

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Dennis S. Kostick, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
983 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7715, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: dkostick@usgs.gov

Martha L. Jackson (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7944
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: mjackson@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

SODA ASH IN MARCH 2008

U.S. natural soda ash production in March was 955,000 metric tons (t), 8.8% higher than the previous month's production of 878,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for March 2008 were 194,000 t, slightly higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in March was 1.5 Mt. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in February 2008 was 396,000 t, 15% lower than in February 2007, and ending stocks were 16% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in February 2008 were 513,138 t and 774 t, respectively.

The trends in annual cumulative soda ash statistics from January through February 2008, compared with those of January through February 2007, were as follows: production was 3.2% higher; imports were 170% higher (an unusually high quantity that may or may not indicate the beginning of an increase in imports); exports, 9% higher; and apparent consumption, 6.4% lower.

All percentages in this report were computed using unrounded data.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2007:			
January-March	2,710	XX	4,420
March	962	238	1,590
April	880	208	1,450
May	950	242	1,460
June	926	198	1,310
July	985	207	1,500
August	971	213	1,490
September	890	251	1,110
October	920	203	1,450
November	903	158	1,450
December	936	206	1,510
January-December	11,100	XX	17,200
2008:			
January	922	221	1,510
February	878	190	1,370
March	955	194	1,510
January-March	2,760	XX	4,390

XX Not applicable.

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, IN FEBRUARY 2008^{1, 2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	71,500	\$11,800	\$165
Brazil	61,800	10,100	164
Canada	38,600	5,420	140
Indonesia	36,100	6,080	168
Taiwan	34,300	7,000	204
Chile	32,400	5,390	167
Korea, Republic of	27,600	5,620	204
Japan	24,700	3,850	156
South Africa	21,400	3,290	154
Thailand	19,000	2,620	138
Malaysia	18,200	3,880	213
Venezuela	17,900	3,440	192
Lithuania	17,000	1,900	111
Other	92,700	16,000	173
Total or average	513,000	86,400	168

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²March 2008 data were not available at time of publication.

³Free alongside ship value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2008^{1, 2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	Total	% of total
Angola	--	6	6	(3)
Argentina	14,000	--	14,000	2
Aruba	--	8	8	(3)
Australia	9,000	4,970	14,000	2
Bahrain	--	195	195	(3)
Belgium	17,600	10,600	28,200	3
Belize	--	2	2	(3)
Brazil	53,200	61,800	115,000	13
Cameroon	--	20	20	(3)
Canada	39,900	38,600	78,500	9
Chile	14,000	32,400	46,400	5
Colombia	8,500	5,500	14,000	2
Costa Rica	--	5,980	5,980	1
Ecuador	--	4,740	4,740	1
France	--	154	154	(3)
Guatemala	8,500	--	8,500	1
Indonesia	53,400	36,100	89,500	10
Ireland	--	223	223	(3)
Jamaica	7	--	7	(3)
Japan	--	24,700	24,700	1
Korea, Republic of	--	27,600	27,600	1
Lithuania	--	17,000	17,000	1
Malaysia	--	18,200	18,200	1
Mexico	84,600	71,500	156,000	17
Netherlands	--	176	176	(3)
New Zealand	5,250	--	5,250	1
Panama	--	7,490	7,490	1
Peru	--	8,080	8,080	1
Philippines	--	13,100	13,100	1
Portugal	--	9,090	9,090	1
Saudi Arabia	15,200	--	15,200	2
South Africa	6,580	21,400	28,000	3
Spain	--	15,400	15,400	2
Taiwan	--	34,300	34,300	4
Thailand	13,000	19,000	32,000	4
United Arab Emirates	11,800	--	11,800	1
Venezuela	32,400	17,900	50,300	6
Vietnam	--	7,000	7,000	1
Total	387,000	513,000	900,000	100

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²March 2008 data were not available at time of publication.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH^{1,2}

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2007:		
January-February	978	332
March	763	215
April	394	140
May	1,200	418
June	405	118
July	1,150	262
August	610	200
September	855	316
October	1,910	423
November	412	152
December	465	184
January-December	9,140	2,760
2008:		
January	1,870	326
February	774	203
January-February	2,640	529

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²March 2008 data were not available at time of publication.

³Cost, insurance, and freight value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2007:						
January-February	1,740,000	978	826,000	--	62,400	981,000
March	962,000	763	434,000	11,200	--	517,000
April	880,000	394	420,000	--	30,400	491,000
May	950,000	1,200	431,000	33,900	--	487,000
June	926,000	405	378,000	--	43,600	592,000
July	985,000	1,150	521,000	9,030	--	456,000
August	971,000	610	398,000	6,160	--	568,000
September	890,000	855	394,000	37,700	--	459,000
October	920,000	1,910	425,000	--	47,700	545,000
November	903,000	412	513,000	--	45,100	436,000
December	936,000	465	392,000	47,800	--	497,000
January-December	11,100,000	9,140	5,130,000	--	83,400	6,030,000
2008:						
January	922,000	1,870	387,000	14,500	--	523,000
February	878,000	774	513,000	--	30,100	396,000
March	955,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-February	1,800,000	2,640	900,000	--	15,600	918,000

NA Not available. -- 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.