

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Wallace P. Bolen, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20202
Telephone: (703) 648-7727, Fax: (703) 648-7757
Email: wbolen@usgs.gov

Tiffany J. Lin (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7963
Fax: (703) 648-7975
Email: tjlin@usgs.gov

Internet: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic>

SODA ASH IN FEBRUARY 2020

U.S. natural soda ash production in February was an estimated 944,000 metric tons (t), a slight decrease compared with that of the previous month, but a 3% increase compared with that of February 2019. Ending stocks increased to 306,000 t, 11% more than those of the preceding month (tables 1, 4). Wyoming trona production in February 2020 was 1.35 million metric tons, 14% less than that of January 2020, and 7% less than that of February 2019.

Exports of soda ash in February 2020 were 636,000 t, 9% more than those of January 2020 and slightly more than those of February 2019 (tables 2, 4). February 2020 imports of soda ash were 354 t, 15% less than those of January 2020 and 72% less than those of February 2019. Soda ash import tonnages can differ significantly from month to month, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages (tables 3, 4).

Apparent consumption for February 2020 was an estimated 278,000 t, a 28% decrease from that of January 2020, and 15% less than that of February 2019. 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 (table 4).

All percentages in this report were calculated using unrounded data.

List services and web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/minerals-information-publication-list-services>.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2019:			
January–February	1,920	262	3,130
February	920	262	1,440
March	941	276	1,680
April	999	335	1,500
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	1,010	336	1,430
December	1,030	289	1,540
January–December	11,700	289	18,400
2020:			
January	954	275	1,570
February	944 ^e	306	1,350 ^e
January–February	1,900 ^e	306	2,920 ^e

^eEstimated. □

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 2020¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February			January–February		
		Quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Argentina	7,000	25,400	\$12,600	\$496	32,400	3	\$14,000
Australia	35,000	--	--	--	35,000	3	7,520
Belgium	263	12,100	1,740	144	12,400	1	1,770
Brazil	116,000	83,000	15,400	186	199,000	16	36,800
Canada	17,300	13,800	3,250	236	31,100	3	7,210
Chile	43,300	75,400	17,400	231	119,000	10	27,200
China	35,500	50,000	6,110	122	85,500	7	9,780
Colombia	4,000	20,000	4,200	210	24,000	2	5,160
Ecuador	--	11,000	2,360	215	11,000	1	2,360
El Salvador	--	7,000	1,450	207	7,000	1	1,450
Guatemala	--	12,000	2,510	209	12,000	1	2,510
India	--	32,600	5,320	163	32,600	3	5,320
Indonesia	63,300	63,200	12,900	204	127,000	10	26,100
Japan	20,500	--	--	--	20,500	2	3,740
Korea, Republic of	22,100	19,600	3,460	177	41,700	3	7,730
Malaysia	19,200	47,500	9,240	195	66,700	5	13,300
Mexico	111,000	104,000	24,300	234	215,000	18	49,900
Netherlands	10,900	16,000	2,310	144	26,900	2	4,520
Peru	--	10,600	2,280	215	10,600	1	2,280
Philippines	7,000	--	--	--	7,000	1	1,450
Saudi Arabia	20,300	--	--	--	20,300	2	3,700
South Africa	--	11,200	1,880	168	11,200	1	1,880
Taiwan	8,500	11,500	2,270	197	20,000	2	3,940
Thailand	35,700	--	--	--	35,700	3	7,820
Vietnam	181	9,640	2,000	207	9,820	1	2,110
Others	8,070	522	74	142	8,590	1	1,570
Total	585,000	636,000	133,000	209	1,220,000	100	251,000

-- 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 2020¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February			January–February		
		Quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
China	62	29	\$23	\$797	91	12	\$64
Dominican Republic	19	--	--	--	19	2	10
France	21	64	76	1,190	85	11	118
Germany	32	(3)	2	15,000	33	4	54
Mexico	175	209	83	396	383	50	149
United Kingdom	108	36	16	463	144	19	85
Others	3 [†]	16	34	2,080	19	2	38
Total	419	354	235	663	774	100	519

[†]Revised. -- 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	
2019:						
January–December	11,700,000	7,020,000	115,000	--	8,100	4,820,000
January–February	1,920,000 ^f	1,210,000	2,230	--	34,900 ^f	753,000 ^f
February	920,000	621,000	1,250	--	26,400	327,000
March	941,000	509,000	33,000	13,900	--	452,000
April	999,000	562,000	1,280	58,500	--	380,000
May	994,000	641,000	1,150	--	61,700	416,000
June	946,000	614,000	36,200	7,410	--	361,000
July	972,000	558,000	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	1,010,000	609,000	778	7,800	--	392,000
December	1,030,000	701,000	1,260	--	47,100	376,000
2020:						
January–February	1,900,000	1,220,000	773	16,800	--	661,000
January	954,000	585,000	419	--	14,100	383,000
February	944,000 ^e	636,000	354	30,900	--	278,000 ^e

^eEstimated. ^fRevised. -- 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.