

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN MARCH 2012

U.S. natural soda ash production in March was 964,000 metric tons (t), 16% higher than the previous month's production of 833,000 t.

Ending inventories for March 2012 were 317,000 t, 4% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in March 2012 was 1.56 Mt.

Exports and imports of soda ash in February 2012 were 403,000 t and 622 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for February 2012, compared with those of February 2011, were as follows: production was 2% higher, exports were 4% lower, and apparent consumption was 13% higher. Imports were five times those of February 2011, but 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:			
January–March	2,610	212	4,400 ^r
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
March	964	317	1,560
January–March	2,730	317	4,490

^rRevised.

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			January–February		
		Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Australia	12,300	14,500	3,120	\$215	26,800	3	5,750
Belgium	13,800	11,100	1,720	154	24,900	3	3,370
Brazil	36,900	46,500	9,330	200	83,400	10	15,500
Canada	24,600	24,300	4,810	198	48,900	6	9,470
Chile	52,000	9,990	2,130	213	62,000	7	13,800
Colombia	6,710	11,000	2,220	202	17,700	2	3,420
France	15,200	--	--	--	15,200	2	2,290
Guatemala	--	4,900	1,100	225	4,900	1	1,100
Indonesia	17,000	74,500	16,300	218	91,500	11	20,000
Japan	31,600	13,400	2,500	186	45,000	5	8,090
Korea, Republic of	15,000	29,700	6,720	226	44,700	5	9,660
Lithuania	15,100	--	--	--	15,100	2	1,230
Malaysia	6,000	--	--	--	6,000	1	1,450
Mexico	81,700	86,800	19,700	227	169,000	20	38,900
Netherlands	22,700	14,300	2,420	170	37,000	4	6,460
Peru	3,840	17,100	3,600	211	20,900	2	4,460
Philippines	--	8,500	1,860	219	8,500	1	1,860
Portugal	5,500	--	--	--	5,500	1	850
Saudi Arabia	--	15,000	3,100	207	15,000	2	3,100
South Africa	15,000	--	--	--	15,000	2	2,070
Spain	10,200	--	--	--	10,200	1	1,530
Taiwan	15,700	68	24	353	15,700	2	3,310
Thailand	21,000	--	--	--	21,000	2	4,600
Tunisia	25,100	--	--	--	25,100	3	4,330
United Arab Emirates	--	10,800	2,230	207	10,800	1	2,230
Venezuela	4,810	--	--	--	4,810	1	1,050
Other	2,210	10,100	2,230	221	12,300	1	2,650
Total	454,000	403,000	85,000	211	856,000	100	173,000

-- Zero.

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

²March 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 2012^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February		January–February			
		Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada ⁴	(5)	1	3	\$3,000	1	(5)	23
Dominican Republic ⁴	--	225	38	169	225	13	38
France	208	1	12	12,000	210	12	38
Germany	1	210	38	181	210	12	58
Greece ⁴	60	--	--	--	60	3	23
Italy	701	54	28	519	755	43	182
Mexico	19	19	6	316	38	2	12
Poland	22	22	9	409	44	3	18
United Kingdom	108	90	48	533	198	11	106
Total	1,120	622	182	17,100	1,740	100	497

-- Zero.

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

²March 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–February	1,700,000	541	801,000	--	12,400	913,000
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–February	1,760,000	1,740	856,000	24,000	--	883,000
January	929,000	1,120	454,000	58,600	--	418,000
February	833,000	622	403,000	--	34,600	465,000
March	964,000	NA	NA	11,100	--	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.