

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JUNE 2012

U.S. natural soda ash production in June was 952,000 metric tons (t), 14% higher than the previous month's production of 833,000 t.

Ending inventories for June 2012 were 265,000 t, 9% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in June 2012 was 1.47 Mt.

Exports and imports of soda ash in May 2012 were 465,000 t and 1,730 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for May 2012, compared with those of May 2011, were as follows: production was 5% lower; imports were about 113% higher; exports were 26% higher; and apparent consumption was 13% 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–June	5,210	204	8,330
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
May	833	243	1,330
June	952	265	1,470
January–June	5,370	265	8,680

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	Quantity	May		January–May		
						Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	--	21,500	--	25,400	5,690	\$224	47,000	2	9,610
Australia	12,300	14,500	5,800	12,000	15,200	3,260	214	59,800	2	13,200
Belgium	13,800	11,100	12,000	--	19,500	2,730	140	56,400	2	7,540
Brazil	36,900	46,500	98,900	30,200	83,900	16,500	197	296,000	12	59,700
Canada	24,600	24,300	25,200	19,700	25,700	4,360	170	120,000	5	22,500
Chile	52,000	9,990	41,300	8,850	29,600	6,560	222	142,000	6	31,200
Colombia	6,710	11,000	10,200	29,400	--	--	--	57,300	2	10,100
France	15,200	--	--	16,000	--	--	--	31,200	1	4,680
India	--	--	22,000	--	22,000	3,080	140	44,000	2	6,750
Indonesia	17,000	74,500	16,500	74,500	32,500	6,870	212	215,000	9	47,000
Japan	31,600	13,400	19,100	24,900	234	77	329	89,200	4	17,400
Korea, Republic of	15,000	29,700	24,500	11,800	--	--	--	81,000	3	19,400
Lithuania	15,100	--	--	--	--	--	--	15,100	1	1,230
Mexico	81,700	86,800	101,000	78,700	89,700	20,200	225	438,000	18	99,500
Netherlands	22,700	14,300	26,500	23,000	16,100	2,930	182	103,000	4	17,300
New Zealand	--	--	14,500	--	--	--	--	14,500	1	3,310
Peru	3,840	17,100	7,500	5,000	13,700	3,130	229	47,100	2	10,500
Philippines	--	8,500	--	11,500	--	--	--	20,000	1	4,450
Portugal	5,500	--	5,000	--	5,500	703	128	16,000	1	2,340
Saudi Arabia	--	15,000	18,000	--	--	--	--	33,000	1	6,820
South Africa	15,000	--	14,000	37,400	4,970	706	142	71,400	3	10,600
Spain	10,200	--	16,000	7,950	5,000	633	127	39,200	2	6,530
Taiwan	15,700	68	28,800	26,100	--	--	--	70,600	3	15,300
Thailand	21,000	--	404	22,500	20,500	4,710	230	64,400	3	14,500
Tunisia	25,100	--	12,200	--	25,800	4,460	173	63,000	3	10,900
United Arab Emirates	--	10,800	7,000	--	--	--	--	17,800	1	3,680
Venezuela	4,810	--	37,600	--	17,200	4,280	249	59,600	2	15,500
Other	8,210	15,000	16,900	33,100	12,300	2,580	209	85,500	4	18,200
Total	454,000	403,000	602,000	473,000	465,000	93,500	201	2,400,000	100	490,000

-- Zero.

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

²June 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	Quantity	May		January–May		
						Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada ⁴	(5)	1	425	874	866	92	106	2,170	33	257
China	--	--	229	8	444	148	333	681	10	253
Dominican Republic ⁴	--	225	252	--	--	--	--	477	7	74
France	208	1	1	--	--	--	--	211	3	49
Germany	1	210	3	(5)	(5)	5	5	214	3	97
Greece ⁴	60	--	--	--	--	--	--	60	1	23
Italy	701	54	760	36	61	54	885	1,610	24	417
Japan	--	--	--	346	1	6	6,000	346	5	51
Mexico	19	19	--	51	173	47	272	262	4	76
Poland	22	22	--	--	22	9	409	67	1	26
United Kingdom	108	90	57	145	160	85	531	560	8	313
Other	1	--	3	--	3	16	5,330	4	(5)	24
Total	1,120	622	1,730	1,460	1,730	462	267	6,660	100	1,660

-- Zero.

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

²June 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–May	4,310,000	3,260	2,070,000	--	15,000	2,260,000
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–May	4,420,000	6,660	2,400,000	--	39,000	2,070,000
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	NA	NA	--	22,000	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.