

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN DECEMBER 2013

U.S. natural soda ash production in December was 978,000 metric tons (t), slightly higher than the previous month's production of 957,000 t.

Ending inventories for December 2013 were 350,000 t, slightly lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in December 2013 was 1.49 million metric tons.

Exports and imports of soda ash in November 2013 were 442,000 t and 1,550 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for November 2013, compared with those of November 2012, were as follows: production was slightly lower; imports were 113% higher; exports were 25% lower; and apparent consumption was 30% 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:			
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
November	957	355	1,380
December	978	350	1,490
January–December	11,400	350	17,400

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	September	October	November			January–November		
											Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	20,000	2,580	--	14,200	--	59	16,300	10,100	--	12,800	--	--	--	76,000	1	14,700
Australia	7,000	--	7,060	15,000	19	14,500	40,500	--	34,500	33,500	--	--	--	152,000	3	30,500
Belgium	11,000	106	145	7,620	10,100	6,060	29,400	44,600	95	28,400	6,090	963	158	144,000	2	20,700
Brazil	55,100	134,000	72,300	22,600	127,000	18,700	119,000	31,100	87,100	39,100	99,500	17,900	180	807,000	14	150,000
Canada	26,600	27,800	26,900	25,200	27,600	28,100	23,000	24,300	25,800	26,100	23,300	4,980	214	285,000	5	56,100
Chile	35,200	18,800	21,500	35,700	27,700	41,600	35,800	22,000	16,900	37,300	15,600	3,300	211	308,000	5	63,400
China	30,000	30,500	67,300	--	--	--	--	7	17,500	20	144	34	236	145,000	2	14,400
Colombia	10,900	6,000	16,000	11,000	11,500	29,500	6,000	16,100	6,500	6,000	18,300	3,650	200	138,000	2	26,800
Indonesia	82,000	62,700	73,300	38,500	36,100	68,000	10,000	61,600	96,500	45,500	26,800	4,650	174	601,000	10	110,000
Japan	--	15,800	26,000	--	31,600	--	31,800	46,800	--	25,800	--	--	--	178,000	3	28,700
Korea, Republic of	30,600	14,000	31,800	25,300	17,800	18,800	12,800	34,000	29	22,800	15,800	2,750	174	224,000	4	39,800
Malaysia	--	20,000	--	--	23,000	8,000	--	17,000	--	--	15,000	2,730	182	83,000	1	15,800
Mexico	70,600	67,100	72,900	99,100	92,500	82,200	84,800	86,900	80,300	78,300	69,600	16,100	231	884,000	15	204,000
Netherlands	26,500	100	16,500	16,500	24,200	93	27,200	35,000	25,100	20,100	14,100	2,430	173	205,000	3	32,200
Philippines	15,000	--	7,000	32	7,000	38	--	11,500	10,500	21,000	--	--	--	72,100	1	13,200
Saudi Arabia	18,500	22,500	21,300	18,300	180	17,600	22,300	333	--	17,000	--	--	--	138,000	2	23,100
South Africa	7,100	15,300	5,710	22,000	19,200	4,600	6,330	10,600	21,800	5,000	5,000	617	123	123,000	2	18,400
Spain	21,000	6,000	5,760	18,500	--	--	8,000	13,100	5,110	29,800	20,000	3,860	193	127,000	2	19,700
Taiwan	11,500	--	37,600	18,400	13,700	12,500	19,000	24,700	18,000	13,800	13,500	2,180	162	183,000	3	30,300
Thailand	45,000	8,500	12,500	9,520	9,000	19,000	20	141	9,990	26,900	17,100	3,350	195	158,000	3	29,400
Tunisia	14,800	14,800	--	--	26,100	21,000	17,200	22,900	--	24,000	11,700	1,700	145	152,000	3	22,400
United Arab Emirates	11,500	9,000	4,000	14,000	--	12,500	13,000	--	37	10,000	--	--	--	74,000	1	12,900
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	--	41,000	--	--	--	18,200	3,640	200	59,100	1	10,800
Venezuela	--	14,000	30,000	20,000	22,500	16,000	8,000	20,400	14,300	24,200	31,500	7,410	235	201,000	3	47,000
Vietnam	10,000	12,000	18,000	--	--	11,100	--	6,000	21,000	28,100	--	--	--	106,000	2	18,700
Other	500	25,800	21,200	45,700	7,650	15,500	20,200	39,600	11,500	43,100	20,600	4,000	194	251,000	4	50,500
Total	560,000	528,000	595,000	477,000	535,000	445,000	592,000	579,000	502,000	619,000	442,000	86,200	195	5,870,000	100	1,100,000

-- Zero.

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

²December 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	September	October	November			January–November		
											Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada	--	--	--	--	100	--	43	4	(4)	38	76	8	105	261	2	66
China	--	30	1	7	42	57	109	76	28	138	--	--	--	488	4	222
Germany	179	(4)	1	5	574	(4)	(4)	523	(4)	645	891	124	139	2,820	26	441
Italy	474	302	773	36	--	147	18	401	36	1,000	190	37	195	3,380	31	604
Japan	--	--	--	2	--	--	101	--	1	137	3	10	3,330	244	2	57
Mexico	163	92	136	57	169	132	313	133	151	151	90	27	300	1,590	14	539
Romania	--	60	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	--	--	--	--	80	1	30
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	60	--	--	--	--	60	--	--	--	120	1	46
United Kingdom	73	107	268	93	183	75	130	318	145	58	108	58	537	1,560	14	774
Other	4	6	--	--	22	(4)	25	6	32	163	194	55	284	449	4	210
Total	892	597	1,180	200	1,150	411	739	1,460	413	2,390	1,550	319	206	11,000	100	2,990

-- Zero.

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

²December 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–November	10,200,000	11,400	5,590,000	31,300	--	4,560,000
November	969,000	727	588,000	--	10,600	392,000
December	966,000	1,310	521,000	24,300	--	422,000
2013:						
January–November	10,500,000	11,000	5,870,000	16,900	--	4,590,000
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	2,390	619,000	1,230	--	383,000
November	957,000	1,550	442,000	7,130	--	509,000
December	978,000	NA	NA	--	4,170	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.