

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN JANUARY 2009

U.S. natural soda ash production in January was 806,000 metric tons (t), 12% lower than the previous month's production of 917,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for January 2009 were 258,000 t, slightly lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in January was 1.2 million metric tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in December 2008 was 466,000 t, 6% lower than that of December 2007, and ending stocks were 26% higher.

Exports and imports of soda ash in December 2008 were 455,000 t and 1,730 t, respectively.

Cumulative soda ash statistics from January through December 2008, compared with those of January through December 2007, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were 41% higher; exports were 5% higher; and apparent consumption, 3% lower. Although imports have risen dramatically in 2008 compared with those of 2007, they represent less than 1% of the apparent consumption.

All percentages in this report were computed using unrounded data.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Ending stocks	
2007:			
December	936	206	1,510
January-December	11,100	XX	17,200
2008: <sup>P</sup>			
January	922	221	1,510
February	878	190	1,370
March	955	194	1,510
April	890	164	1,530
May	987	210	1,490
June	935	211	1,480
July	912 <sup>r</sup>	169 <sup>r</sup>	1,200
August	976	222	1,630 <sup>r</sup>
September	935	265	1,490 <sup>r</sup>
October	996	247	1,560 <sup>r</sup>
November	965	262	1,530 <sup>r</sup>
December	917	259	1,510 <sup>r</sup>
January-December	11,300	XX	17,800
2009, January	806	258	1,160

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. XX Not applicable.

<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, IN DECEMBER 2008<sup>1,2</sup>

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)	Unit value
Brazil	106,000	\$20,000	\$187
Mexico	89,600	15,200	170
Indonesia	33,000	6,730	204
Canada	29,900	4,890	163
Chile	29,500	4,910	167
Netherlands	20,500	3,630	177
Japan	20,500	2,300	112
Taiwan	20,500	2,870	140
Thailand	18,600	4,200	226
Spain	18,100	2,260	125
Saudi Arabia	18,000	3,180	177
Lithuania	17,100	3,040	177
Australia	14,000	3,450	246
South Africa	10,400	1,860	179
Vietnam	5,000	1,410	282
United Arab Emirates	3,500	618	177
Other	107,000	20,000	187
Total or average	455,000	80,600	177

