

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN FEBRUARY 2023

In February, soda ash production was 831,000 metric tons (t), a 6% decrease compared with the previous month's production and a 3% decrease compared with that of February 2022 (tables 1 and 4). For the first two months of 2023, soda ash production was 1.72 million metric tons (Mt), 7% less than the revised amount for the first two months 2022. Ending stocks in February were 295,000 t, 3% less than the ending stocks from the preceding month.

Wyoming trona production in February 2023 was 1.34 Mt, an 8% increase compared with the trona production in January 2023 but 4% less than the total in February 2022. For the first two months of 2023, trona production was 2.58 Mt, 14% less than the revised amount for same period of 2022 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash were essentially unchanged in February 2023 at 573,000 t, compared with those in January 2023 and 7% more than those in February 2022 (tables 2, 4). For the first two months of 2023, exports were 1.15 Mt, 13% more than the same period of 2022 (table 1). Imports of soda ash in February 2023 were 775 t compared with 603 t in January 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 for February 2023 was 267,000 t, 27% less than the total for January 2023 and 29% less than the estimated total for February 2022. For the first two months of 2023, apparent consumption was 635,000 t, 27% less than the revised total for the same period of 2022 (table 4). 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	
2022:			
January-February	1,840 ^r	256	3,010 ^r
February	855	256	1,400
March	983	285	1,570
April	851	236	1,180
May	944	260	1,470
June	895	227	1,500
July	992	308	1,490
August	947	237	1,540
September	805	236	1,260
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	295	1,344
January-February	1,720	295	2,570

^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 2023¹

(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	17,000	17,500	5,580	\$318	34,500	3	10,200
Australia	28,000	--	--	--	28,000	2	10,600
Brazil	122,000	32,800	13,600	415	155,000	13	54,800
Canada	15,500	18,300	5,060	276	33,800	3	8,860
Chile	38,100	82,100	23,500	286	120,000	10	32,400
Colombia	18,300	40,300	13,800	342	58,600	5	18,900
India	31,100	3,050	904	296	34,100	3	9,910
Indonesia	22,500	53,200	18,300	345	75,700	7	26,400
Japan	15,500	22,700	8,150	358	38,200	3	14,400
Korea, Republic of	15,000	32,000	10,300	321	47,000	4	15,600
Malaysia	19,800	22,200	7,100	320	42,000	4	13,200
Mexico	133,000	121,000	33,000	273	254,000	22	66,900
Peru	7,500	11,000	4,250	386	18,500	2	6,400
Taiwan	13,000	15,000	5,050	338	28,000	2	10,200
Thailand	28,500	15,500	5,760	371	44,000	4	15,400
United Arab Emirates	12,000	676	220	326	12,600	1	2,910
Vietnam	14,800	69,200	23,600	341	84,000	7	29,200
Other	25,600 ^r	16,600	5,040	304	42,200	4	12,300
Total	577,000	573,000	183,000	320	1,150,000	100	359,000

^rRevised. -- 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 2023¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	Quantity	February		January–February		
			Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Canada	173	175	21	\$119	348	25	81
France	20	241	368	1,530	261	19	408
Germany	80	51	200	3,940	131	10	272
India	56	30	35	1,190	86	6	99
Italy	72	72	65	909	144	10	128
Mexico	98	116	69	594	213	15	128
United Kingdom	89	71	81	1,150	160	12	169
Other	15	21	30	1,400	36	3	73
Total	603	775	870	1,120	1,380	100	1,360

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	
2022:						
January–December	11,300,000	6,490,000	61,500 ^e	85,900	--	4,740,000 ^e
January–February	1,840,000 ^r	1,020,000	27,300 ^r	--	21,200	866,000 ^r
February	855,000	536,000	26,900 ^e	--	29,300	376,000 ^e
March	983,000	517,000	272	28,900	--	438,000
April	851,000	615,000	491	--	49,800	286,000
May	944,000	569,000	397	24,400	--	352,000
June	895,000	560,000	10,300 ^e	--	32,800	378,000 ^e
July	992,000	480,000	283	80,900	--	431,000
August	947,000	547,000	20,100 ^e	--	70,900	490,000 ^e
September	805,000	496,000	458	--	1,200	311,000
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–February	1,720,000	1,150,000	1,380	--	68,600	635,000
January	884,000	577,000	603	--	60,200	368,000
February	831,000	573,000	775		8,350	267,000

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. -- 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.