000	627	--	11,700	321,000
2019, January	957,000	587,000	978	2,640	--	368,000

-- 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.