

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN FEBRUARY 2019

U.S. natural soda ash production in February was 892,000 metric tons (t), a 7% decrease compared with that of the previous month's production and 6% less than that of February 2018. Ending stocks were 270,000 t, slightly less than the preceding month's inventories. Soda ash production for the first two months of 2019 was 1.85 million metric tons (Mt), 5% less than the same period of 2018 (table 1,4).

Wyoming trona production in February 2019 was 1.46 Mt, 11% less than that of January 2019 and slightly less than that of February 2018. For the first 2 months of 2019, trona production was 3.09 Mt, slightly less than that of the same period of 2018.

Exports of soda ash in February 2019 were 621,000 t, 6% more than those of January 2019 and 16% more than those of February 2018. For the first two months of 2019, exports were 1.21 Mt, 10% greater than the same period of 2018 (tables 2, 4).

February 2019 imports of soda ash were 1,250 t, 28% more than those of January 2019 but slightly less than those of February 2018. For the first two months of 2019, imports were 2,230t, 8% greater than those of the same period of 2018 (tables

3, 4). Soda ash import tonnages can differ significantly from month to month, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages.

Apparent consumption for February 2019 was 303,000 t, an 18% decrease from that of January 2018 and a 27% decrease from that of February 2018. For the first two months of 2019, apparent consumption was 671,000t, 19% less than the same period of 2018. Apparent consumption can change significantly from month to month mostly owing to changes 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 STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2018:			
January–February	1,940	625 [†]	3,110
February	945	310	1,490
March	1,020	240	1,620
April	966	267	1,480
May	952	259	1,450
June	961	248	1,420
July	1,070	282	1,490
August	930	293	1,180
September	988	268	1,320
October	1,010	237	1,500
November	997	309	1,490
December	1,010	297	1,470
January–December	11,800	297	17,500
2019:			
January	957	300	1,640
February	892	270	1,460
January–February	1,850	270	3,090

[†]Revised.

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 OR LOCALITY, IN 2019¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February			January–February		
		Quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Argentina	7,000	7,700	\$2,020	\$262	14,700	1	\$3,430
Australia	35,000	4,040	825	204	39,000	3	8,390
Brazil	94,500	104,000	21,600	208	198,000	16	42,700
Canada	15,800	17,500	3,970	227	33,200	3	7,690
Chile	13,000	45,200	10,200	225	58,200	5	13,300
Colombia	8,000	21,400	4,950	231	29,400	2	6,680
Ecuador	9,500	--	--	--	9,500	1	2,110
Guatemala	4,000	7,000	1,620	231	11,000	1	2,490
India	--	43,500	7,540	173	43,500	4	7,540
Indonesia	88,100	21,300	4,970	233	109,000	9	24,700
Japan	3,000	34,400	7,000	203	37,400	3	7,650
Korea, Republic of	11,500	18,000	3,770	209	29,500	2	6,220
Malaysia	46,100	62,800	13,900	222	109,000	9	23,500
Mexico	144,000	106,000	25,500	241	250,000	21	56,400
Nigeria	--	10,000	3,380	338	10,000	1	3,380
Peru	17,000	--	--	--	17,000	1	3,810
Philippines	7,500	--	--	--	7,500	1	1,680
Saudi Arabia	98	10,300	1,770	173	10,400	1	1,810
South Africa	--	10,100	2,250	223	10,100	1	2,250
Taiwan	16,500	9,500	2,180	229	26,000	2	5,700
Thailand	35,100	26,600	6,200	233	61,600	5	14,400
Tunisia	--	20,000	4,900	245	20,000	2	4,900
United Arab Emirates	--	15,500	2,720	176	15,500	1	2,720
Vietnam	31,000	15,000	3,320	220	46,000	4	10,300
Other	476 ^r	11,700	2,460	211	1,150	1	164
Total	587,000	621,000	137,000	221	1,210,000	100	266,000

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²Free 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 2019¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	February				January–February		
	January	Quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Bulgaria	288	612	\$224	\$366	900	40	\$329
China	77	72	50	700	149	7	101
France	44	91	111	1,220	136	6	202
Mexico	304	97	42	431	401	18	149
Romania	95	172	78	453	267	12	117
United Kingdom	146	197	128	648	343	15	229
Other	24 ^r	9	59	6,810	32	1	102
Total	978	1,250	692	553	2,230	100	1,230

^rRevised.

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

²Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Exports	Imports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2018:						
January–December	11,800,000	6,960,000	16,300	3,910	--	4,890,000
January–February	1,940,000	1,090,000	2,060	17,000 [†]	--	828,000 [†]
February	945,000	536,000	1,280	--	3,560	414,000
March	1,020,000	671,000	1,710	--	70,800	422,000
April	966,000	588,000	1,550	27,700	--	352,000
May	952,000	544,000	1,420	--	8,440	417,000
June	961,000	512,000	1,230	--	10,400	461,000
July	1,070,000	609,000	1,560	34,000	--	428,000
August	930,000	542,000	1,020	10,600	--	378,000
September	988,000	529,000	1,510	--	24,700	485,000
October	1,010,000	670,000	1,940	--	31,800	376,000
November	997,000	506,000	1,720	72,500	--	420,000
December	1,010,000	698,000	627	--	11,700	321,000
2019:						
January–February	1,850,000	1,210,000	2,230	--	27,800	671,000
January	957,000	587,000	978	2,640	--	368,000
February	892,000	621,000	1,250	--	30,500	303,000

[†]Revised. -- 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.