

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Dennis S. Kostick, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 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 APRIL 2012

U.S. natural soda ash production in April was 861,000 metric tons (t), 11% lower than the previous month's production of 964,000 t.

Ending inventories for April 2012 were 298,000 t, 6% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in April 2012 was 1.38 Mt.

Exports and imports of soda ash in March 2012 were 602,000 t, which was a record high, and 1,730 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for March 2012, compared with those of March 2011, were as follows: production was 7% higher; imports were about 123% higher; exports were 28% higher; and apparent consumption was 18% lower. Imports fluctuate widely and are insignificant relative to exports.

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 | Stocks, end of period | |
| 2011: | | | |
| January–April | 3,430 ^r | 182 ^r | 5,670 |
| April | 824 | 182 | 1,270 |
| May | 881 | 205 | 1,290 |
| June | 899 | 204 | 1,370 |
| July | 918 | 269 | 1,130 |
| August | 970 | 275 | 1,450 |
| September | 849 | 267 | 1,300 |
| October | 941 | 279 | 1,480 |
| November | 864 | 256 | 1,360 |
| December | 975 | 282 | 1,420 |
| January–December | 10,700 | 282 | 16,500 |
| 2012: | | | |
| January | 929 | 341 | 1,520 |
| February | 833 | 306 | 1,410 |
| March | 964 | 317 | 1,560 |
| April | 861 | 298 | 1,380 |
| January–April | 3,590 | 298 | 5,880 |

^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, IN 2012^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

| Country | January | February | March | | | January–March | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------|---|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---|
| | | | Quantity | Value ³ (thousand dollars) | Unit value | Quantity | Percent of total quantity | Value ³ (thousand dollars) |
| Argentina | -- | -- | 21,500 | 3,920 | \$182 | 21,500 | 1 | 3,920 |
| Australia | 12,300 | 14,500 | 5,800 | 1,360 | 235 | 32,600 | 2 | 7,110 |
| Belgium | 13,800 | 11,100 | 12,000 | 1,440 | 120 | 36,900 | 3 | 4,810 |
| Brazil | 36,900 | 46,500 | 98,900 | 21,300 | 215 | 182,000 | 12 | 36,800 |
| Canada | 24,600 | 24,300 | 25,200 | 4,880 | 193 | 74,100 | 5 | 14,300 |
| Chile | 52,000 | 9,990 | 41,300 | 8,860 | 215 | 103,000 | 7 | 22,700 |
| Colombia | 6,710 | 11,000 | 10,200 | 1,720 | 169 | 27,900 | 2 | 5,130 |
| France | 15,200 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 15,200 | 1 | 2,290 |
| India | -- | -- | 22,000 | 3,670 | 167 | 22,000 | 2 | 3,670 |
| Indonesia | 17,000 | 74,500 | 16,500 | 3,660 | 222 | 108,000 | 7 | 23,600 |
| Japan | 31,600 | 13,400 | 19,100 | 3,870 | 203 | 64,100 | 4 | 12,000 |
| Korea, Republic of | 15,000 | 29,700 | 24,500 | 7,080 | 289 | 69,200 | 5 | 16,700 |
| Lithuania | 15,100 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 15,100 | 1 | 1,230 |
| Mexico | 81,700 | 86,800 | 101,000 | 22,600 | 224 | 269,000 | 18 | 61,400 |
| Netherlands | 22,700 | 14,300 | 26,500 | 4,590 | 173 | 63,500 | 4 | 11,000 |
| New Zealand | -- | -- | 14,500 | 3,310 | 229 | 14,500 | 1 | 3,310 |
| Peru | 3,840 | 17,100 | 7,500 | 1,650 | 220 | 28,400 | 2 | 6,100 |
| Philippines | -- | 8,500 | -- | -- | -- | 8,500 | 1 | 1,860 |
| Portugal | 5,500 | -- | 5,000 | 788 | 158 | 10,500 | 1 | 1,640 |
| Saudi Arabia | -- | 15,000 | 18,000 | 3,720 | 207 | 33,000 | 2 | 6,820 |
| South Africa | 15,000 | -- | 14,000 | 1,900 | 136 | 29,000 | 2 | 3,970 |
| Spain | 10,200 | -- | 16,000 | 2,750 | 172 | 26,200 | 2 | 4,280 |
| Taiwan | 15,700 | 68 | 28,800 | 6,430 | 223 | 44,500 | 3 | 9,730 |
| Thailand | 21,000 | -- | 404 | 108 | 267 | 21,400 | 1 | 4,710 |
| Tunisia | 25,100 | -- | 12,200 | 2,090 | 171 | 37,300 | 3 | 6,420 |
| United Arab Emirates | -- | 10,800 | 7,000 | 1,450 | 207 | 17,800 | 1 | 3,680 |
| Venezuela | 4,810 | -- | 37,600 | 10,200 | 271 | 42,400 | 3 | 11,200 |
| Other | 8,210 ^r | 15,000 ^r | 16,900 | 3,620 | 215 | 40,100 | 3 | 8,820 |
| Total | 454,000 | 403,000 | 602,000 | 127,000 | 211 | 1,460,000 | 100 | 299,000 |

