

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN NOVEMBER 2012

U.S. natural soda ash production in November was 969,000 metric tons (t), slightly lower than the previous month's production of 982,000 t.

Ending inventories for November 2012 were 313,000 t, 3% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in November 2012 was 1.57 million metric tons.

Exports and imports of soda ash in October 2012 were 522,000 t and 661 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for October 2012, compared with those of October 2011, were as follows: production was

4% higher; imports were about 81% lower; exports were 4% higher; and apparent consumption was 11% higher. Imports fluctuate widely and are insignificant relative to exports.

The soda ash end use data for the first, second, and third quarters of 2012 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–November	9,750 ^r	256	15,000 ^r
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
April	861	298	1,380
May	833	243	1,330
June	952	265	1,470
July	933	312	1,320
August	1,020	350	1,460
September	892 ^r	339	1,130
October	982	324	1,540
November	969	313	1,570
January–November	10,200	313	15,700

^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	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	Quantity	October		January–October ³		
											Value ⁴ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ⁴ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	--	21,500	--	25,400	8,000	27,600	49	19,400	--	--	--	102,000	2	20,800
Australia	12,300	14,500	5,800	12,000	15,200	7,500	--	7,030	14,500	19,000	4,110	216	108,000	2	23,500
Belgium	13,800	11,100	12,000	--	19,500	78	10,000	11,100	10,000	--	--	--	87,700	2	11,800
Brazil	36,900	46,500	98,900	30,200	83,900	39,600	42,500	73,200	70,500	75,000	15,000	200	597,000	12	121,000
Canada	24,600	24,300	25,200	19,700	25,700	22,800	22,900	26,100	22,900	27,500	5,590	204	242,000	5	46,300
Chile	52,000	9,990	41,300	8,850	29,600	40,100	22,200	34,400	51,900	22,200	4,870	220	312,000	6	66,900
Colombia	6,710	11,000	10,200	29,400	--	6,130	24,300	40,500	--	15,700	3,010	191	144,000	3	27,000
France	15,200	--	--	16,000	--	--	--	5,090	--	--	--	--	36,300	1	5,380
India	--	--	22,000	--	22,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	44,000	1	6,750
Indonesia	17,000	74,500	16,500	74,500	32,500	76,000	33,000	66,000	103,000	64,900	14,000	216	558,000	11	118,000
Japan	31,600	13,400	19,100	24,900	234	44,300	496	29,800	13,600	432	143	331	178,000	4	34,500
Korea, Republic of	15,000	29,700	24,500	11,800	--	40,800	12,500	17,000	5,000	15,400	2,860	185	172,000	3	39,200
Mexico	81,700	86,800	101,000	78,700	89,700	98,000	76,800	93,500	72,900	82,900	18,300	220	862,000	17	194,000
Netherlands	22,700	14,300	26,500	23,000	16,100	39,000	56,000	25	12,600	21,000	3,640	173	231,000	5	37,400
Peru	3,840	17,100	7,500	5,000	13,700	5,610	--	8,220	83	14,500	3,330	230	75,500	2	16,900
Philippines	--	8,500	--	11,500	--	8,500	8,500	--	36	11,000	2,440	222	48,000	1	10,600
Saudi Arabia	--	15,000	18,000	--	--	14,600	14,300	333	18,700	333	168	505	81,300	2	16,800
South Africa	15,000	--	14,000	37,400	4,970	12,000	11,100	--	28,600	11,400	1,530	135	134,000	3	19,900
Spain	10,200	--	16,000	7,950	5,000	--	65	--	520	--	--	--	39,700	1	6,590
Taiwan	15,700	68	28,800	26,100	--	20,500	19,500	17,600	13,300	16,200	3,050	188	158,000	3	33,800
Thailand	21,000	--	404	22,500	20,500	13,000	--	23,000	22,500	24,000	6,270	261	147,000	3	33,000
Tunisia	25,100	--	12,200	--	25,800	20,000	--	22,000	29,900	6,000	1,420	237	141,000	3	24,700
United Arab Emirates	--	10,800	7,000	--	--	11,000	12,000	--	12,000	--	--	--	52,800	1	10,900
Venezuela	4,810	--	37,600	--	17,200	25,900	--	11,300	11,100	30,200	7,520	249	138,000	3	34,900
Other	28,800	15,000	36,400	33,100	17,800	14,900	36,800 ^r	26,400	36,700	63,900	8,930	140	310,000	6	58,200
Total	454,000	403,000	602,000	473,000	465,000	568,000	431,000	513,000	570,000	522,000	106,000	204	5,000,000	100	1,020,000

