

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JULY 2012

U.S. natural soda ash production in July was 933,000 metric tons (t), 2% lower than the previous month's production of 952,000 t.

Ending inventories for July 2012 were 312,000 t, 18% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in July 2012 was 1.32 Mt.

Exports and imports of soda ash in June 2012 were 568,000 t and 508 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for June 2012, compared with those of June 2011, were as follows: production was 6%

higher; imports were about 82% lower; exports were 11% higher; and apparent consumption was 4% higher. Imports fluctuate widely and are insignificant relative to exports.

The soda ash end use data for the first quarter of 2012 are shown in table 5.

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–July	6,130	269	9,460 ^r
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
May	833	243	1,330
June	952	265	1,470
July	933	312	1,320
January–July	6,310	312	10,000

^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	April	May	June			January–June		
						Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	--	21,500	--	25,400	8,000	1,130	\$142	55,000	2	10,700
Australia	12,300	14,500	5,800	12,000	15,200	7,500	1,610	215	67,300	2	1,490
Belgium	13,800	11,100	12,000	--	19,500	78	9	115	56,500	2	7,550
Brazil	36,900	46,500	98,900	30,200	83,900	39,600	8,690	220	336,000	11	68,400
Canada	24,600	24,300	25,200	19,700	25,700	22,800	4,090	179	142,000	5	26,600
Chile	52,000	9,990	41,300	8,850	29,600	40,100	7,500	187	182,000	6	38,700
Colombia	6,710	11,000	10,200	29,400	--	6,130	291	48	63,400	2	10,400
France	15,200	--	--	16,000	--	--	--	--	31,200	1	4,680
India	--	--	22,000	--	22,000	--	--	--	44,000	1	6,750
Indonesia	17,000	74,500	16,500	74,500	32,500	76,000	16,700	219	291,000	10	63,700
Japan	31,600	13,400	19,100	24,900	234	44,300	9,600	217	134,000	5	27,000
Korea, Republic of	15,000	29,700	24,500	11,800	--	40,800	9,880	242	122,000	4	29,300
Lithuania	15,100	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15,100	1	1,230
Mexico	81,700	86,800	101,000	78,700	89,700	98,000	21,300	217	536,000	18	121,000
Netherlands	22,700	14,300	26,500	23,000	16,100	39,000	5,720	147	142,000	5	23,000
Peru	3,840	17,100	7,500	5,000	13,700	5,610	1,270	226	52,800	2	11,700
Philippines	--	8,500	--	11,500	--	8,500	1,870	220	28,500	1	6,320
Portugal	5,500	--	5,000	--	5,500	--	--	--	16,000	1	2,340
Saudi Arabia	--	15,000	18,000	--	--	14,600	3,020	207	47,600	2	9,830
South Africa	15,000	--	14,000	37,400	4,970	12,000	1,620	136	83,300	3	12,300
Spain	10,200	--	16,000	7,950	5,000	--	--	--	39,200	1	6,530
Taiwan	15,700	68	28,800	26,100	--	20,500	4,740	231	91,100	3	20,100
Thailand	21,000	--	404	22,500	20,500	13,000	2,910	224	77,400	3	17,400
Tunisia	25,100	--	12,200	--	25,800	20,000	3,440	172	83,000	3	14,300
United Arab Emirates	--	10,800	7,000	--	--	11,000	2,270	207	28,800	1	5,950
Venezuela	4,810	--	37,600	--	17,200	25,900	6,140	237	85,500	3	21,700
Other	8,210	15,000	31,400 [†]	33,100	12,300	14,900	3,240	217	115,000	4	38,100
Total	454,000	403,000	602,000	473,000	465,000	568,000	117,000	206	2,960,000	100	607,000

[†]Revised. -- Zero.

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

²July 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	March	April	May	Quantity	June		January–June		
							Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada ⁴	(5)	1	425	874	866	--	--	--	2,170	30	257
China	--	--	229	8	444	18	9	500	699	10	262
Dominican Republic ⁴	--	225	252	--	--	--	--	--	477	7	74
France	208	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	211	3	49
Germany	1	210	3	(5)	(5)	(5)	3	3	214	3	101
Greece ⁴	60	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	60	1	23
Italy	701	54	760	36	61	54	31	574	1,670	23	448
Japan	--	--	--	346	1	3	17	5,670	349	5	68
Mexico	19	19	--	51	173	78	19	244	340	5	75
Poland	22	22	--	--	22	--	--	--	67	1	26
Turkey	--	--	--	--	--	300	111	370	300	4	111
United Kingdom	108	90	57	145	160	55	31	564	615	9	344
Other	1	--	3	--	3	--	--	--	8	(5)	41
Total	1,120	622	1,730	1,460	1,730	508	220	433	7,170	100	1,880

-- Zero.

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

²July 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–June	5,210,000	6,020	2,580,000	--	16,600	2,650,000
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–June	5,370,000	7,170	2,960,000	--	61,000	2,480,000
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	1,460	473,000	--	19,100	409,000
May	833,000	1,730	465,000	--	55,000	425,000
June	952,000	508	568,000	--	22,000	406,000
July	933,000	NA	NA	47,100	--	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.

TABLE 5
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN
THE UNITED STATES BY END USE, BY QUARTER¹

(Thousand metric tons)

NAICS ² code	End use	2011	2012 1st quarter
3272	Glass:		
327213	Container	1,260	392
327211	Flat	973	266
327993	Fiber	132	35
327212	Other	122	33
	Total	2,480	726
32518	Chemicals	1,510	453
325611	Soaps and detergents	430	126
322	Pulp and paper	85	26
221310	Water treatment ³	58	19
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	160	46
422	Distributors	282	87
	Other	138	40
	Total domestic consumption ⁴	5,150	1,520
	Exports ⁵	5,470	1,720
	Canada	249	77
	Total industry sales ⁶	10,600	3,240
	Total sales from plants	15,800	2,670
	Total production	10,700	2,730

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

²North American Industry Classification System.

³Includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors and purge liquors sold to powerplants for water treatment. Sales of mine water are excluded.

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

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

⁶Represents 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.