

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN FEBRUARY 2021

In February, soda ash production was an estimated 866,000 metric tons (t), a 9% decrease compared with the previous month's production and 7% less than that of February 2020. Ending stocks in February decreased to 287,000 t, 5% less than those of the preceding month (tables 1, 4).

Wyoming trona production in February 2021 was an estimated 1.29 million metric tons, 14% less than that of January 2021 and 9% less than that of February 2020 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash decreased in February 2021 to 460,000 t, 20% less than those of January 2021 and 28% less than those of February 2020 (tables 2, 4).

February 2021 imports of soda ash were 651 t, 79% more than those of January 2021 but 98% less than those of February 2020. 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 2021 was an estimated 420,000 t, 10% more than that of January 2021 and 42% more than that of February 2020. 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.

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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	
2020:			
January-February	1,880 ^r	306	3,010 ^r
February	927	306	1,420 ^r
March	1,030	326	1,530 ^r
April	784	333	1,300
May	679	383	1,060
June	611	519	935
July	717	276	712
August	846	342	1,010 ^r
September	747	232	1,150 ^r
October	937	293	1,460 ^r
November	838	307	1,370 ^r
December	927	305	1,450
January–December	9,990	305	15,000 ^r
2021:			
January	952	301	1,510
February	866 ^e	287	1,290 ^e
January-February	1,820 ^e	287	2,800 ^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 2021¹

(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	60	18,400	\$4,010	\$219	18,400	2	\$4,040
Australia	35,000	--	--	--	35,000	3	7,960
Brazil	88,900	60,000	8,890	148	149,000	14	22,300
Canada	14,600	14,900	3,590	241	29,500	3	7,240
Chile	40,600	32,800	7,510	229	73,400	7	15,700
Colombia	7,000	10,100	2,160	214	17,100	2	3,590
Guatemala	7,000	--	--	--	7,000	1	1,600
India	15,000	42	5	110	15,100	1	3,010
Indonesia	35,000	38,500	6,850	178	73,500	7	12,700
Japan	--	30,500	5,670	186	30,500	3	5,670
Korea, Republic of	168	25,600	4,250	166	25,800	2	4,340
Malaysia	30,000	36,200	6,210	171	66,300	6	10,900
Mexico	111,000	109,000	30,500	281	219,000	21	62,500
Peru	10,200	--	--	--	10,200	1	2,070
Saudi Arabia	47,100	99	38	379	47,200	5	7,290
Taiwan	--	13,000	2,220	171	13,000	1	2,220
Thailand	64,800	10,600	1,910	180	75,400	7	12,900
United Arab Emirates	29,400	--	--	--	29,400	3	4,760
Vietnam	26,800	59,500	9,090	153	86,300	8	14,000
Others	12,300 [†]	1,450	242	167	13,800	1	2,990
Total	575,000	460,000	93,100	202	1,040,000	100	208,000

[†]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 2021¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	February				January-February		
	January	Quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
China	93	46	\$24	\$522	139	14	\$77
France	60	103	94	914	163	16	121
Mexico	116	194	70	362	311	31	115
United Kingdom	93	201	112	556	294	29	164
Others	2	107	111	1,040	109	11	138
Total	363	651	411	632	1,010	100	615

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.

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	
2020:						
January–December	9,990,000	5,590,000	98,100 ^e	15,900	--	4,480,000 ^e
January–February	1,880,000 ^r	1,220,000	36,900 ^{r,e}	16,800	--	680,000 ^{r,e}
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	611,000	298,000	27,800 ^e	136,000	--	205,000 ^e
July	717,000	386,000	421	--	243,000	574,000
August	846,000	363,000	687	66,300	--	418,000
September	747,000	471,000	28,900 ^e	--	110,000	415,000 ^e
October	937,000	487,000	465	60,700	--	390,000
November	838,000	442,000	556	14,600	--	382,000
December	927,000	500,000	808	--	2,160	429,000
2021:						
January–February	1,820,000 ^e	1,040,000	1,010	--	17,800	801,000 ^e
January	952,000	575,000	363	--	4,370	381,000
February	866,000 ^e	460,000	651	--	13,400	420,000 ^e

^eEstimated. -- 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.