

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN FEBRUARY 2013

U.S. natural soda ash production in February was 892,000 metric tons (t), 5% less than the previous month's production of 941,000 t.

Ending inventories for February 2013 were 330,000 t, 12% more than preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in February 2013 was 1.44 million metric tons.

Exports and imports of soda ash in January 2013 were 560,000 t and 892 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for January 2013, compared with those of January 2012, were as follows: production was

slightly higher; imports were about 20% lower; exports were 24% higher; and apparent consumption was slightly higher. 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 2012 are shown in table 5. All percentages in this report were computed using unrounded data.

Note: The annual average value of U.S. soda ash production for 2012 was \$141.90 per short ton.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2012:			
January–February	1,760	306	2,930
February	833	306	1,410
March	964	317	1,560
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
January–February	1,830	330	3,010

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	Quantity	January		
		Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Percent of total quantity
Argentina	20,000	3,880	\$194	4
Australia	7,000	1,190	170	1
Belgium	11,000	1,320	120	2
Brazil	55,100	10,500	191	10
Canada	26,600	5,740	216	5
Chile	35,200	7,070	201	6
China	30,000	2,850	95	5
Colombia	10,900	2,100	191	2
Indonesia	82,000	15,000	182	15
Korea, Republic of	30,600	6,040	198	5
Mexico	70,600	16,700	237	13
Netherlands	26,500	4,470	168	5
Philippines	15,000	3,070	204	3
Saudi Arabia	18,500	3,640	197	3
South Africa	7,100	1,030	144	1
Spain	21,000	2,950	140	4
Taiwan	11,500	2,110	183	2
Thailand	45,000	8,360	186	8
Tunisia	14,800	2,170	147	3
United Arab Emirates	11,500	2,240	195	2
Vietnam	10,000	1,830	183	2
Other	500	110	220	(4)
Total	560,000	104,000	186	100

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

²February 2013 data were not available at time of publication.

³Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

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	Quantity	January		
		Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Percent of total quantity
Germany	179	28	156	20
Italy	474	77	162	53
Mexico	163	52	319	18
United Kingdom	73	40	548	8
Other	4	25	6,250	(4)
Total	892	223	250	100

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

²February 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	929,000	1,120	454,000	58,600	--	418,000
February	833,000	622	403,000	--	34,600	465,000
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	941,000	892	560,000	--	42,300	424,000
February	892,000	NA	NA	34,300	--	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	2011	2012				1st quarter– 4th quarter
			1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	
3272	Glass:						
327213	Container	1,260	322	321	312	306	1,260
327211	Flat	973	219	226	240	243	928
327993	Fiber	132	29	28	29	32	117
327212	Other	122	27	29	26	28	110
	Total	2,480	597	604	608	609	2,420
32518	Chemicals	1,510	373	375	368	366	1,480
325611	Soaps and detergents	430	104	92	96	100	392
322	Pulp and paper	85	21	20	23	18	81
221310	Water treatment ³	58	16	16	17	14	62
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	160	38	30	49	47	164
422	Distributors	282	71	72	70	68	281
	Other	138	33	49	53	50	185
	Total domestic consumption ⁴	5,150	1,250	1,260	1,280	1,270	5,060
	Exports ⁵	5,470	1,410	1,430	1,450	1,640	5,930
	Canada	249	63	56	56	66	242
	Total industry sales ⁶	10,600	2,670	2,680	2,740	2,900	11,000
	Total sales from plants	15,800	2,670	2,720	2,780	2,920	11,100
	Total production	10,700	2,730	2,650	2,840	2,920	11,100

¹Revised.

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.