

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN DECEMBER 2019

U.S. natural soda ash production in December was 1.04 million metric tons (Mt), a slight increase compared with that of the previous month, but a slight decrease compared with that of December 2018. Soda ash production for 2019 was 11.7 Mt, slightly less than that of 2018. Ending stocks decreased for the first time since August 2019 to 289,000 metric tons (t), 14% less than those of the preceding month (tables 1, 4).

Wyoming trona production in December 2019 was 1.57 Mt, 9% more than that of November 2019 but slightly less than that of December 2018. Trona production for 2019 was 18.4 Mt, 4% more than that of 2018.

Exports of soda ash in December 2019 were 700,000 t, 15% more than those of November 2019 and slightly more than those of December 2018. Exports of soda ash for 2019 were 7.02 Mt, a slight increase compared with those of 2018 (tables 2, 4).

December 2019 imports of soda ash were 1,260 t, 62% more than those of November 2019 and about double those of December 2018. Soda ash import tonnages can differ significantly from month to month, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages. Relatively large

quantities of soda ash were imported from Turkey in September 2018, followed by similar quantities in March, June, and September of 2019. Imports of soda ash for 2019 were 115,000 t, more than double the amount imported in 2018 (tables 3, 4).

Apparent consumption for December 2019 was 386,000 t, a 4% decrease from that of November 2019 but 3% more than that of December 2018. Apparent consumption can change significantly from month to month mostly owing to variation in the quantity of exports but usually stabilizes over the course of the year. Apparent consumption in 2019 was 4.84 Mt, a 3% decrease compared with that of 2018 (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:			
December	1,060	297	1,580
January–December	11,900	297	17,600
2019:			
January	1,000	289	1,680
February	920	262	1,440 ^r
March	941	276	1,680
April	999	335	1,500 ^r
May	994	273	1,310
June	946	281	1,610
July	972	246	1,640
August	926	229	1,490
September	977	304	1,550
October	1,010	329	1,520
November	1,020	336	1,440 ^r
December	1,040 ^e	289	1,570 ^e
January–December	11,700 ^e	289	18,500 ^e

^eEstimated. ^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 OR LOCALITY, IN 2019¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December			January–December		
												Quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Argentina	7,000	7,700	--	16,700	79	80	19,700	4,040	19,200	--	19 [†]	15,200	\$3,610	\$238	89,700	1	\$20,800
Australia	35,000	4,040	34,000	29,000	34,000	--	17,500	45,800	29,500	--	7,000	32,000	7,270	227	268,000	4	62,300
Brazil	94,500	104,000	35,000	60,800	83,400	82,000	50,300	81,100	39,700	94,100	43,500	23,600	4,610	195	792,000	11	166,000
Canada	15,800	17,500	15,300 [†]	18,300	18,500 [†]	14,700	15,800 [†]	15,400	15,600	12,600	13,000	17,900	4,610	257	190,000	3	46,000
Chile	13,000	45,200	31,500	14,200	46,800	46,300	32,800	38,700	47,000	--	47,300	43,800	10,300	236	407,000	6	94,300
China	--	61	--	--	36,000	--	--	36,000	44	42,000	36,500	39,500	5,210	132	190,000	3	28,800
Colombia	8,000	21,400	10,500	8,750	8,200	9,000	20,000	27,600	1	21,500	22,200	24,700	5,510	223	182,000	3	41,100
Ecuador	9,500	--	10,000	--	--	--	8,000	--	--	6,550	--	5,000	1,160	231	39,100	1	8,810
Guatemala	4,000	7,000	--	--	11,500	5,000	5,220	--	--	6,000	--	6,000	1,450	242	44,700	1	11,300
India	--	43,500	--	65,700	12,500	27,000	37,500	12,500	--	36,500	--	36,500	6,760	185	272,000	4	48,600
Indonesia	88,100	21,300	90,800	19,400	105,000	73,000	46,700	59,800	41,200	64,400	82,900	135,000	30,500	226	827,000	12	186,000
Japan	3,000	34,400	15,100	21,500	--	55,300	3,040	20,400	31,500	24,000	55,800	4,280	989	231	268,000	4	55,300
Korea, Republic of	11,500	18,000	15,700	34,200	26	41,600	23,600	22,100	50	36,200	29,700	29,900	6,280	210	263,000	4	56,100
Malaysia	46,100	62,800	52,500	39,300	43,200	39,500	52,100	12,000	55,600	27,000	62,000	25,800	5,740	223	518,000	7	116,000
Mexico	144,000	106,000	112,000	114,000	111,000	92,100	112,000	120,000	106,000	90,000	102,000	97,500	23,600	242	1,310,000	19	308,000
Peru	17,000	--	16,300	1,280	10,800	75	--	9,720	75	11,000	16,600	16,000	3,620	226	98,800	1	22,500
Philippines	7,500	--	--	9,000	14,600	--	13,500	--	10,000	--	10,500	--	--	--	65,100	1	14,400
Saudi Arabia	98	10,300	39	15,100	536	8,500	60	15,900	80	80	139	15,000	3,060	204	65,900	1	12,800
South Africa	--	10,100	--	4,790	--	14,400	--	12,000	15,000	--	--	8,070	1,350	167	64,400	1	11,300
Taiwan	16,500	9,500	15,200	38,800	8,000	17,900	10,200	20,600	16,000	21,000	12,400	28,500	6,280	220	215,000	3	49,000
Thailand	35,100	26,600	35,600	7,500	10,000	46,100	38,300	12,400	13,300	19,300	31,300	24,100	5,230	217	300,000	4	68,700
Tunisia	--	20,000	--	--	15,000	--	20,000	--	--	--	--	12,000	2,410	201	67,000	1	15,700
United Arab Emirates	--	15,500	--	6,000	--	11,000	--	10,500	--	--	--	29,500	4,980	169	72,500	1	13,300
Vietnam	31,000	15,000	18,500	31,500	35,500	30,000	17,500	36,000	5,110	35,500	36,500	10,000	2,100	210	302,000	4	68,300
Other	476	21,600	462	6,540	36,800	324	14,200	5,560	6,460 [†]	1,330 [†]	83	21,000	5,420	258	115,000	2	29,000
Total	587,000	621,000	509,000 [†]	562,000	641,000	614,000	558,000 [†]	618,000	452,000	549,000	609,000	701,000	152,000	217	7,020,000	100	1,550,000

