

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN NOVEMBER 2019

U.S. natural soda ash production in November was 1.02 million metric tons (Mt), a slight increase compared with that of the previous month and that of November 2018. Ending stocks increased for the third consecutive month to 336,000 metric tons (t), slightly more than those of the preceding month (tables 1, 4). Wyoming trona production in November 2019 was 1.35 Mt, 11% less than that of October 2019 and 9% less than that of November 2018.

Exports of soda ash in November 2019 were 609,000 t, 11% more than those of October 2019 and 20% more than those of November 2018 (tables 2, 4).

November 2019 imports of soda ash were 778 t, 13% less than those of October 2019 and 55% less than those of November 2018. Relatively large quantities of soda ash were imported from Turkey in November 2018, followed by similar quantities in March, June, and September of 2019 (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 November 2019 was 401,000 t, a 7% decrease from that of October 2019 and 5% less than that of November 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. Apparent consumption for January 2019 through November 2019 was 3% less than that during the same time period in 2018 (table 4).

Table 5 provides reported soda ash consumption statistics for the third quarter of 2019. Reported consumption for the third quarter was 1.2 Mt, nearly the same as the reported consumption for the third quarter of 2018. Reported consumption for the first 9 months of 2019 was 3.54 Mt, 3% less than that of the same period in 2018. During the third quarter of 2019, 562,000 t (47%) went to glassmaking and 333,000 t (28%) was consumed in the production of chemicals.

All percentages in this report were calculated using unrounded data.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Stocks, end of period	
2018:			
January–November	10,800	309 <sup>r</sup>	16,100
November	997	309	1,490
December	1,060	297	1,580
January–December	11,900	297	17,600
2019:			
January	1,000	289 <sup>r</sup>	1,680
February	920	262 <sup>r</sup>	1,500
March	941	276	1,680
April	999	335 <sup>r</sup>	1,530
May	994	273 <sup>r</sup>	1,310
June	946	281 <sup>r</sup>	1,610
July	972	246 <sup>r</sup>	1,640
August	926	229 <sup>r</sup>	1,490
September	977	304 <sup>r</sup>	1,550
October	1,010	329 <sup>r</sup>	1,520
November	1,020 <sup>c</sup>	336	1,350 <sup>c</sup>
January–November	10,700 <sup>e</sup>	336	16,900 <sup>e</sup>

<sup>c</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<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 OR LOCALITY, IN 2019<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November			January–November		
											Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)
Argentina	7,000	7,700	--	16,700	79	80	19,700	4,040	19,200	--	--	--	--	74,600	1	\$17,200
Australia	35,000	4,040	34,000	29,000	34,000	--	17,500	45,800	29,500	--	7,000	\$1,360	\$194	236,000	4	55,000
Brazil	94,500	104,000	35,000	60,800	83,400	82,000	50,300	81,100	39,700	94,100	43,500	8,880	204	768,000	12	161,000
Canada	15,800	17,500	15,200	18,300	18,400	14,700	15,700	15,400	15,600	12,600	13,000	3,070	237	172,000	3	41,400
Chile	13,000	45,200	31,500	14,200	46,800	46,300	32,800	38,700	47,000	--	47,300	10,900	230	363,000	6	84,000
China	--	61	--	--	36,000	--	--	36,000	44	42,000	36,500	4,590	126	151,000	2	23,600
Colombia	8,000	21,400	10,500	8,750	8,200	9,000	20,000	27,600	1	21,500	22,200	5,050	227	157,000	2	35,600
Ecuador	9,500	--	10,000	--	--	--	8,000	--	--	6,550	--	--	--	34,100	1	7,650
Guatemala	4,000	7,000	--	--	11,500	5,000	5,220	--	--	6,000	--	--	--	38,700	1	9,870
India	--	43,500	--	65,700	12,500	27,000	37,500	12,500	--	36,500	--	--	--	235,000	4	41,800
Indonesia	88,100	21,300	90,800	19,400	105,000	73,000	46,700	59,800	41,200	64,400	82,900	19,000	229	692,000	11	156,000
Japan	3,000	34,400	15,100	21,500	--	55,300	3,040	20,400	31,500	24,000	55,800	11,200	201	264,000	4	54,300
Korea, Republic of	11,500	18,000	15,700	34,200	26	41,600	23,600	22,100	50	36,200	29,700	6,280	212	233,000	4	49,800
Malaysia	46,100	62,800	52,500	39,300	43,200	39,500	52,100	12,000	55,600	27,000	62,000	13,700	221	492,000	8	110,000
Mexico	144,000	106,000	112,000	114,000	111,000	92,100	112,000	120,000	106,000	90,000	102,000	24,500	240	1,210,000	19	285,000
Peru	17,000	--	16,300	1,280	10,800	75	--	9,720	75	11,000	16,600	4,000	242	82,800	1	18,900
Philippines	7,500	--	--	9,000	14,600	--	13,500	--	10,000	--	10,500	2,330	222	65,100	1	14,400
Saudi Arabia	98	10,300	39	15,100	536	8,500	60	15,900	80	80	139	42	298	50,900	1	9,710
South Africa	--	10,100	--	4,790	--	14,400	--	12,000	15,000	--	--	--	--	56,300	1	9,970
Taiwan	16,500	9,500	15,200	38,800	8,000	17,900	10,200	20,600	16,000	21,000	12,400	2,750	222	186,000	3	42,700
Thailand	35,100	26,600	35,600	7,500	10,000	46,100	38,300	12,400	13,300	19,300	31,300	6,800	217	275,000	4	63,400
Tunisia	--	20,000	--	--	15,000	--	20,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	55,000	1	13,300
United Arab Emirates	--	15,500	--	6,000	--	11,000	--	10,500	--	--	--	--	--	43,000	1	8,270
Vietnam	31,000	15,000	18,500	31,500	35,500	30,000	17,500	36,000	5,110	35,500	36,500	8,170	224	292,000	5	66,200
Other	476	21,600	462	6,540	36,800	324	14,200	5,560	6,360	1,270	83	9	110	93,700	1	23,500
Total	587,000	621,000	508,000	562,000	641,000	614,000	557,000	618,000	452,000	549,000	609,000	133,000	218	6,320,000	100	1,400,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Free 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 2019<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November		January–November			
											Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)
Bulgaria	288	612	432	882	648	810	648	560	486	414	126	\$75	\$596	5,910	5	\$2,350
China	77	72	180	41	56	99	257	120	88	120	20	12	605	1,130	1	703
France	44	91	41	91	64	50	99	13	75	94	43	86	2,020	704	1	1,100
Mexico	304	97	252	150	244	57	19	258	532	1	384	137	356	2,300	2	883
Romania	95	172	38	38	--	--	76	76	38	100	76	30	400	710	1	312
Turkey	--	--	32,000	--	--	35,000	--	--	34,800	--	--	--	--	102,000	89	20,400
United Kingdom	146	197	91	73	143	183	75	108	89	161	129	95	741	1,390	1	948
Other	24	9	3	10	3 <sup>3</sup>	1	12	39	186	1	1	6	4,360	287	3 <sup>3</sup>	477
Total	978	1,250	33,000	1,280	1,150	36,200	1,190	1,180	36,300	890	778	441	567	114,000	100	27,100

