

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JANUARY 2013

U.S. natural soda ash production in January was 941,000 metric tons (t), 3% lower than the previous month's production of 966,000 t.

Ending inventories for January 2013 were 295,000 t, 13% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in January 2013 was 1.57 million metric tons (Mt).

Exports and imports of soda ash in December 2012 were 521,000 t and 1,310 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for December 2012, compared with those of December 2011, were as follows: production was slightly lower; imports were about 16% lower; exports were slightly higher; and apparent consumption was 3% lower. Imports fluctuate widely and are insignificant relative to exports.

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	929	341	1,520
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 ^r	1,440
January–December	11,100	338 ^r	17,100
2013, January	941	295	1,570

^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 2012^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December			January–December ³		
												Quantity	Value ⁴ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ⁴ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	--	21,500	--	25,400	8,000	27,600	49	19,400	--	16,900	--	--	--	119,000	2	24,500
Australia	12,300	14,500	5,800	12,000	15,200	7,500	--	7,030	14,500	19,000	--	54,000	12,100	\$223	162,000	3	35,600
Belgium	13,800	11,100	12,000	--	19,500	78	10,000	11,100	10,000	--	8,070	355	39	110	96,100	2	12,800
Brazil	36,900	46,500	98,900	30,200	83,900	39,600	42,500	73,200	70,500	75,000	76,300	14,700	3,060	208	688,000	11	139,000
Canada	24,600	24,300	25,200	19,700	25,700	22,800	22,900	26,100	22,900	27,500	24,200	23,300	4,710	203	289,000	5	56,100
Chile	52,000	9,990	41,300	8,850	29,600	40,100	22,200	34,400	51,900	22,200	26,300	23,100	5,120	221	362,000	6	77,700
Colombia	6,710	11,000	10,200	29,400	--	6,130	24,300	40,500	--	15,700	19,200	5,000	973	195	168,000	3	51,500
France	15,200	--	--	16,000	--	--	--	5,090	--	--	--	195	21	108	36,500	1	5,400
India	--	--	22,000	--	22,000	--	--	--	--	--	20,000	--	--	--	64,000	1	10,700
Indonesia	17,000	74,500	16,500	74,500	32,500	76,000	33,000	66,000	103,000	64,900	48,500	32,000	6,300	197	639,000	10	134,000
Japan	31,600	13,400	19,100	24,900	234	44,300	496	29,800	13,600	432	47,600	22,000	5,290	240	248,000	4	48,900
Korea, Republic of	15,000	29,700	24,500	11,800	--	40,800	12,500	17,000	5,000	15,400	21,300	12,200	2,690	220	205,000	3	46,200
Mexico	81,700	86,800	101,000	78,700	89,700	98,000	76,800	93,500	72,900	82,900	140,000	77,200	18,300	237	1,080,000	18	238,000
Netherlands	22,700	14,300	26,500	23,000	16,100	39,000	56,000	25	12,600	21,000	9,970	30,900	4,620	150	272,000	4	44,000
Peru	3,840	17,100	7,500	5,000	13,700	5,610	--	8,220	83	14,500	145	16,000	3,440	216	91,700	2	20,400
Philippines	--	8,500	--	11,500	--	8,500	8,500	--	36	11,000	5,000	--	--	--	53,000	1	11,800
Saudi Arabia	--	15,000	18,000	--	--	14,600	14,300	333	18,700	333	333	19,300	4,040	209	101,000	2	21,000
South Africa	15,000	--	14,000	37,400	4,970	12,000	11,100	--	28,600	11,400	--	18,900	2,960	157	153,000	3	22,900
Spain	10,200	--	16,000	7,950	5,000	--	65	--	520	--	5,040	--	--	--	44,800	1	7,240
Taiwan	15,700	68	28,800	26,100	--	20,500	19,500	17,600	13,300	16,200	21,500	5,300	979	185	184,000	3	38,800
Thailand	21,000	--	404	22,500	20,500	13,000	--	23,000	22,500	24,000	21,000	18,000	3,730	207	186,000	3	41,900
Tunisia	25,100	--	12,200	--	25,800	20,000	--	22,000	29,900	6,000	6,000	26,400	3,830	145	173,000	3	30,000
United Arab Emirates	--	10,800	7,000	--	--	11,000	12,000	--	12,000	--	--	11,000	2,240	203	63,800	1	13,100
Venezuela	4,810	--	37,600	--	17,200	25,900	--	11,300	11,100	30,200	33,400	--	--	--	172,000	3	43,300
Other	28,800	15,000	36,400	33,100	17,800	14,900	36,800	26,400	36,700	63,900	37,400	111,000	16,500	149	458,000	7	61,400
Total	454,000	403,000	602,000	473,000	465,000	568,000	431,000	513,000	570,000	522,000	588,000	521,000	101,000	194	6,110,000	100	1,240,000

-- Zero.

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

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

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2012^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December			January–December		
												Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada ⁴	(5)	1	425	874	866	--	--	--	3	--	--	(5)	5	\$5	2,170	17	265
China	--	--	229	8	444	18	--	--	20	--	--	3	7	2,330	722	6	279
Dominican Republic ⁴	--	225	252	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	477	4	74
France	208	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	211	2	49
Germany	1	210	3	(5)	(5)	(5)	3	--	144	--	215	--	--	--	576	5	177
Hong Kong	--	--	--	(5)	2	--	--	102	--	--	(5)	4	13	7	109	1	39
Italy	701	54	760	36	61	54	36	325	870	368	36	796	117	147	4,100	32	836
Japan	--	--	--	346	1	3	--	--	--	101	101	--	--	--	551	4	96
Mexico	19	19	--	51	173	78	256	275	153	96	245	288	91	316	1,650	13	513
Poland	22	22	--	--	22	--	22	--	22	--	22	--	--	--	133	1	53
Turkey	--	--	--	--	--	300	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	300	2	111
United Kingdom	108	90	57	145	160	55	128	165	193	93	88	215	77	358	1,500	12	753
Other	60 ⁵	--	4	--	3	--	--	62	52	4	21	4	7	1,750	208	2	113
Total	1,120	622	1,730	1,460	1,730	508	445	929	1,460	661	727	1,310	316	241	12,700	100	3,360

¹Revised. -- Zero.

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

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

³Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

⁴Not a soda-ash-producing country, material transshipped or possible erroneous data, according to the Journal of Commerce PIERS trade data.

⁵Less 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	
2011:						
January–December	10,700,000	26,900	5,470,000	61,800	--	5,220,000
December	975,000	1,560	517,000	26,100	--	434,000
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 ^r	--	422,000
2013, January	941,000	NA	NA	--	42,300	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.