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²April 2012 data were not available at time of publication.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2012^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

| Country | January | February | Quantity | March | | January–March | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|---|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---|
| | | | | Value ³ (thousand dollars) | Unit value | Quantity | Percent of total quantity | Value ³ (thousand dollars) |
| Canada ⁴ | (5) | 1 | 425 | 46 | \$108 | 426 | 12 | 69 |
| China | -- | -- | 229 | 97 | 424 | 229 | 7 | 97 |
| Dominican Republic ⁴ | -- | 225 | 252 | 36 | 143 | 477 | 14 | 74 |
| France | 208 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 11,000 | 211 | 6 | 49 |
| Germany | 1 | 210 | 3 | 28 | 9,330 | 213 | 6 | 86 |
| Greece ⁴ | 60 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 60 | 2 | 23 |
| Italy | 701 | 54 | 760 | 163 | 214 | 1,520 | 44 | 345 |
| Korea, Republic of | -- | -- | 4 | 3 | 750 | 4 | (5) | 3 |
| Mexico | 19 | 19 | -- | -- | -- | 38 | 1 | 12 |
| Poland | 22 | 22 | -- | -- | -- | 44 | 1 | 18 |
| United Kingdom | 108 | 90 | 57 | 43 | 754 | 255 | 7 | 148 |
| Total | 1,120 | 622 | 1,730 | 427 | 247 | 3,470 | 100 | 924 |

-- Zero.

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

²April 2012 data were not available at time of publication.

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

⁴Not a soda-ash-producing country, material transshipped or possible erroneous data, according to the Journal of Commerce PIERS trade data.

⁵Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

| Period | Production | Imports | Exports | Net stock | | Apparent consumption ² |
|------------------|------------|---------|-----------|-----------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | | Increase | Decrease | |
| 2011: | | | | | | |
| January–December | 10,700,000 | 26,900 | 5,470,000 | 61,800 | -- | 5,220,000 |
| January–March | 2,600,000 | 1,320 | 1,270,000 | -- | 8,250 | 1,340,000 |
| March | 904,000 | 777 | 469,000 | 4,150 | -- | 431,000 |
| April | 824,000 | 1,130 | 433,000 | -- | 30,400 | 422,000 |
| May | 881,000 | 815 | 369,000 | 23,600 | -- | 490,000 |
| June | 899,000 | 2,760 | 511,000 | -- | 1,630 | 392,000 |
| July | 918,000 | 4,070 | 420,000 | 65,200 | -- | 437,000 |
| August | 970,000 | 4,150 | 464,000 | 6,510 | -- | 504,000 |
| September | 849,000 | 6,410 | 478,000 | -- | 8,350 | 386,000 |
| October | 941,000 | 3,570 | 502,000 | 11,800 | -- | 430,000 |
| November | 864,000 | 1,120 | 507,000 | -- | 22,800 | 381,000 |
| December | 975,000 | 1,560 | 517,000 | 26,100 | -- | 434,000 |
| 2012: | | | | | | |
| January–March | 2,730,000 | 3,470 | 1,460,000 | 24,000 | -- | 1,250,000 |
| January | 929,000 | 1,120 | 454,000 | 58,600 | -- | 418,000 |
| February | 833,000 | 622 | 403,000 | -- | 34,600 | 465,000 |
| March | 964,000 | 1,730 | 602,000 | 11,100 | -- | 352,000 |
| April | 861,000 | NA | NA | -- | 19,100 | NA |

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.