

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JANUARY 2024

In January, soda ash production was 996,000 metric tons (t), a 5% increase compared with the previous month's production and a 13% increase compared with that of January 2023 (tables 1 and 4). Ending stocks in January were 292,000 t, 17% more than the ending stocks from the preceding month. Wyoming trona production in January 2024 was 1.63 million metric tons (Mt), a slight decrease compared with the trona production in December 2023 but 32% more than the total in January 2023 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash decreased 8% in January 2024 to 573,000 t, compared with those in December 2023 but were essentially unchanged compared with those in January 2023 (tables 2, 4). Imports of soda ash in January 2024 were 746 t compared with 421 t in December 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 January 2024 was 382,000 t, 4% less than the total in December 2023 but 4% more than the total in January 2023. 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).

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TABLE 1. Salient soda ash statistics. [Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Data are in thousand metric tons.]

Soda Ash						
Period	Production	Stocks, end of period	Wyoming trona production			
	2	023				
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	965	319	1,570			
December	952	251	1,660			
January-December	10,900	251	17,700			
	2	024				
January	996	292	1,630			

¹Production 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 2024.
[Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals. Data are in metric tons unless otherwise specified. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.]

January					
Country or locality	Quantity	Value ¹ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Percent of total quantity	
Brazil	43,300	7,790	180	8	
Canada	13,600	4,430	326	2	
Chile	30,200	5,530	183	5	
China	160,000	29,600	185	28	
Colombia	12,600	4,100	325	2	
Guatemala	6,000	1,280	213	1	
India	22,500	3,640	162	4	
Indonesia	31,800	6,700	211	6	
Japan	13,500	4,510	334	2	
Korea, Republic of	30,200	7,290	241	5	
Malaysia	50,600	10,400	206	9	
Mexico	109,000	29,100	267	19	
Peru	16,100	3,650	227	3	
United Kingdom	30,000	5,250	175	5	
Other	3,940	1,110	282	1	
Total	573,000	124,000	216	100	

¹Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

TABLE 3. U.S. imports of soda ash by country or locality, in 2024. [Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Data are in metric tons unless otherwise specified. Sources: U.S. Census Bureau as adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.]

January					
Country or locality	Quantity	Value ¹ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Percent of total quantity	
Austria	38	95	2,500	5	
Canada	267	27	101	36	
China	43	23	541	6	
France	39	67	1,730	5	
India	47	40	851	6	
Italy	36	32	889	5	
Mexico	237	91	384	32	
Sweden	19	79	4,210	3	
United Kingdom	20	17	850	3	
Other	1	26	23,300	0	
Total	746	497	666	100	

¹Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

TABLE 4. U.S. Apparent Consumption of Soda Ash. [Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Data are in metric tons.]

Period	Production	Exports	Imports -	Net stock		Apparent
				Increase	Decrease	consumption ¹
		20)23			
January-December	10,900,000	6,650,000	44,700	0	113,000	4,380,000
January	884,000	577,000	603	0	60,200	368,000
February	831,000	573,000	845	6,050	0	253,000
March	868,000	523,000	785	0	77,900	424,000
April	906,000	448,000	538	18,600	0	439,000
May	991,000	616,000	756	47,300	0	329,000
June	934,000	541,000	37,400	31,100	0	400,000
July	942,000	583,000	836	39,100	0	321,000
August	869,000	527,000	731	0	55,600	399,000
September	874,000	583,000	696	0	58,400	351,000
October	847,000	494,000	587	9,720	0	343,000
November	965,000	560,000	568	55,800	0	350,000
December	952,000	621,000	421	0	68,400	400,000
		20)24			
January	996,000	573,000	746	41,600	0	382,000

¹Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.