

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN OCTOBER 2013

U.S. natural soda ash production in October was 1 million metric tons (Mt), 17% higher than the previous month's production of 857,000 metric tons (t).

Ending inventories for October 2013 were 347,000 t, slightly higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in October 2013 was 1.43 Mt.

Exports and imports of soda ash in September 2013 were 502,000 t and 413 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for September 2013, compared with those of September 2012, were as follows: production was 4% lower; imports were 72% lower; exports were 12% lower; and apparent consumption was 27% higher. Soda ash import tonnages can vary widely from month to month, but generally are of much smaller volume than soda ash export tonnages.

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	
2012:			
January–October	9,200 ^r	324	14,100
October	982	324	1,540
November	969	313	1,570
December	966	338	1,440
January–December	11,100	338	17,100
2013:			
January	941	295	1,570
February	892	330	1,440
March	957	343	1,540
April	894	286	1,440
May	985	333	1,460
June	962	335	1,360
July	1,020	414	1,450
August	998	417	1,410
September	857	346	1,400
October	1,000	347	1,430
January–October	9,510	347	14,500

^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 2013^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Quantity	September		Quantity	January–September	
										Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value		Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	20,000	2,580	--	14,200	--	59	16,300	10,100	--	--	--	63,200	1	12,200
Australia	7,000	--	7,060	15,000	19	14,500	40,500	--	34,500	5,910	\$171	119,000	2	23,400
Belgium	11,000	106	145	7,620	10,100	6,060	29,400	44,600	95	10	105	109,000	2	15,900
Brazil	55,100	134,000	72,300	22,600	127,000	18,700	119,000	31,100	87,100	16,100	185	668,000	14	125,000
Canada	26,600	27,800	26,900	25,200	27,600	28,100	23,000	24,300	25,800	5,030	195	235,000	5	46,000
Chile	35,200	18,800	21,500	35,700	27,700	41,600	35,800	22,000	16,900	3,240	192	255,000	5	52,400
China	30,000	30,500	67,300	--	--	--	--	7	17,500	1,840	105	145,000	3	14,400
Colombia	10,900	6,000	16,000	11,000	11,500	29,500	6,000	16,100	6,500	1,320	202	114,000	2	22,000
Indonesia	82,000	62,700	73,300	38,500	36,100	68,000	10,000	61,600	96,500	18,200	189	529,000	11	97,200
Japan	--	15,800	26,000	--	31,600	--	31,800	46,800	--	--	--	152,000	3	25,400
Korea, Republic of	30,600	14,000	31,800	25,300	17,800	18,800	12,800	34,000	29	3	103	185,000	4	33,000
Malaysia	--	20,000	--	--	23,000	8,000	--	17,000	--	--	--	68,000	1	13,100
Mexico	70,600	67,100	72,900	99,100	92,500	82,200	84,800	86,900	80,300	18,200	227	736,000	15	170,000
Netherlands	26,500	100	16,500	16,500	24,200	93	27,200	35,000	25,100	3,590	143	171,000	4	26,700
Philippines	15,000	--	7,000	32	7,000	38	--	11,500	10,500	2,000	191	51,100	1	9,940
Saudi Arabia	18,500	22,500	21,300	18,300	180	17,600	22,300	333	--	--	--	121,000	3	20,400
South Africa	7,100	15,300	5,710	22,000	19,200	4,600	6,330	10,600	21,800	3,170	146	113,000	2	17,100
Spain	21,000	6,000	5,760	18,500	--	--	8,000	13,100	5,110	590	115	77,400	2	11,700
Taiwan	11,500	--	37,600	18,400	13,700	12,500	19,000	24,700	18,000	3,470	193	155,000	3	25,800
Thailand	45,000	8,500	12,500	9,520	9,000	19,000	20	141	9,990	1,490	150	114,000	2	20,800
Tunisia	14,800	14,800	--	--	26,100	21,000	17,200	22,900	--	--	--	117,000	2	17,100
United Arab Emirates	11,500	9,000	4,000	14,000	--	12,500	13,000	--	37	4	108	64,000	1	11,000
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	--	41,000	--	--	--	--	41,000	1	7,170
Venezuela	--	14,000	30,000	20,000	22,500	16,000	8,000	20,400	14,300	3,200	224	145,000	3	34,100
Vietnam	10,000	12,000	18,000	--	--	11,100	--	6,000	21,000	3,450	164	78,100	2	14,100
Other	500	25,800	21,200	45,700	7,650	15,500	20,200	39,600	11,500	2,090	183	188,000	4	37,900
Total	560,000	528,000	595,000	477,000	535,000	445,000	592,000	579,000	502,000	93,000	185	4,810,000	100	903,000

-- Zero.

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

²October 2013 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 2013^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Quantity	September		January–September		
										Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada	--	--	--	--	100	--	43	4	(4)	5	\$5,000	147	2	54
China	--	30	1	7	42	57	109	76	28	16	571	350	5	182
Germany	179	(4)	1	5	574	(4)	(4)	523	(4)	7	25	1,280	18	226
Italy	474	302	773	36	--	147	18	401	36	16	444	2,190	31	394
Japan	--	--	--	2	--	--	101	--	1	4	4,000	104	1	26
Mexico	163	92	136	57	169	132	313	133	151	52	344	1,350	19	460
Romania	--	60	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	7	350	80	1	30
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	60	--	--	--	--	--	--	60	1	23
United Kingdom	73	107	268	93	183	75	130	318	145	82	566	1,390	20	680
Other	4	6	--	--	22	(4)	25	6	32	29	906	92	1	98
Total	892	597	1,180	200	1,150	411	739	1,460	413	218	528	7,040	100	2,170

-- Zero.

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

²October 2013 data were not available at time of publication.

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

⁴Less 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	
2012:						
January–December	11,100,000	12,700	6,110,000	55,600	--	4,980,000
January–September	8,210,000 [†]	10,000	4,480,000	56,800	--	3,690,000 [†]
September	892,000	1,460	570,000	--	11,700	336,000
October	982,000	661	522,000	--	14,800	476,000
November	969,000	727	588,000	--	10,600	392,000
December	966,000	1,310	521,000	24,300	--	422,000
2013:						
January–September	8,510,000	7,040	4,810,000	8,580	--	3,690,000
January	941,000	892	560,000	--	42,300	424,000
February	892,000	597	528,000	34,300	--	331,000
March	957,000	1,180	595,000	13,500	--	350,000
April	894,000	200	477,000	--	57,600	475,000
May	985,000	1,150	535,000	47,100	--	404,000
June	962,000	411	445,000	2,470	--	515,000
July	1,020,000	739	592,000	79,400	--	352,000
August	998,000	1,460	579,000	3,010	--	417,000
September	857,000	413	502,000	--	71,300	426,000
October	1,000,000	NA	NA	1,230	--	NA

[†]Revised. 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.