

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN NOVEMBER 2020

In November, soda ash production was an estimated 837,000 metric tons (t), a 9% decrease compared with the previous month's production and 17% less than that of November 2019. Soda ash production for the first 11 months of 2020 was an estimated 8.94 million metric tons (Mt), a 16% decrease compared with that of the same period of 2019 (tables 1, 4). The ongoing worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has weakened global demand for soda ash. Ending stocks in November increased to an estimated 320,000 t, 6% more than those of the preceding month.

Wyoming trona production in November 2020 was 1.39 Mt, 4% less than that of October 2020 and slightly less than that of November 2019. Trona production for the first 11 months of 2020 was 13.3 Mt, a 21% decrease compared with that of the same period of 2019.

Exports of soda ash decreased in November 2020 to 442,000 t, 9% less than those of October 2020 and 27% less than those of November 2019. Exports for the first 11 months of 2020 were 5.09 Mt, a 19% decrease compared with those of the same period of 2019 (tables 2, 4).

November 2020 imports of soda ash were 557 t compared with 465 t imported in October 2020. Imports for the first 11 months of 2020 were an estimated 97,300 t, 15% less than

during the same period of 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 November 2020 was an estimated 377,000 t, 4% more than that of October 2020 but 4% less than that of November 2019. Apparent consumption for the first 11 months of 2020 was an estimated 3.92 Mt, 12% less than that of the same period of 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, but apparent consumption has been consistently lower in 2020 compared with that of 2019 because of the global pandemic (table 4).

All percentages in this report were calculated using unrounded data.

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TABLE 1  
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Stocks, end of period	
2019:			
January–November	10,700	336	16,800 <sup>r</sup>
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	927	306	1,340
March	1,030	326	1,440
April	784	333	1,300
May	679	383	1,060
June	547 <sup>e</sup>	454 <sup>e</sup>	935
July	718 <sup>e</sup>	239 <sup>e</sup>	712
August	816 <sup>e</sup>	320 <sup>e</sup>	993
September	734 <sup>e</sup>	231 <sup>e</sup>	1,140
October	921 <sup>e</sup>	302 <sup>r, e</sup>	1,450
November	837 <sup>e</sup>	320 <sup>e</sup>	1,390
January–November	8,940 <sup>e</sup>	320 <sup>e</sup>	13,300

