

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JULY 2013

U.S. natural soda ash production in July was 1.02 million metric tons (Mt), 6% higher than the previous month's production of 962,000 metric tons (t).

Ending inventories for July 2013 were 412,000 t, 23% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in July 2013 was 1.45 Mt.

Exports and imports of soda ash in June 2013 were 445,000 t and 411 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for June 2013, compared with those of June 2012, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were 19% lower; exports were 22% lower; and apparent consumption was 42% 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:			
January–July	6,310	312	10,000
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	286 ^r	1,440
May	985	333	1,460
June	962	335	1,360
July	1,020	412	1,450
January–July	6,650	412	10,300

^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 Quantity	June Value ³ (thousand dollars) Unit value		January–June		
							Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	20,000	2,580	--	14,200	--	59	24	\$407	36,900	1	7,000
Australia	7,000	--	7,060	15,000	19	14,500	2,950	203	43,600	1	8,560
Belgium	11,000	106	145	7,620	10,100	6,060	920	152	35,100	1	4,410
Brazil	55,100	134,000	72,300	22,600	127,000	18,700	3,300	177	430,000	14	80,600
Canada	26,600	27,800	26,900	25,200	27,600	28,100	5,210	186	162,000	5	32,000
Chile	35,200	18,800	21,500	35,700	27,700	41,600	8,870	213	181,000	6	37,200
China	30,000	30,500	67,300	--	--	--	--	--	128,000	4	12,500
Colombia	10,900	6,000	16,000	11,000	11,500	29,500	5,770	196	85,000	3	16,400
Indonesia	82,000	62,700	73,300	38,500	36,100	68,000	12,400	182	361,000	11	65,700
Japan	--	15,800	26,000	--	31,600	--	--	--	73,400	2	12,600
Korea, Republic of	30,600	14,000	31,800	25,300	17,800	18,800	3,220	171	138,000	4	24,800
Malaysia	--	20,000	--	--	23,000	8,000	1,530	191	51,000	2	9,850
Mexico	70,600	67,100	72,900	99,100	92,500	82,200	19,000	232	484,000	15	111,000
Netherlands	26,500	100	16,500	16,500	24,200	93	10	108	84,000	3	13,400
Philippines	15,000	--	7,000	32	7,000	38	4	105	29,100	1	5,750
Saudi Arabia	18,500	22,500	21,300	18,300	180	17,600	2,850	162	98,500	3	17,100
South Africa	7,100	15,300	5,710	22,000	19,200	4,600	917	199	73,800	2	11,400
Spain	21,000	6,000	5,760	18,500	--	--	--	--	51,200	2	7,700
Taiwan	11,500	--	37,600	18,400	13,700	12,500	2,030	162	93,600	3	15,500
Thailand	45,000	8,500	12,500	9,520	9,000	19,000	3,360	177	104,000	3	19,200
Tunisia	14,800	14,800	--	--	26,100	21,000	3,050	145	76,700	2	11,200
United Arab Emirates	11,500	9,000	4,000	14,000	--	12,500	2,030	163	51,000	2	8,920
Venezuela	--	14,000	30,000	20,000	22,500	16,000	3,690	231	102,000	3	24,400
Vietnam	10,000	12,000	18,000	--	--	11,100	2,040	184	51,100	2	9,480
Other	500	25,800	21,200	45,700	7,650	15,500	3,210	207	116,000	4	21,700
Total	560,000	528,000	595,000	477,000	535,000	445,000	86,400	194	3,140,000	100	588,000

-- Zero.

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

²July 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	Quantity	June		Quantity	January–June	
							Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value		Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada	--	--	--	--	100	--	--	--	100	2	26
China	--	30	1	7	42	57	25	\$439	136	3	85
Germany	179	(4)	1	5	574	(4)	6	17	760	17	134
Italy	474	302	773	36	--	147	48	327	1,730	39	306
Mexico	163	92	136	57	169	132	42	318	749	17	253
Romania	--	60	--	--	--	--	--	--	60	1	23
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	60	--	--	--	60	1	23
United Kingdom	73	107	268	93	183	75	44	587	797	18	409
Other	4	6	--	2	22	(4)	5	40	34	1	63
Total	892	597	1,180	200	1,150	411	170	414	4,430	100	1,320

-- Zero.

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

²July 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–June	5,370,000	7,170	2,960,000	--	17,000 ^r	2,430,000 ^r
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–June	5,630,000	4,430	3,140,000	--	2,460	2,500,000
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 ^r	475,000
May	985,000	1,150	535,000	47,100 ^r	--	404,000
June	962,000 ^r	411	445,000	2,470 ^r	-- ^r	515,000
July	1,020,000	NA	NA	77,000	--	NA

^rRevised. 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.