

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN SEPTEMBER 2013

U.S. natural soda ash production in September was 857,000 metric tons (t), 14% lower* than the previous month's production of 998,000 t.

Ending inventories for September 2013 were 346,000 t, 17% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in September 2013 was 1.40 million metric tons.

Exports and imports of soda ash in August 2013 were 579,000 t and 1,460 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for August 2013, compared with those of August 2012, were as follows: production was slightly lower; imports were 57% higher; exports were 13%

higher; and apparent consumption was 11% lower. Soda ash import tonnages can vary widely from month to month, but generally are of much smaller volume than soda ash export tonnages.

The soda ash end use data for the second quarter of 2013 are shown in table 5.

All percentages in this report were computed using unrounded data.

*Correction posted November 25, 2013.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2012:			
January–September	8,220 ^r	339	12,600
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	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
January–September	8,510	346	13,100

^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	Quantity	August	Unit value	January–August		
									Value ³ (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	20,000	2,580	--	14,200	--	59	16,300	10,100	1,940	\$192	63,200	1	12,200
Australia	7,000	--	7,060	15,000	19	14,500	40,500	--	--	--	84,100	2	17,500
Belgium	11,000	106	145	7,620	10,100	6,060	29,400	44,600	5,400	121	109,000	3	15,900
Brazil	55,100	134,000	72,300	22,600	127,000	18,700	119,000	31,100	5,330	171	581,000	13	109,000
Canada	26,600	27,800	26,900	25,200	27,600	28,100	23,000	24,300	4,440	183	209,000	5	40,900
Chile	35,200	18,800	21,500	35,700	27,700	41,600	35,800	22,000	4,700	214	238,000	6	49,200
China	30,000	30,500	67,300	--	--	--	--	7	5	714	128,000	3	12,500
Colombia	10,900	6,000	16,000	11,000	11,500	29,500	6,000	16,100	3,130	194	107,000	2	20,700
Indonesia	82,000	62,700	73,300	38,500	36,100	68,000	10,000	61,600	11,500	187	432,000	10	79,000
Japan	--	15,800	26,000	--	31,600	--	31,800	46,800	7,390	158	152,000	4	25,400
Korea, Republic of	30,600	14,000	31,800	25,300	17,800	18,800	12,800	34,000	5,960	175	185,000	4	33,000
Malaysia	--	20,000	--	--	23,000	8,000	--	17,000	3,250	191	68,000	2	13,100
Mexico	70,600	67,100	72,900	99,100	92,500	82,200	84,800	86,900	20,500	236	656,000	15	151,000
Netherlands	26,500	100	16,500	16,500	24,200	93	27,200	35,000	5,790	165	146,000	3	23,100
Philippines	15,000	--	7,000	32	7,000	38	--	11,500	2,180	190	40,600	1	7,930
Saudi Arabia	18,500	22,500	21,300	18,300	180	17,600	22,300	333	126	378	121,000	3	20,400
South Africa	7,100	15,300	5,710	22,000	19,200	4,600	6,330	10,600	1,450	137	90,800	2	13,900
Spain	21,000	6,000	5,760	18,500	--	--	8,000	13,100	2,220	170	72,300	2	11,100
Taiwan	11,500	--	37,600	18,400	13,700	12,500	19,000	24,700	3,820	155	137,000	3	22,300
Thailand	45,000	8,500	12,500	9,520	9,000	19,000	20	141	32	227	104,000	2	19,300
Tunisia	14,800	14,800	--	--	26,100	21,000	17,200	22,900	3,340	146	117,000	3	17,100
United Arab Emirates	11,500	9,000	4,000	14,000	--	12,500	13,000	--	--	--	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	4,580	225	131,000	3	30,900
Vietnam	10,000	12,000	18,000	--	--	11,100	--	6,000	1,130	189	57,100	1	10,600
Other	500	25,800	21,200	45,700	7,650	15,500	20,200	39,600	11,100	280	176,000	4	35,800
Total	560,000	528,000	595,000	477,000	535,000	445,000	592,000	579,000	109,000	189	4,310,000	100	810,000

-- Zero.

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

²September 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	Quantity	August	Unit value	January–August		
									Value ³ (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada	--	--	--	--	100	--	43	4	3	\$750	147	2	49
China	--	30	1	7	42	57	109	76	28	368	322	5	166
Germany	179	(4)	1	5	574	(4)	(4)	523	69	132	1,280	19	219
Italy	474	302	773	36	--	147	18	401	63	157	2,150	32	378
Japan	--	--	--	2	--	--	101	--	--	--	103	2	22
Mexico	163	92	136	57	169	132	313	133	52	391	1,200	18	409
Romania	--	60	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	60	1	23
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	60	--	--	--	--	--	60	1	23
United Kingdom	73	107	268	93	183	75	130	318	115	362	1,250	19	598
Other	4	6	--	--	22	(4)	25	6	6	1,000	63	1	68
Total	892	597	1,180	200	1,150	411	739	1,460	336	230	6,630	100	1,960

-- Zero.

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

²September 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–August	7,320,000	8,550	3,910,000	68,500	--	3,350,000
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–August	7,650,000	6,630	4,310,000	79,900	--	3,270,000
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	NA	NA	--	71,300	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	2012				2013		
		2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	1st quarter– 2d quarter
3272	Glass:							
327213	Container	321	312	306	1,260	290	319	609
327211	Flat	226	240	243	928	226	243	469
327993	Fiber	28	29	32	117	36	34	70
327212	Other	29	26	28	110	32	28	60
	Total	604	608	609	2,420	584 ^r	624	1,210
32518	Chemicals	375	368	366	1,480	343	361	704
325611	Soaps and detergents	92	96	100	391 ^r	101	91	192
322	Pulp and paper	20	23	18	81	18	19	37
221310	Water treatment ³	16	17	14	62	15	16	31
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	30	49	47	164	47	47	94
422	Distributors	72	70	68	281	77	70	146
	Other	49	53	50	185	49 ^r	46	94
	Total domestic consumption ⁴	1,260	1,280	1,270	5,060	1,230	1,280	2,510
	Exports ⁵	1,430	1,450	1,640	5,930	1,580	1,600	3,180
	Canada	56	56	66	242	69	61	129
	Total industry sales ⁶	2,680	2,740	2,900	11,000	2,810	2,880	5,690
	Total sales from plants	2,720	2,780	2,920	11,100	2,800	2,870	5,670
	Total production	2,650	2,840	2,920	11,100	2,790	2,840	5,630

^rRevised.

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.