

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN MARCH 2013

U.S. natural soda ash production in March was 957,000 metric tons (t), 7% more than the previous month's production of 892,000 t.

Ending inventories for March 2013 were 343,000 t, 4% more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in March 2013 was 1.54 million metric tons.

Exports and imports of soda ash in February 2013 were 528,000 t and 597 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for February 2013, compared with those of February 2012, were as follows: production was 7% higher; imports were 4% lower; exports were 31% higher; and apparent consumption was 29% lower. 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–March	2,730	317	4,490
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
August	1,020	350	1,460
September	892	339	1,130
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
January–March	2,790	343	4,550

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		Unit	January–February		
		Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value (thousand dollars)
Argentina	20,000	2,580	518	\$201	22,600	2	4,390
Australia	7,000	--	--	--	7,000	1	1,190
Belgium	11,000	106	12	113	11,100	1	1,330
Brazil	55,100	134,000	24,600	183	190,000	17	35,100
Canada	26,600	27,800	5,400	194	54,400	5	11,100
Chile	35,200	18,800	3,960	210	54,000	5	11,000
China	30,000	30,500	3,120	102	60,500	6	5,970
Colombia	10,900	6,000	1,070	179	16,900	2	3,170
Indonesia	82,000	62,700	11,400	182	145,000	13	26,400
Japan	--	15,800	2,460	155	15,800	1	2,460
Korea, Republic of	30,600	14,000	2,620	187	44,600	4	8,660
Malaysia	--	20,000	3,980	199	20,000	2	3,980
Mexico	70,600	67,100	15,100	226	138,000	13	31,900
Netherlands	26,500	100	11	110	26,600	2	4,480
Peru	--	6,970	1,580	226	6,970	1	1,580
Philippines	15,000	--	--	--	15,000	1	3,070
Saudi Arabia	18,500	22,500	3,640	161	41,000	4	7,280
South Africa	7,100	15,300	2,150	140	22,400	2	3,170
Spain	21,000	6,000	1,410	235	27,000	2	4,360
Taiwan	11,500	--	--	--	11,500	1	2,110
Thailand	45,000	8,500	1,630	192	53,500	5	10,000
Tunisia	14,800	14,800	2,170	146	29,600	3	4,340
United Arab Emirates	11,500	9,000	1,450	162	20,500	2	3,690
Venezuela	--	14,000	3,220	230	14,000	1	3,220
Vietnam	10,000	12,000	2,290	191	22,000	2	4,120
Other	500	18,900	3,420	182	19,400	2	3,540
Total	560,000	528,000	97,300	184	1,090,000	100	202,000

-- Zero.

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

²March 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	Quantity	February		January–February		
			Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
China	--	30	28	\$933	30	2	28
Germany	179	(4)	(4)	(4)	180	12	31
Italy	474	302	55	182	776	52	132
Mexico	163	92	32	348	255	17	84
Romania	--	60	23	383	60	4	23
United Kingdom	73	107	59	551	179	12	99
Other	4	6	20	3,330	10	1	43
Total	892	597	217	243	1,490	100	440

-- Zero.

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

²March 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–February	1,760,000	1,740	856,000	24,000	--	883,000
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	--	362,000
July	933,000	445	431,000	47,100	--	455,000
August	1,020,000	929	513,000	38,400	--	468,000
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–February	1,830,000	1,490	1,090,000	--	8,030	754,000
January	941,000	892	560,000	--	42,300	424,000
February	892,000	597	528,000	34,300	--	331,000
March	957,000	NA	NA	13,500	--	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.