

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 JANUARY 2020

U.S. natural soda ash production in January was 954,000 metric tons (t), a 7% decrease compared with that of the previous month and a 5% decrease compared with that of January 2019. Ending stocks decreased for the second consecutive month to 275,000 t, 5% less than those of the preceding month (tables 1, 4). Wyoming trona production in January 2020 was 1.57 million metric tons, slightly more than that of December 2019, but 7% less than that of January 2019.

Exports of soda ash in January 2020 were 585,000 t, 16% less than those of December 2019 and nearly the same as those of January 2019 (tables 2, 4). January 2020 imports of soda ash were 419 t, 67% less than those of December 2019 and 57% less than those of January 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 January 2020 was 383,000 t, a slight increase from that of December 2019, but 10% less than that of January 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 | 1,000 | 289 | 1,680 |
| 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 ^r | 336 | 1,430 ^r |
| December | 1,030 ^r | 289 | 1,540 ^r |
| January–December | 11,700 | 289 | 18,400 ^r |
| 2020, January | 954 | 275 | 1,570 |

^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 2020¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

| Country or locality | January | | | Percent of total quantity |
|----------------------|----------|---|---------------|---------------------------------|
| | Quantity | Value ² (thousand dollars) | Unit value | |
| Argentina | 7,000 | \$1,420 | \$203 | 1 |
| Australia | 35,000 | 7,520 | 215 | 6 |
| Brazil | 116,000 | 21,400 | 183 | 20 |
| Canada | 17,300 | 3,960 | 229 | 3 |
| Chile | 43,300 | 9,820 | 227 | 7 |
| China | 35,500 | 3,670 | 103 | 6 |
| Colombia | 4,000 | 959 | 240 | 1 |
| Indonesia | 63,300 | 13,200 | 209 | 11 |
| Japan | 20,500 | 3,740 | 182 | 3 |
| Korea, Republic of | 22,100 | 4,260 | 193 | 4 |
| Malaysia | 19,200 | 4,030 | 210 | 3 |
| Mexico | 111,000 | 25,600 | 230 | 19 |
| Netherlands | 10,900 | 2,210 | 202 | 2 |
| Philippines | 7,000 | 1,450 | 207 | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia | 20,300 | 3,700 | 183 | 3 |
| Taiwan | 8,500 | 1,680 | 197 | 1 |
| Thailand | 35,700 | 7,820 | 219 | 6 |
| United Arab Emirates | 7,500 | 1,430 | 190 | 1 |
| Others | 1,020 | 205 | 201 | ⁽³⁾ |
| Total | 585,000 | 118,000 | 202 | 100 |

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

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

³Less than ½ unit.

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 | | | Percent of total quantity |
|---------------------|----------|---|---------------|---------------------------------|
| | Quantity | Value ² (thousand dollars) | Unit value | |
| China | 62 | \$41 | \$655 | 15 |
| France | 21 | 42 | 2,050 | 5 |
| Germany | 32 | 52 | 1,590 | 8 |
| Mexico | 175 | 66 | 381 | 42 |
| United Kingdom | 108 | 69 | 637 | 26 |
| Others | 21 | 14 | 663 | 5 |
| Total | 419 | 284 | 677 | 100 |

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 | |
| 2019: | | | | | | |
| January–December | 11,700,000 | 7,020,000 | 115,000 | -- | 8,100 | 4,820,000 [†] |
| 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 | 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 | 954,000 | 585,000 | 419 | -- | 14,100 | 383,000 |

[†]Revised. -- 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.