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Production 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 2020<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November			January–November		
											Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)
Argentina	7,000	25,400	60	--	7,520	12,800	8,270	--	--	27,000	14,800	\$3,500	\$236	103,000	2	\$30,900
Australia	35,000	--	34,200	--	30,500	32,000	--	34,600	29,000	--	--	--	--	195,000	4	41,700
Brazil	116,000	83,000	66,800	85,800	36,300	13,000	55,000	47,900	29,600	72,900	67,700	12,200	181	674,000	13	123,000
Canada	17,300	13,800	19,600	15,100	14,000	12,700	15,600	14,200	13,600	13,600	17,200	4,250	247	167,000	3	38,200
Chile	43,300	75,400	45,200	--	76,400	5,560	32,800	41,500	39,200	--	46,100	9,680	210.1	405,000	8	93,100
China	35,500	50,000	40,000	25,000	--	--	192	--	50,000	--	428	42	98	201,000	4	23,600
Colombia	4,000	20,000	10,000	13,000	--	--	24,700	12,100	10,000	14,000	20,000	4,240	212	128,000	3	26,900
Guatemala	--	12,000	6,600	4,000	--	--	7,400	--	2,930	6,400	4,000	799	200	43,300	1	9,330
India	--	32,600	--	11,900	--	22,000	33,500	12,600	10,100	30,200	27,000	4,500	167	180,000	4	29,500
Indonesia	63,300	63,200	40,000	36,800	65,600	40	47,000	14,000	19,300	43,500	20,500	3,860	188	413,000	8	80,300
Japan	20,500	--	29,500	18,000	20,200	22,000	61	10,100	9,500	16,500	--	--	--	146,000	3	27,000
Korea, Republic of	22,100	19,600	14,200	35,300	27,500	19,100	391	19,100	16,800	24,500	15,300	2,730	178	214,000	4	39,000
Malaysia	19,200	47,500	17,300	32,700	--	10,500	--	18,500	48,100	34,700	34,600	6,420	186	263,000	5	50,300
Mexico	111,000	104,000	110,000	66,900	37,700	86,800	131,000	80,900	89,400	97,800	93,100	23,800	255	1,010,000	20	241,000
Netherlands	10,900	16,000	--	10,000	--	--	--	--	--	70	--	--	--	37,000	1	6,570
Peru	--	10,600	75	75	--	75	7,750	14,100	--	11,600	13,600	2,920	215	57,800	1	12,400
Philippines	7,000	--	18,000	--	8,500	--	4	--	11,500	12,000	--	--	--	57,000	1	11,400
Saudi Arabia	20,300	--	45,000	80	--	13,800	54	--	79	12,500	--	--	--	91,800	2	15,800
Taiwan	8,500	11,500	--	21,200	24,500	19,900	102	--	18,500	10,500	15,500	3,060	197	130,000	3	25,800
Thailand	35,700	--	57,300	25,700	11,500	6,320	15,100	18,600	45,800	16,500	16,500	3,250	197	249,000	5	46,300
United Arab Emirates	7,500	--	8,500	--	20,000	9,000	--	8,680	--	8,500	--	--	--	62,200	1	10,700
Vietnam	181	9,640	20,000	6,220	40,200	10,100	1,490	--	20,600	25,000	22,800	4,300	188	156,000	3	30,600
Others	835	41,800	1,230	6,420	4,980	2,180	5,840	15,700	6,760	8,980	13,100	3,020	231	108,000	2	20,200
Total	585,000	636,000	584,000	414,000	425,000	298,000	386,000	363,000	471,000	487,000	442,000	92,600	209	5,090,000	100	1,030,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Free 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 2020<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November			January–November		
											Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)
China	62	29	20	80	65	28	74	159	54	23	40	\$24	\$590	634	1	\$386
Mexico	175	209	192	97	233	136	194	118	38	39	130	53	408	1,560	2	605
Russia	--	--	--	--	99	267	--	144	--	72	--	--	--	582	1	208
Turkey	25	36,100	--	--	--	27,200 <sup>e</sup>	--	--	28,500 <sup>e</sup>	--	--	--	--	91,800 <sup>e</sup>	94	16,100 <sup>e</sup>
United Kingdom	108	36	201	127	202	108	72	145	108	53	148	91	615	1,310	1	717
Others	74	81	197	32	67	23	80	122	196	278	239	231	966	1,390	1	1,670
Total	444	36,400	610	336	666	27,800 <sup>e</sup>	420	688	28,900 <sup>e</sup>	465	557	398	715	97,300 <sup>e</sup>	100	19,700 <sup>e</sup>

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau adjusted by U.S Geological Survey.

TABLE 4  
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Exports	Imports	Net stock		Apparent consumption <sup>2</sup>
				Increase	Decrease	
2019:						
January–December	11,700,000	7,020,000	115,000	--	8,000 <sup>r</sup>	4,830,000
January–November	10,700,000	6,320,000	114,000	39,100 <sup>r</sup>	--	4,450,000 <sup>r</sup>
November	1,010,000	609,000	779	7,800	--	392,000
December	1,030,000	701,000	1,270	--	47,100	376,000
2020:						
January–November	8,940,000 <sup>e</sup>	5,090,000	97,300 <sup>e</sup>	30,700	--	3,920,000 <sup>e</sup>
January	954,000	585,000	444	--	14,100	383,000
February	927,000	636,000	36,400	30,900	--	296,000
March	1,030,000	584,000	610	19,900	--	422,000
April	784,000	414,000	336	6,580	--	363,000
May	679,000	425,000	666	50,500	--	204,000
June	547,000 <sup>e</sup>	298,000	27,800 <sup>e</sup>	71,000 <sup>e</sup>	--	206,000 <sup>e</sup>
July	718,000 <sup>e</sup>	386,000	420	--	215,000 <sup>e</sup>	548,000 <sup>e</sup>
August	816,000 <sup>e</sup>	363,000	688	80,900 <sup>e</sup>	--	374,000 <sup>e</sup>
September	734,000 <sup>e</sup>	471,000	28,900 <sup>e</sup>	--	88,800 <sup>e</sup>	381,000 <sup>e</sup>
October	921,000 <sup>e</sup>	487,000	465	70,900 <sup>r,e</sup>	--	364,000 <sup>r,e</sup>
November	837,000 <sup>e</sup>	442,000	557	18,400 <sup>e</sup>	--	377,000 <sup>e</sup>

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau adjusted by U.S Geological Survey.