

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN AUGUST 2013

U.S. natural soda ash production in August was 998,000 metric tons (t), slightly lower than the previous month's production of 1.02 million metric tons (Mt).

Ending inventories for August 2013 were 417,000 t, slightly higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in August 2013 was 1.41 Mt.

Exports and imports of soda ash in July 2013 were 592,000 t and 739 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for July 2013, compared with those of July 2012, were as follows: production was 10% higher; imports were 66% higher; exports were 37% higher; and apparent consumption was 23% 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–August	7,320	350	11,500
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	1,440
May	985	333	1,460
June	962	335	1,360
July	1,020	414 ^r	1,450
August	998	417	1,410
January–August	7,650	417	11,700

^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	July			January–July		
							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	3,250	\$200	53,100	1	10,300
Australia	7,000	--	7,060	15,000	19	14,500	40,500	8,960	221	84,100	2	17,500
Belgium	11,000	106	145	7,620	10,100	6,060	29,400	6,060	206	64,400	2	10,500
Brazil	55,100	134,000	72,300	22,600	127,000	18,700	119,000	22,900	192	550,000	15	103,000
Canada	26,600	27,800	26,900	25,200	27,600	28,100	23,000	4,530	197	185,000	5	36,500
Chile	35,200	18,800	21,500	35,700	27,700	41,600	35,800	7,250	202	216,000	6	44,500
China	30,000	30,500	67,300	--	--	--	--	--	--	128,000	3	12,500
Colombia	10,900	6,000	16,000	11,000	11,500	29,500	6,000	1,150	192	91,000	2	17,500
Indonesia	82,000	62,700	73,300	38,500	36,100	68,000	10,000	1,810	181	371,000	10	67,500
Japan	--	15,800	26,000	--	31,600	--	31,800	5,380	169	105,000	3	18,000
Korea, Republic of	30,600	14,000	31,800	25,300	17,800	18,800	12,800	2,230	174	151,000	4	27,000
Malaysia	--	20,000	--	--	23,000	8,000	--	--	--	51,000	1	9,850
Mexico	70,600	67,100	72,900	99,100	92,500	82,200	84,800	20,200	238	569,000	15	131,000
Netherlands	26,500	100	16,500	16,500	24,200	93	27,200	3,910	144	111,000	3	17,300
Philippines	15,000	--	7,000	32	7,000	38	--	--	--	29,100	1	5,750
Saudi Arabia	18,500	22,500	21,300	18,300	180	17,600	22,300	3,180	143	121,000	3	20,200
South Africa	7,100	15,300	5,710	22,000	19,200	4,600	6,330	1,030	163	80,200	2	12,500
Spain	21,000	6,000	5,760	18,500	--	--	8,000	1,190	149	59,200	2	8,890
Taiwan	11,500	--	37,600	18,400	13,700	12,500	19,000	3,010	158	113,000	3	18,500
Thailand	45,000	8,500	12,500	9,520	9,000	19,000	20	5	250	104,000	3	19,200
Tunisia	14,800	14,800	--	--	26,100	21,000	17,200	2,550	148	93,900	3	13,700
United Arab Emirates	11,500	9,000	4,000	14,000	--	12,500	13,000	2,100	162	64,000	2	11,000
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	--	41,000	7,170	175	41,000	1	7,170
Venezuela	--	14,000	30,000	20,000	22,500	16,000	8,000	1,980	247	110,000	3	26,400
Vietnam	10,000	12,000	18,000	--	--	11,100	--	--	--	51,100	1	9,480
Other	500	25,800	21,200	45,700	7,650	15,500	20,200	3,080	153	137,000	4	24,800
Total	560,000	528,000	595,000	477,000	535,000	445,000	592,000	113,000	191	3,730,000	100	701,000

-- Zero.

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

²August 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	Quantity	July		January–July		
								Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada	--	--	--	--	100	--	43	20	\$465	143	3	26
China	--	30	1	7	42	57	109	53	486	245	5	85
Germany	179	(4)	1	5	574	(4)	(4)	15	33	760	15	134
Italy	474	302	773	36	--	147	18	10	556	1,750	34	306
Japan	--	--	--	2	--	--	101	15	149	103	2	22
Mexico	163	92	136	57	169	132	313	104	332	1,060	21	253
Romania	--	60	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	60	1	23
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	60	--	--	--	--	60	1	23
United Kingdom	73	107	268	93	183	75	130	44	338	927	18	409
Other	4	6	--	-- ^r	22	(4)	25	36	1,440	32	1	338
Total	892	597	1,180	200	1,150	411	739	297	402	5,170	100	1,620

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²August 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–July	6,300,000	7,620	3,390,000	30,100	--	2,890,000
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–July	6,650,000	5,170	3,730,000	76,900	--	2,850,000
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 ^r	--	352,000
August	998,000	NA	NA	3,010	--	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.