[†]Revised. -- Zero.

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

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

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	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December			January–December		
												Quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Bulgaria	288	612	432	882	648	810	648	560	486	414	126	--	--	--	5,910	5	\$2,350
China	77	72	180	41	56	99	257	120	88	120	20	148	\$80	\$539	1,280	1	783
France	44	91	41	91	64	50	99	13	75	94	43	52	73	1,400	757	1	1,170
Mexico	304	97	252	150	244	57	19	258	532	1	384	405	140	347	2,700	2	1,020
Romania	95	172	38	38	--	--	76	76	38	100	76	--	--	--	709	1	312
Turkey	--	--	32,000	--	--	35,000	--	--	34,800	--	--	--	--	--	102,000	88	20,400
United Kingdom	146	197	91	73	143	183	75	108	89	161	129	142	77	541	1,540	1	1,020
Others	24	9	3	10	³ (1	12	39	186	1	1	518	406	784	801	1	883
Total	978	1,250	33,000	1,290 ^r	1,160 ^r	36,200	1,190	1,180	36,300	890	778	1,260	776	614	116,000	100	27,900

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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.

³Less than ½ unit

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	11,900,000	6,960,000	51,300	3,910	--	4,980,000
December	1,060,000	698,000	627	--	11,700	374,000
2019:						
January–December	11,700,000 ^e	7,020,000 ^r	115,000 ^r	--	8,100	4,840,000 ^e
January	1,000,000	587,000	978	--	8,470	426,000
February	920,000	621,000	1,250	--	26,400	327,000
March	941,000	509,000 ^r	33,000	13,900	--	452,000
April	999,000	562,000	1,290 ^r	58,500	--	380,000
May	994,000	641,000	1,160 ^r	--	61,700	416,000
June	946,000	614,000	36,200	7,410	--	361,000
July	972,000	558,000 ^r	1,190	--	34,200	450,000
August	926,000	618,000	1,180	--	17,600	327,000
September	977,000	452,000	36,300	75,200	--	486,000
October	1,010,000	549,000	890	24,700	--	433,000
November	1,020,000	609,000	778	7,800	--	401,000
December	1,040,000 ^e	701,000	1,260	--	47,100	386,000 ^e

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. -- 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.