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau adjusted by U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 4  
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Exports	Imports	Net stock		Apparent consumption <sup>2</sup>
				Increase	Decrease	
2018:						
January–December	11,900,000	6,960,000	51,300	3,910	--	4,980,000
January–November	10,800,000	6,270,000	50,700 <sup>r</sup>	15,600 <sup>r</sup>	--	4,600,000 <sup>r</sup>
November	997,000	506,000	1,720	72,500	--	420,000
December	1,060,000	698,000	627	--	11,700	374,000
2019:						
January–November	10,700,000 <sup>e</sup>	6,320,000	114,000	39,000	--	4,460,000 <sup>e</sup>
January	1,000,000	587,000	978	-- <sup>r</sup>	8,470 <sup>r</sup>	426,000 <sup>r</sup>
February	920,000	621,000	1,250	-- <sup>r</sup>	26,400 <sup>r</sup>	327,000 <sup>r</sup>
March	941,000	508,000	33,000	13,900 <sup>r</sup>	--	452,000 <sup>r</sup>
April	999,000	562,000	1,280	58,500 <sup>r</sup>	--	380,000 <sup>r</sup>
May	994,000	641,000	1,150	--	61,700 <sup>r</sup>	416,000
June	946,000	614,000	36,200	7,410 <sup>r</sup>	--	361,000 <sup>r</sup>
July	972,000	557,000	1,190	--	34,200 <sup>r</sup>	450,000 <sup>r</sup>
August	926,000	618,000	1,180	--	17,600 <sup>r</sup>	327,000
September	977,000	452,000	36,300	75,200 <sup>r</sup>	--	486,000 <sup>r</sup>
October	1,010,000	549,000	890	24,700 <sup>r</sup>	--	433,000 <sup>r</sup>
November	1,020,000 <sup>e</sup>	609,000	778	7,800	--	401,000 <sup>e</sup>

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. -- 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.

TABLE 5  
 REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTER<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

NAICS <sup>2</sup> code	End use	2018					2019			
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3rd quarter
3272	Glass:									
327213	Container	279	284	257	233	1,050	250	250	255	755
327211	Flat	222	243	240	256	960	228	234	239	701
327993	Fiber	39	40	43	42	164 <sup>r</sup>	39	41	44	125
327212	Other	26	25	25	26	102	27	23	23	73
	Total	566	591	565	557	2,280	545	548	562	1,650
32518	Chemicals	338	369	356	372	1,440	335	358	333	1,030
325611	Soaps and detergents	79	66	72	70	288 <sup>r</sup>	69	67	71	207
322	Pulp and paper	12	13	11	11	47	10	10	9	29
221310	Water treatment <sup>3</sup>	11	12	12	9	45	10	11	10	31
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	47	43	52	49	191	47	38	39	124
4246	Distributors	79	74	75	74	302	71	61	68	199
	Other	71	69	65	59	265	84	74	108	265
	Total domestic consumption <sup>4</sup>	1,200	1,240	1,210	1,200	4,850	1,170	1,170	1,200	3,540
	Exports <sup>5</sup>	1,750	1,590	1,720	1,760	6,810 <sup>r</sup>	1,710	1,760	1,780	5,250
	Canada	47	49	47	48	190	44	49	43	136
	Total industry sales <sup>6</sup>	2,950	2,830	2,930	2,960	11,700	2,880	2,920	2,980	8,790
	Total sales from plants	3,010	2,860	3,020	3,030	11,900	2,890	2,970	2,990	8,840
	Total production	2,960	2,880	2,990	3,070 <sup>r</sup>	11,900 <sup>r</sup>	2,860	2,940	2,870	8,680

<sup>1</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>North American Industry Classification System.

<sup>3</sup>Includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors and purge liquors sold to power plants for water treatment. Sales of mine water are excluded.

<sup>4</sup>Imports reported by the producer/importer have been distributed into appropriate end-use categories listed above.

<sup>5</sup>As reported by producers; includes Canada. Data may not necessarily agree with those reported by the U.S. Census Bureau for the same periods.

<sup>6</sup>Represents soda ash from domestic origin (production and inventory changes) and imports and exports. Includes soda ash sold by coproducers and distributed by purchasers into appropriate end-use categories.