

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN OCTOBER 2023

In October, soda ash production was 847,000 metric tons (t), 3% less than the previous month's production, and an 18% decrease compared with that in October 2022 (tables 1, 4). For the first 10 months of 2023, soda ash production was 8.95 million metric tons (Mt), 4% less than the production for the first 10 months of 2022. Ending stocks in October were 263,000 t, 4% more than the ending stocks in September 2023.

Wyoming trona production in October 2023 was 1.47 Mt, 6% more than the trona production in September 2023 but 4% less than that in October 2022. For the first 10 months of 2023, trona production was 14.4 Mt, essentially unchanged compared with the amount for the same period of 2022 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash decreased by 15% in October 2023 to 494,000 t, compared with those in September 2023 and were 13% less than those in October 2022. For the first 10 months of 2023, exports were 5.46 Mt, slightly more than the amount for the same period of 2022 (tables 2, 4). Imports of soda ash in October 2023 were 587 t compared with 696 t in September 2023. 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 in October 2023 was 343,000 t, slightly less than that in September 2023 and 15% less than that in October 2022. For the first 10 months of 2023, apparent consumption was 3.59 Mt, 9% less than the revised total for the same period of 2022. 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 STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Stocks, end of period	
2022:			
January-October	9,290	298	14,500
October	1,030	298	1,530
November	1,010	346	1,440
December	968	364	1,520
January-December	11,300	364	17,500
2023:			
January	884	303	1,240
February	831	309	1,340
March	868	231	1,520
April	906	250	1,470
May	991	297	1,650
June	934	328	1,490
July	942	368	1,520
August	869	312	1,340
September	874	254	1,390
October	847	263	1,470
January-October	8,950	263	14,400

<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 2023<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	Quantity	October	Unit value	January–October		
											Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)
Argentina	17,000	17,500	16,500	30,100	24,500	77	37,000	2,040	18,000	1,500	836	\$46	164,000	3	68,100
Australia	28,000	--	35,000	9	35,000	27,000	27	35,000	5,000	22,000	6,690	1,340	187,000	3	67,000
Brazil	122,000	32,800	59,300	24,000	74,500	63,400	71,300	--	83,100	53,300	13,200	--	584,000	11	196,000
Canada	15,500	18,300	16,800	16,600	14,500	14,700	12,000	14,900	12,500	14,700	4,500	361	151,000	3	40,800
Chile	38,100	82,100	64,900	47,300	74,300	61,600	91,600	60,000	56,100	44,100	15,800	282	620,000	11	207,000
China	14	4,800	61,900	--	20,000	--	--	35,000	74,400	41,900	6,210	83	238,000	4	47,700
Colombia	18,300	40,300	11,900	500	8,000	20,300	8,000	13,500	--	19,500	5,380	--	140,000	3	42,300
India	31,100	3,050	1,920	5,110	43,200	22,600	21,100	20,300	23,000	26,600	5,560	242	198,000	4	49,200
Indonesia	22,500	53,200	13,700	55,200	47,900	63,500	72,200	35,000	18,500	38,800	8,530	462	420,000	8	128,000
Japan	15,500	22,700	10,100	4,800	34,400	20,200	20,900	22,200	18,000	--	--	--	169,000	3	63,800
Korea, Republic of	15,000	32,000	10,900	7,220	40,100	5,010	29,500	16,100	31,100	18,200	3,480	112	205,000	4	61,600
Malaysia	19,800	22,200	26,800	--	27,500	20,100	9,000	36,000	65,200	37,900	8,440	130	264,000	5	75,900
Mexico	133,000	121,000	153,000	142,000	117,000	114,000	112,000	95,000	110,000	103,000	29,400	266	1,200,000	22	330,000
Peru	7,500	11,000	5,250	17,300	300	391	406	8,700	641	391	108	169	51,900	1	17,300
Taiwan	13,000	15,000	14,000	221	42,500	11,500	--	25,000	--	--	--	--	121,000	2	42,400
Thailand	28,500	15,500	10,200	24,100	507	41,300	27,900	2,400	16,900	15,200	2,920	172	182,000	3	55,600
United Arab Emirates	12,000	676	27	676	--	--	--	26,300	--	--	--	--	39,600	1	12,100
Vietnam	14,800	69,200	2,500	59,900	2,000	15,300	28,900	32,300	28,100	21,200	4,800	171	274,000	5	78,500
Other	25,600	11,800	8,150	13,400	9,910	40,000	41,000	46,900	21,700	36,000	8,420	387	255,000	5	71,300
Total	577,000	573,000	523,000	448,000	616,000	541,000	583,000	527,000	583,000	494,000	124,000	213	5,460,000	100	1,650,000

-- 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 2023<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	Quantity	October		January–October		
											Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)
Canada	173	175	239	167	171	163	190	248	292	160	15	\$96	1,980	28	276
France	20	241	139	100	20	--	113	39	20	59	110	1,870	749	11	1,270
Germany	80	51	2	(3)	2	22	2	6	28	2	50	20,700	195	3	609
India	56	30	6	26	1	1	4	29	20	20	22	1,090	192	3	283
Italy	72	72	60	72	36	72	90	36	90	180	199	1,100	780	11	747
Japan	5	1	20	2	22	2	2	18	--	2	12	6,060	74	1	400
Mexico	98	116	200	20	236	315	193	178	60	42	43	1,030	1,460	21	780
Turkey	--	70	--	70	70	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	211	3	74
United Kingdom	89	71	72	52	154	65	213	143	142	35	28	798	1,030	15	881
Other	10	20	48	29	45	5	30	35	45	87	178	2,050	354	5	820
Total	603	845	785	538	756	645	836	731	696	587	657	1,120	7,020	100	6,140

-- 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.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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	
2022:						
January–December	11,300,000	6,490,000	61,500 <sup>e</sup>	85,900	--	4,740,000 <sup>g</sup>
January–October	9,290,000	5,370,000	60,300 <sup>r</sup>	20,500	--	3,950,000 <sup>r</sup>
October	1,030,000	569,000	686	62,200	--	402,000
November	1,010,000	541,000	624	48,300	--	416,000
December	968,000	577,000	608	17,100	--	374,000
2023:						
January–October	8,950,000	5,460,000	7,020	--	100,000	3,590,000
January	884,000	577,000	603	--	60,200	368,000
February	831,000	573,000	845	6,050	--	253,000
March	868,000	523,000	785	--	77,900	424,000
April	906,000	448,000	538	18,600	--	439,000
May	991,000	616,000	756	47,300	--	329,000
June	934,000	541,000	645	31,100	--	363,000
July	942,000	583,000	836	39,100	--	321,000
August	869,000	527,000	731	--	55,600	399,000
September	874,000	583,000	696	--	58,400	351,000
October	847,000	494,000	587	9,720	--	343,000

<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.