

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN APRIL 2013

U.S. natural soda ash production in April was 894,000 metric tons (t), 7% less than the previous month's production of 957,000 t.

Ending inventories for April 2013 were 285,000 t, 17% less than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in April 2013 was 1.44 million metric tons.

Exports and imports of soda ash in March 2013 were 595,000 t and 1,180 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for March 2013, compared with those of March 2012, were as follows: production, exports, and apparent consumption were slightly lower and imports were 32% 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 STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Stocks, end of period	
2012:			
January–April	3,590	298	5,880
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
April	894	285	1,440
January–April	3,680	285	5,990

<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, IN 2013<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	Quantity	March		January–March		
				Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value (thousand dollars)
Argentina	20,000	2,580	--	--	--	22,600	1	4,390
Australia	7,000	--	7,060	1,490	\$211	14,100	1	2,680
Belgium	11,000	106	145	16	110	11,300	1	1,350
Brazil	55,100	134,000	72,300	13,800	191	262,000	16	49,000
Canada	26,600	27,800	26,900	5,540	206	81,300	5	16,700
Chile	35,200	18,800	21,500	4,010	186	75,500	4	15,000
China	30,000	30,500	67,300	6,560	97	128,000	8	12,500
Colombia	10,900	6,000	16,000	3,200	200	32,900	2	6,370
Indonesia	82,000	62,700	73,300	13,200	180	218,000	13	39,600
Japan	--	15,800	26,000	3,760	145	41,800	2	6,220
Korea, Republic of	30,600	14,000	31,800	5,320	167	76,400	5	14,000
Malaysia	--	20,000	--	--	--	20,000	1	3,980
Mexico	70,600	67,100	72,900	16,900	232	211,000	13	48,800
Netherlands	26,500	100	16,500	2,380	144	43,100	3	6,860
Philippines	15,000	--	7,000	1,320	189	22,000	1	4,390
Saudi Arabia	18,500	22,500	21,300	3,510	164	62,400	4	10,800
South Africa	7,100	15,300	5,710	830	145	28,100	2	4,000
Spain	21,000	6,000	5,760	1,070	185	32,800	2	5,420
Taiwan	11,500	--	37,600	6,210	165	49,100	3	8,310
Thailand	45,000	8,500	12,500	2,350	188	66,000	4	12,400
Tunisia	14,800	14,800	--	--	--	29,600	2	4,340
United Arab Emirates	11,500	9,000	4,000	651	163	24,500	1	4,340
Venezuela	--	14,000	30,000	7,620	254	44,000	3	10,800
Vietnam	10,000	12,000	18,000	3,320	184	40,000	2	7,440
Other	500	25,800 <sup>r</sup>	21,200	2,950	139	47,600	3	8,060
Total	560,000	528,000	595,000	106,000	178	1,680,000	100	308,000

<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>April 2013 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2013<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	Quantity	March		Quantity	January–March	
				Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value		Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
China	--	30	1	3	\$3,000	31	1	31
Germany	179	(4)	1	3	3,000	181	7	35
Italy	474	302	773	110	142	1,550	58	242
Mexico	163	92	136	50	368	391	15	135
Romania	--	60	--	--	--	60	2	23
United Kingdom	73	107	268	112	418	447	17	210
Other	4	6	--	--	--	10	(4)	42
Total	892	597	1,180	279	237	2,670	100	718

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>April 2013 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption <sup>2</sup>
				Increase	Decrease	
2012:						
January–December	11,100,000	12,700	6,110,000	55,600	--	4,980,000
January–March	2,730,000	3,470	1,460,000	35,100	--	1,240,000
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–March	2,790,000	2,670	1,680,000	5,500	--	1,100,000
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	NA	NA	--	57,900	NA

NA Not available. -- 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.