

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN NOVEMBER 2023

In November, soda ash production was 951,000 metric tons (t), 12% more than the previous month's production, but a 5% decrease compared with that in November 2022 (tables 1, 4). For the first 11 months of 2023, soda ash production was 9.90 million metric tons (Mt), 4% less than the production for the first 11 months of 2022. Ending stocks in November were 319,000 t, 21% more than the ending stocks in October 2023.

Wyoming trona production in November 2023 was 1.52 Mt, 3% more than the trona production in October 2023 and 6% more than that in November 2022. For the first 11 months of 2023, trona production was 16.0 Mt, unchanged compared with the amount for the same period of 2022 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash increased by 13% in November 2023 to 560,000 t, compared with those in October 2023 and were 3% more than those in November 2022. For the first 11 months of 2023, exports were 6.02 Mt, slightly more than the amount for the same period of 2022 (tables 2, 4). Imports of soda ash in November 2023 were 568 t compared with 587 t in October 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 November 2023 was 336,000 t, slightly less than that in October 2023 and 19% less than that in November 2022. For the first 11 months of 2023, apparent consumption was 3.93 Mt, 10% less than the 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-November	10,300	346	16,000
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
November	951	319	1,520
January-November	9,900	319	16,000

<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	October	November			January–November		
											Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	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	32,100	18,300	\$568	196,000	3	86,300
Australia	28,000	--	35,000	9	35,000	27,000	27	35,000	5,000	22,000	--	--	--	187,000	3	67,000
Brazil	122,000	32,800	59,300	24,000	74,500	63,400	71,300	--	83,100	53,300	41,600	9,430	227	625,000	10	205,000
Canada	15,500	18,300	16,800	16,600	14,500	14,700	12,000	14,900	12,500	14,700	12,800	4,530	353	163,000	3	45,300
Chile	38,100	82,100	64,900	47,300	74,300	61,600	91,600	60,000	56,100	44,100	78,900	24,200	307	699,000	12	231,000
China	14	4,800	61,900	--	20,000	--	--	35,000	74,400	41,900	22,000	3,900	177	260,000	4	51,600
Colombia	18,300	40,300	11,900	500	8,000	20,300	8,000	13,500	--	19,500	9,500	3,430	361	150,000	2	45,700
India	31,100	3,050	1,920	5,110	43,200	22,600	21,100	20,300	23,000	26,600	23,100	4,230	184	221,000	4	53,400
Indonesia	22,500	53,200	13,700	55,200	47,900	63,500	72,200	35,000	18,500	38,800	66,500	14,500	217	487,000	8	143,000
Japan	15,500	22,700	10,100	4,800	34,400	20,200	20,900	22,200	18,000	--	16,500	6,000	364	185,000	3	69,800
Korea, Republic of	15,000	32,000	10,900	7,220	40,100	5,010	29,500	16,100	31,100	18,200	29,600	6,280	212	235,000	4	67,900
Malaysia	19,800	22,200	26,800	--	27,500	20,100	9,000	36,000	65,200	37,900	12,000	2,110	176	276,000	5	78,100
Mexico	133,000	121,000	153,000	142,000	117,000	114,000	112,000	95,000	110,000	103,000	96,600	27,200	282	1,300,000	22	357,000
Peru	7,500	11,000	5,250	17,300	300	391	406	8,700	641	391	9,000	3,100	345	60,900	1	20,400
Taiwan	13,000	15,000	14,000	221	42,500	11,500	--	25,000	--	--	23,200	6,020	260	144,000	2	48,400
Thailand	28,500	15,500	10,200	24,100	507	41,300	27,900	2,400	16,900	15,200	34,700	9,020	260	217,000	4	64,700
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	45,500	9,420	207	320,000	5	88,000
Other	25,600	11,800	8,150	13,400	9,920	40,000	41,000	46,900	21,700	36,000	6,280	1,510	240	261,000	4	72,800
Total	577,000	573,000	523,000	448,000	616,000	541,000	583,000	527,000	583,000	494,000	560,000	153,000	274	6,020,000	100	1,810,000

-- 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)

												November		January–November		
												Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity
Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Quantity	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	235	36	\$154	2,210	29	312
France	20	241	139	100	20	--	113	39	20	59	20	51	2,550	769	10	1,320
Germany	80	51	2	(3)	2	22	2	6	28	2	55	84	1,530	250	3	693
India	56	30	6	26	1	1	4	29	20	20	42	28	660	234	3	311
Italy	72	72	60	72	36	72	90	36	90	180	36	32	897	816	11	779
Japan	5	1	20	2	22	2	2	18	--	2	2	10	5,770	76	1	410
Mexico	98	116	200	20	236	315	193	178	60	42	1	39	38,600	1,460	19	818
Turkey	--	70	--	70	70	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	211	3	74
United Kingdom	89	71	72	52	154	65	213	143	142	35	142	109	770	1,180	15	990
Other	10	20	48	29	45	5	30	35	45	87	35	92	2,650	388	5	912
Total	603	845	785	538	756	645	836	731	696	587	568	481	849	7,590	100	6,620

-- 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	85,900	--	4,740,000
January–November	10,300,000	5,910,000	60,900	68,800	--	4,370,000
November	1,010,000	541,000	624	48,300	--	416,000
December	968,000	577,000	608	17,100	--	374,000
2023:						
January–November	9,900,000	6,020,000	7,590	--	44,400	3,930,000
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
November	951,000	560,000	568	55,800	--	336,000

-- 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.