

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN NOVEMBER 2013

U.S. natural soda ash production in November was 957,000 metric tons (t), 4% lower than the previous month's production of 1 million metric tons (Mt).

Ending inventories for November 2013 were 355,000 t, slightly higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in November 2013 was 1.38 Mt.

Exports and imports of soda ash in October 2013 were 619,000 t and 2,390 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for October 2013, compared with those of October 2012, were as follows: production was 2% higher; imports were 262% higher; exports were 19% higher; and apparent consumption was 20% 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–November	10,200	313	15,700
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
November	957	355	1,380
January–November	10,500	355	15,900

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	Quantity	October		January–October		
											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	2,460	\$192	76,000	1	14,700
Australia	7,000	--	7,060	15,000	19	14,500	40,500	--	34,500	33,500	7,060	211	152,000	3	30,500
Belgium	11,000	106	145	7,620	10,100	6,060	29,400	44,600	95	28,400	3,840	135	137,000	3	19,700
Brazil	55,100	134,000	72,300	22,600	127,000	18,700	119,000	31,100	87,100	39,100	7,150	183	707,000	13	132,000
Canada	26,600	27,800	26,900	25,200	27,600	28,100	23,000	24,300	25,800	26,100	5,120	196	261,000	5	51,100
Chile	35,200	18,800	21,500	35,700	27,700	41,600	35,800	22,000	16,900	37,300	7,740	208	292,000	5	60,100
China	30,000	30,500	67,300	--	--	--	--	7	17,500	20	10	500	145,000	3	14,400
Colombia	10,900	6,000	16,000	11,000	11,500	29,500	6,000	16,100	6,500	6,000	1,150	192	120,000	2	23,100
Indonesia	82,000	62,700	73,300	38,500	36,100	68,000	10,000	61,600	96,500	45,500	8,660	190	574,000	11	106,000
Japan	--	15,800	26,000	--	31,600	--	31,800	46,800	--	25,800	3,300	128	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	4,050	178	208,000	4	37,000
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	78,300	18,400	235	815,000	15	188,000
Netherlands	26,500	100	16,500	16,500	24,200	93	27,200	35,000	25,100	20,100	3,010	150	191,000	4	29,700
Philippines	15,000	--	7,000	32	7,000	38	--	11,500	10,500	21,000	3,240	155	72,100	1	13,200
Saudi Arabia	18,500	22,500	21,300	18,300	180	17,600	22,300	333	--	17,000	2,740	161	138,000	3	23,100
South Africa	7,100	15,300	5,710	22,000	19,200	4,600	6,330	10,600	21,800	5,000	693	139	118,000	2	17,800
Spain	21,000	6,000	5,760	18,500	--	--	8,000	13,100	5,110	29,800	4,110	138	107,000	2	15,800
Taiwan	11,500	--	37,600	18,400	13,700	12,500	19,000	24,700	18,000	13,800	2,300	167	169,000	3	28,100
Thailand	45,000	8,500	12,500	9,520	9,000	19,000	20	141	9,990	26,900	5,270	196	141,000	3	26,000
Tunisia	14,800	14,800	--	--	26,100	21,000	17,200	22,900	--	24,000	3,590	149	141,000	3	20,700
United Arab Emirates	11,500	9,000	4,000	14,000	--	12,500	13,000	--	37	10,000	1,900	190	74,000	1	12,900
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	24,200	5,430	225	169,000	3	39,600
Vietnam	10,000	12,000	18,000	--	--	11,100	--	6,000	21,000	28,100	4,640	165	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	8,620	200	231,000	4	46,500
Total	560,000	528,000	595,000	477,000	535,000	445,000	592,000	579,000	502,000	619,000	115,000	185	5,430,000	100	1,020,000

-- Zero.

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

²November 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	Quantity	October		January–October		
											Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada	--	--	--	--	100	--	43	4	(4)	38	4	105	185	2	58
China	--	30	1	7	42	57	109	76	28	138	40	290	488	5	222
Germany	179	(4)	1	5	574	(4)	(4)	523	(4)	645	91	141	1,930	20	317
Italy	474	302	773	36	--	147	18	401	36	1,000	172	171	3,190	34	567
Japan	--	--	--	2	--	--	101	--	1	137	22	161	241	3	47
Mexico	163	92	136	57	169	132	313	133	151	151	51	338	1,500	16	512
Romania	--	60	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	--	--	--	80	1	30
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	60	--	--	--	--	60	24	400	120	1	46
United Kingdom	73	107	268	93	183	75	130	318	145	58	36	621	1,450	15	716
Other	4	6	--	--	22	(4)	25	6	32	163	57	350	255	3	155
Total	892	597	1,180	200	1,150	411	739	1,460	413	2,390	497	208	9,440	100	2,670

-- Zero.

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

²November 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–October	9,200,000	10,700	5,000,000	41,900	--	4,170,000
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–October	9,510,000	9,440	5,430,000	9,820	--	4,080,000
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	NA	NA	7,130	--	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.