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

<sup>2</sup>January 2009 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Free alongside ship value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2008<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total	% of total
Andorra, Principality of	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	179	--	--	--	--	179	(3)
Angola	--	6	--	--	177	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	187	(3)
Argentina	14,000	--	17,000	58	17,400	--	14,200	--	16,000	--	31,700	--	110,000	2
Australia	9,000	4,970	28,500	--	--	12,200	4,380	23,600	7,230	18,100	14,400	14,000	136,000	3
Bahrain	--	195	--	--	159	195	--	195	351	--	--	--	1,100	(3)
Belgium	17,600	10,600	19,900	38,600	11,000	21,900	21,100	1,930	23,000	51	19,800	--	185,000	3
Brazil	53,200	61,800	35,000	50,200	49,800	45,200	37,300	24,000	44,900	106,000	32,400	106,000	646,000	12
Cameroon	--	20	20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	40	(3)
Canada	39,900	38,600	41,400	33,400	30,900	30,600	30,100	32,400	29,200	31,900	21,500	29,900	390,000	7
Chile	14,000	32,400	28,400	13,500	35,900	30,900	20,700	25,800	18,000	25,200	27,000	29,500	301,000	6
China	--	--	--	38	--	2	84	--	68	--	--	--	192	(3)
Colombia	8,500	5,500	23,800	--	10,300	10,300	7,900	10,100	23,200	--	20,000	--	120,000	2
Costa Rica	--	5,980	196	--	7,330	4,230	--	--	--	7,310	--	--	25,000	(3)
Dominican Republic	--	--	53	--	--	--	4,420	--	--	--	--	--	4,470	(3)
Ecuador	--	4,740	--	--	--	3,500	100	100	--	9,000	--	--	17,400	(3)
El Salvador	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7,600	--	--	7,600	(3)
Finland	--	--	--	17	--	--	--	--	--	--	54	--	71	(3)
France	--	154	15,000	--	--	10,000	17,300	97	--	--	16,000	--	58,600	1
Germany	--	--	147	--	--	117	103	15	162	84	20	--	648	(3)
Guatemala	8,500	--	--	9,000	--	19	9,080	47	4,500	10,500	8,900	20	50,600	1
Indonesia	53,400	36,100	17,000	16,200	40,300	19,000	40,000	27,400	15,500	26,600	18,500	33,000	343,000	6
Italy	--	--	--	--	19	535	38	--	--	--	--	--	592	(3)
Ireland	--	223	--	614	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	837	(3)
Jamaica	7	--	--	18	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	25	(3)
Japan	--	24,700	--	35,500	--	40,500	6,000	26,500	9,000	12,000	36,600	20,500	211,000	4
Korea, Republic of	--	27,600	--	24,100	--	18,500	10,000	9,000	17,100	17,000	16,500	--	140,000	3
Lithuania	--	17,000	--	17,400	--	17,500	--	17,500	--	--	31,900	17,100	118,000	2
Malaysia	--	18,200	--	--	8,500	5,100	7,500	--	11,500	12,400	12,300	--	75,400	1
Mexico	84,600	71,500	81,500	88,500	79,300	84,900	75,600	93,500	109,000	75,500	70,600	89,600	1,000,000	19
Morocco	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,350	--	--	--	1,350	(3)
Netherlands	--	176	21,100	176	--	37,000	11,100	11,000	58	11,000	10,700	20,500	123,000	2
New Zealand	5,250	--	4,820	6,000	99	163	--	3,280	--	3,260	4,800	--	27,700	1
Nicaragua	--	--	--	--	--	--	54	--	--	--	--	--	54	(3)
Oman	--	--	--	100	439	301	100	--	--	--	--	--	940	(3)
Pakistan	--	--	1	--	1	12	1	--	--	--	--	1	16	(3)
Panama	--	7,490	1,540	--	--	1,920	--	--	34	--	1,920	--	12,900	(3)
Peru	--	8,080	--	--	5,700	8,500	--	9,000	--	8,500	--	--	39,800	1
Philippines	--	13,100	--	11,000	--	10,000	--	--	6,880	12,800	--	--	53,800	1
Portugal	--	9,090	10,000	--	--	10,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	29,100	1
Saudi Arabia	15,200	--	18,000	13,000	13,700	--	16,000	11,000	19,000	16,000	--	18,000	140,000	3
Senegal	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	27	--	--	27	(3)
Sierra Leone	--	--	--	--	35	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	35	(3)
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	93	--	93	(3)
Slovakia	--	--	--	18	39	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	57	(3)
South Africa	6,580	21,400	6,480	10,500	7,840	10,700	5,360	--	--	6,510	6,530	10,800	92,700	2
Spain	--	15,400	9,800	10,000	--	17,100	--	9,800	22,600	--	57	18,100	103,000	2
Taiwan	--	34,300	9,950	21,000	--	33,700	22,800	38,500	--	18,500	33,400	20,500	233,000	4
Thailand	13,000	19,000	--	16,000	18,800	--	22,500	--	--	18,500	19,100	18,600	145,000	3
United Arab Emirates	11,800	--	16,000	10,000	9,660	57	12,000	12,000	12,000	14,000	--	3,500	101,000	2
Venezuela	32,400	17,900	23,200	5,000	35,800	37,900	20,900	27,000	26,800	--	70,200	--	297,000	6
Vietnam	--	7,000	--	--	--	8,000	--	--	--	--	--	5,000	20,000	(3)
Other <sup>4</sup>	--	10	--	--	--	--	11	181	17	6	--	23	248	(3)
Total	387,000	513,000	429,000	430,000	383,000	531,000	417,000	414,000	417,000	468,000	525,000	455,000	5,370,000	100

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>January 2009 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

<sup>4</sup>Represents Aruba, Belize, Equatorial Guinea, Guyana, Nigeria, Qatar, Trinidad, and United Kingdom.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH<sup>1,2</sup>

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)
2007:		
December	465	\$184
January-December	9,140	2,760
2008:		
January	1,870	\$326
February	774	203
March	1,210	222
April	895	204
May	906	308
June	1,130	360
July	632	214
August	1,070	407
September	658	282
October	1,410	530
November	615	211
December	1,730	553
January-December	12,900	3,820

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

<sup>2</sup>January 2009 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Cost, insurance, and freight value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption <sup>2</sup>
				Increase	Decrease	
2007:						
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	1,210	429,000	3,820	--	524,000
April	890,000	895	430,000	--	30,300	492,000
May	987,000	906	383,000	45,600	--	559,000
June	935,000	1,130	531,000	1,550	--	405,000
July	912,000 <sup>r</sup>	632	417,000	--	41,900	538,000 <sup>r</sup>
August	976,000	1,070	414,000	52,600 <sup>r</sup>	--	511,000
September	935,000	658	417,000	43,200	--	475,000
October	996,000	1,410	468,000	--	18,000	547,000
November	965,000	615	525,000	15,000 <sup>r</sup>	--	426,000 <sup>r</sup>
December	917,000	1,730	455,000	--	2,750	466,000
January-December	11,300,000	12,900	5,370,000	53,200	--	5,860,000
2009, January	806,000	NA	NA	--	1,160	NA

<sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available. -- 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.