

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN DECEMBER 2003

Natural soda ash production in December was 925,000 metric tons (t), 8% higher than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 330,000 t, 7% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in December was 1.45 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in November was 439,000 t, 5% lower than the November 2002 level of 460,000 t.

Exports and imports of soda ash in November 2003 were 404,000 t and 435 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through November 2003, compared with those of 2002, were as follows: production was 2% higher, imports 45% lower, exports 5% higher, ending stocks 54% higher, and apparent consumption 2% lower.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2002:			
November	877	201	1,310
December	963	222	1,460
Year total	10,500	XX	15,100
2003:			
January	867	278	1,470
February	820	251	1,240
March	897	263	1,410
April	872 ^r	234	1,320
May	926	298	1,340
June	878	255	1,110
July	923	297	1,110
August	888	323	1,110
September	869	286	1,300
October	913	291	1,390
November	860	309	1,250
December	925	330	1,450
Total	10,600	XX	15,500

^rRevised. XX Not applicable.

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

²Production data includes 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 NOVEMBER 2003^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	65,100	\$7,660	\$118
Brazil	47,400	6,440	136
China	36,600	2,800	76
Japan	30,400	3,140	103
Canada	29,400	2,260	77
Chile	26,800	3,830	143
Argentina	21,900	2,960	135
Venezuela	19,400	2,560	132
Thailand	17,000	1,960	115
Korea, Republic of	16,200	1,700	105
Other	93,600	12,800	137
Total or average	404,000	48,200	119

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

²December 2003 data were not available at time of publication.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2003^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	Total	% of total
Argentina	11,000	--	26,000	11,300	15,000	1,900	34,200	11,900	10,800	--	21,900	144,000	4
Australia	27,400	6,600	38	17,000	6,000	14,500	7,560	10,400	8,000	57	7,010	105,000	3
Bahamas, The	--	--	9	--	--	--	9	--	--	--	--	18	(3)
Belgium	16,300	15,500	4,850	35,900	10,200	10,500	34,700	61,400	9,720	11,900	14,200	225,000	6
Belize	--	--	--	18	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18	(3)
Brazil	32,000	--	28,200	26,400	26,000	--	35,100	27,400	8,000	18,900	47,400	249,000	6
Canada	38,100	29,800	38,500	33,700	28,900	32,800	33,500	24,700	29,400	31,900	29,400	351,000	9
Chile	10	36,400	--	32,600	--	27,200	22,500	--	24,900	--	26,800	170,000	4
China	37,900	18,300	38,300	--	35,100	28,700	19,500	16,300	7,030	33,100	36,600	271,000	7
Colombia	12,400	11,500	10,600	--	23,100	--	11,000	9,310	10,200	--	13,500	102,000	3
Costa Rica	--	3,000	2,990	49	--	10	--	3,010	--	--	4,170	13,200	(3)
Ecuador	4,500	--	--	--	9,030	--	6,040	--	--	--	--	19,600	(3)
Finland	--	--	17	--	--	17	--	--	17	--	--	51	(3)
France	7,500	--	9,950	--	7,510	9,960	--	--	--	10,000	--	44,900	1
Germany	--	--	--	--	20	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	(3)
Guatemala	--	3,000	2,970	--	--	3,000	3,000	--	--	--	--	12,000	(3)
Indonesia	17,200	14,500	31,900	--	42,000	22,300	17,500	--	47,000	19,800	--	212,000	5
Italy	--	--	--	16	56	17	48	15	15	--	--	167	(3)
Japan	41,700	26,200	35,300	18,500	24,300	46,200	15,200	32,000	50,400	--	30,400	320,000	8
Korea, Republic of	13,800	15,500	20,000	23,000	3,300	38,600	14,600	14,500	24,200	--	16,200	184,000	5
Malaysia	--	16,500	10,000	5,000	19,000	8,500	4,000	--	8,000	15,000	12,000	98,000	2
Mexico	53,500	52,100	34,300	52,500	23,000	45,600	43,900	74,200	50,900	50,300	65,100	545,000	14
Netherlands	10,000	--	10,200	--	110	--	9,940	24,000	19	16,100	10,000	80,400	2
Netherlands Antilles	11	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11	(3)
New Zealand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15,000	--	--	--	15,000	(3)
Nigeria	--	--	3,430	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3,430	(3)
Panama	--	1,500	--	--	4,010	--	--	--	2,010	16	--	7,530	(3)
Peru	--	3,000	--	4,800	--	4,800	--	--	3,600	--	--	16,200	(3)
Philippines	8,500	8,000	--	8,000	10,600	5,000	--	8,500	11,000	--	7,880	67,500	2
Portugal	--	--	--	10,000	--	--	--	--	7,190	--	--	17,200	(3)
Russia	--	--	--	8	1,210	355	--	--	--	--	--	1,580	(3)
Saudi Arabia	14,000	--	16,000	--	16,000	18,000	--	14,000	18,000	18,000	--	114,000	3
South Africa	650	8,900	6,520	--	6,430	--	6,500	6,500	8,880	9,000	6,500	59,900	1
Spain	15,000	25,000	--	10,900	14,500	--	--	20,000	--	26,800	7,520	120,000	3
Taiwan	9,790	13,300	15,000	17,500	--	28,600	15,000	13,100	11,900	--	10,000	134,000	3
Thailand	20,000	10,000	8,400	13,000	10,000	18,000	--	--	26,200	13,000	17,000	136,000	3
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	--	2,800	--	--	--	--	--	3,120	--	5,920	(3)
United Arab Emirates	--	--	6,000	--	5,000	4,000	--	8,000	7,000	7,000	--	37,000	1
United Kingdom	6,250	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	6,250	(3)
Venezuela	--	--	16,000	26,600	--	--	21,800	28,000	83	11,100	19,400	123,000	3
Vietnam	150	8,100	--	--	--	5,750	--	--	--	--	831	14,800	(3)
Total	398,000	327,000	375,000	350,000	340,000	374,000	356,000	422,000	385,000	295,000	404,000	4,030,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²December 2003 data were not available at time of publication.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH^{1,2}

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2002:		
November	666	\$134
December	384	116
Total (January-November)	8,640	1,880
Year total	9,020	2,000
2003:		
January	615	135
February	375	133
March	540	165
April	784	145
May	662	165
June	138	78
July	380	134
August	263	78
September	266	104
October	331	103
November	435	126
Total	4,790	1,370

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

²December 2003 data were not available at time of publication.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2002:						
November	877,000	666	430,000	--	12,100	460,000
December	963,000	384	416,000	20,400	--	527,000
Total (January-November)	9,500,000	8,640	3,830,000	--	25,000	5,700,000
Year total	10,500,000	9,020	4,250,000	--	4,620	6,230,000
2003:						
January	867,000	615	398,000	56,700	--	413,000
February	820,000	375	327,000	--	27,200	521,000
March	897,000	540	375,000	11,500	--	510,000
April	872,000 [†]	784	350,000	--	28,300	551,000 [†]
May	926,000	662	340,000	63,900	--	523,000
June	878,000	138	374,000	--	43,300	547,000
July	923,000	380	356,000	41,700	--	526,000
August	888,000	263	422,000	26,000	--	440,000
September	869,000	266	385,000	--	36,800	522,000
October	913,000	331	295,000	4,910	--	613,000
November	860,000	435	404,000	18,000	--	439,000
December	925,000	NA	NA	21,300	--	NA
January-November	9,710,000	4,790	4,030,000	87,100	--	5,610,000

[†]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.