-- Zero.

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

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

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Free 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	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	Quantity	October		January–October		
											Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada ⁴	(5)	1	425	874	866	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	2,170	20	260
China	--	--	229	8	444	18	--	--	20	--	--	--	719	7	272
Dominican Republic ⁴	--	225	252	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	477	4	74
France	208	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	211	2	49
Germany	1	210	3	(5)	(5)	(5)	3	--	144	--	--	--	361	3	151
Greece ⁴	60	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	60	1	23
Hong Kong	--	--	--	(5)	2	--	--	102	--	--	--	--	105	1	24
Italy	701	54	760	36	61	54	36	325	870	368	59	160	3,270	31	703
Japan	--	--	--	346	1	3	--	--	--	101	14	139	450	4	82
Mexico	19	19	--	51	173	78	256	275	153	96	31	323	1,120	10	341
Poland	22	22	--	--	22	--	22	--	22	--	--	--	111	1	44
Turkey	--	--	--	--	--	300	--	--	--	--	--	--	300	3	111
United Kingdom	108	90	57	145	160	55	128	165	193	93	53	570	1,190	11	629
Other	-- ^r	--	4 ^r	--	3	--	--	62 ^r	52	4	6	1,500	128	1	70
Total	1,120	622	1,730	1,460	1,730	508	445	929	1,460	661	162	245	10,700	100	2,830

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²November 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–October	8,890,000 ^r	24,200	4,450,000	58,500	--	4,400,000 ^r
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–October	9,200,000	10,700	5,000,000	41,900	--	4,170,000
January	929,000	1,120	454,000	58,600	--	418,000
February	833,000	622	403,000	--	34,600	465,000
March	964,000	1,730	602,000	11,100	--	352,000
April	861,000	1,460	473,000	--	19,100	409,000
May	833,000	1,730	465,000	--	55,000	425,000
June	952,000	508	568,000	22,000	--	362,000
July	933,000	445	431,000	47,100	--	455,000
August	1,020,000	929	513,000	38,400	--	468,000
September	892,000 ^r	1,460	570,000	--	11,700	336,000 ^r
October	982,000	661	522,000	--	14,800	476,000
November	969,000	NA	NA	--	10,600	NA

^rRevised. 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	2011	2012			
			1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
3272	Glass:					
327213	Container	1,260	322	321	312	956
327211	Flat	973	219	226	240	685
327993	Fiber	132	29	28	29	86
327212	Other	122	27	29	26	82
	Total	2,480	597	604	608	1,810
32518	Chemicals	1,510	373	375	368	1,120
325611	Soaps and detergents	430	104	92	96	292
322	Pulp and paper	85	21	20	23	64
221310	Water treatment ³	58	16	16	17	48
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	160	38	30	49	117
422	Distributors	282	71	72	70	213
	Other	138	33	49	53	135
	Total domestic consumption ⁴	5,150	1,250	1,260	1,280	3,790
	Exports ⁵	5,470	1,410	1,430	1,450	4,290
	Canada	249	63	56	56	175
	Total industry sales ⁶	10,600	2,670	2,680	2,740	8,080
	Total sales from plants	15,800	2,670	2,720	2,780	8,170
	Total production	10,700	2,730	2,650	2,750	8,120

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.