

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN MARCH 2023

In March, soda ash production was 868,000 metric tons (t), a 4% increase compared with the previous month's production, but a 12% decrease compared with that of March 2022 (tables 1 and 4). For the first three months of 2023, soda ash production was 2.58 million metric tons (Mt), 8% less than the amount for the first three months 2022. Ending stocks in March were 231,000 t, 25% less than the revised ending stocks from the preceding month.

Wyoming trona production in March 2023 was 1.43 Mt, a 6% increase compared with the trona production in February 2023 but 9% less than the total in March 2022. For the first three months of 2023, trona production was 4.01 Mt, 12% less than the revised amount for same period of 2022 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash decreased 9% in March 2023 to 523,000 t, compared with those in February 2023 and essentially unchanged compared with those in March 2022 (tables 2, 4). For the first three months of 2023, exports were 1.67 Mt, 9% more than the revised amount for the same period of 2022 (table 1). Imports of soda ash in March 2023 were 785 t compared with 775 t in February 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 March 2023 was 424,000 t, 68% more than the revised total for February 2023 but 3% less than the total for March 2022. For the first three months of 2023, apparent consumption was 1.04 Mt, 20% 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-March	2,820	285	4,580 ^r
March	983	285	1,570
April	851	236	1,160 ^r
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 ^r
2023:			
January	884	303	1,240
February	831	309 ^r	1,340 ^r
March	868	231	1,430
January-March	2,580	231	4,010

^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	Quantity	March		January–March		
				Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Argentina	17,000	17,500	16,500	6,590	\$400	51,000	3	16,800
Australia	28,000	--	35,000	13,900	397	63,000	4	24,500
Brazil	122,000	32,800	59,300	23,800	401	214,000	13	78,600
Canada	15,500	18,300	16,800	4,500	268	50,600	3	13,400
Chile	38,100	82,100	64,900	21,500	331	185,000	11	53,900
China	14	4,800	61,900	13,000	210	66,700	4	14,500
Colombia	18,300	40,300	11,900	3,060	258	70,400	4	22,000
India	31,100	3,050	1,920	586	306	36,000	2	10,500
Indonesia	22,500	53,200	13,700	6,010	438	89,400	5	32,400
Japan	15,500	22,700	10,100	4,040	401	48,300	3	18,500
Korea, Republic of	15,000	32,000	10,900	3,910	359	57,900	3	19,500
Malaysia	19,800	22,200	26,800	9,440	353	68,700	4	22,600
Mexico	133,000	121,000	153,000	41,000	268	407,000	24	108,000
Peru	7,500	11,000	5,250	1,920	367	23,700	1	8,320
Taiwan	13,000	15,000	14,000	4,850	346	42,000	3	15,100
Thailand	28,500	15,500	10,200	4,640	457	54,100	3	20,000
United Arab Emirates	12,000	676	27	8	301	12,700	1	2,920
Vietnam	14,800	69,200	2,500	697	279	86,500	5	29,900
Other	25,600	11,800 ^r	8,150	2,120	260	45,500	3	12,900
Total	577,000	573,000	523,000	166,000	317	1,670,000	100	524,000

^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	February	Quantity	March		January–March		
				Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Canada	173	175	239	23	\$98	587	27	105
France	20	241	139	193	1390	399	18	601
Germany	80	51	2	39	24,800	133	6	311
India	56	30	6	15	2,580	92	4	115
Italy	72	72	60	69	1,150	204	9	197
Japan	5	1	20	100	4,980	26	1	139
Mexico	98	116	200	92	459	413	19	220
United Kingdom	89	71	72	74	1,020	232	11	243
Other	10 ^r	20 ^r	48	60	1,260	77	4	94
Total	603	775	785	665	847	2,160	100	2,020

^rRevised.

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–March	2,820,000	1,530,000 ^r	27,600 ^r	7,710	--	1,300,000 ^r
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–March	2,580,000	1,670,000	2,160	--	132,000	1,040,000
January	884,000	577,000	603	--	60,200	368,000
February	831,000	573,000	775	6,050 ^r	-- ^r	253,000 ^r
March	868,000	523,000	785	--	77,900	424,000

^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.