

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Thomas P. Dolley, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist (Acting)
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7710, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: tdolley@usgs.gov

Martha L. Jackson (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7944
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: mjackson@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

SODA ASH IN JUNE 2013

U.S. natural soda ash production in June was 962,000 metric tons (t), slightly lower than the previous month's production of 985,000 t.

Ending inventories for June 2013 were 335,000 t, slightly higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in June 2013 was 1.36 million metric tons.

Exports and imports of soda ash in May 2013 were 535,000 t and 1,150 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for May 2013, compared with those of May 2012, were as follows: production was 18%

higher; imports were 34% lower; exports were 15% higher; and apparent consumption was 5% lower. 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 the first quarter of 2013 are shown in table 5.

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–June	5,370	265	8,680
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
March	957	343	1,540
April	894	285	1,440
May	985	333	1,460
June	962	335	1,360
January–June	5,630	335	8,800

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	Quantity	May		January–May		
						Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value (thousand dollars)
Argentina	20,000	2,580	--	14,200	--	--	--	36,800	1	6,980
Australia	7,000	--	7,060	15,000	19	10	\$526	29,100	1	5,620
Belgium	11,000	106	145	7,620	10,100	1,210	120	29,000	1	3,490
Brazil	55,100	134,000	72,300	22,600	127,000	24,100	189	412,000	15	77,300
Canada	26,600	27,800	26,900	25,200	27,600	5,190	188	134,000	5	26,800
Chile	35,200	18,800	21,500	35,700	27,700	5,770	209	139,000	5	28,300
China	30,000	30,500	67,300	--	--	--	--	128,000	5	12,500
Colombia	10,900	6,000	16,000	11,000	11,500	2,180	190	55,400	2	10,600
Indonesia	82,000	62,700	73,300	38,500	36,100	6,650	184	293,000	11	53,300
Japan	--	15,800	26,000	--	31,600	6,370	202	73,400	3	12,600
Korea, Republic of	30,600	14,000	31,800	25,300	17,800	3,080	173	119,000	4	21,600
Malaysia	--	20,000	--	--	23,000	4,350	189	43,000	2	8,320
Mexico	70,600	67,100	72,900	99,100	92,500	21,500	232	402,000	15	91,800
Netherlands	26,500	100	16,500	16,500	24,200	4,170	172	83,900	3	13,400
Philippines	15,000	--	7,000	32	7,000	1,350	193	29,000	1	5,740
Saudi Arabia	18,500	22,500	21,300	18,300	180	66	367	80,900	3	14,200
South Africa	7,100	15,300	5,710	22,000	19,200	2,690	140	69,200	3	10,500
Spain	21,000	6,000	5,760	18,500	--	--	--	51,200	2	7,700
Taiwan	11,500	--	37,600	18,400	13,700	2,180	159	81,100	3	13,400
Thailand	45,000	8,500	12,500	9,520	9,000	1,770	197	84,500	3	15,900
Tunisia	14,800	14,800	--	--	26,100	3,790	146	55,700	2	8,130
United Arab Emirates	11,500	9,000	4,000	14,000	--	--	--	38,500	1	6,890
Venezuela	--	14,000	30,000	20,000	22,500	5,080	226	86,400	3	20,700
Vietnam	10,000	12,000	18,000	--	--	--	--	40,000	1	7,440
Other	500	25,800	21,200	45,700	7,650	1,510	198	101,000	4	18,500
Total	560,000	528,000	595,000	477,000	535,000	103,000	193	2,690,000	100	502,000

-- Zero.

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

²June 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	Quantity	May	Unit value	January–May		
						Value ³ (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada	--	--	--	--	100	26	\$260	100	2	26
China	--	30	1	7	42	24	571	80	2	60
Germany	179	(4)	1	5	574	76	132	759	19	128
Italy	474	302	773	36	--	--	--	1,590	39	258
Mexico	163	92	136	57	169	56	331	617	15	211
Romania	--	60	--	--	--	--	--	60	1	23
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	60	23	383	60	1	23
United Kingdom	73	107	268	93	183	101	552	722	18	365
Other	4	6	--	2	22	9	409	34	1	58
Total	892	597	1,180	200	1,150	315	274	4,020	100	1,150

-- Zero.

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

²June 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–May	4,420,000	6,660	2,400,000	--	39,000	2,070,000
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–May	4,670,000	4,020	2,690,000	--	4,830	1,980,000
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	--	57,800 ^r	475,000
May	985,000	1,150	535,000	47,500	--	404,000
June	926,000	NA	NA	--	25,300	NA

[†]Revised. 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	2012					2013
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter
3272	Glass:						
327213	Container	322	321	312	306	1,260	290
327211	Flat	219	226	240	243	928	226
327993	Fiber	29	28	29	32	117	36
327212	Other	27	29	26	28	110	32
	Total	597	604	608	609	2,420	585
32518	Chemicals	373	375	368	366	1,480	343
325611	Soaps and detergents	104	92	96	100	392	101
322	Pulp and paper	21	20	23	18	81	18
221310	Water treatment ³	16	16	17	14	62	15
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	38	30	49	47	164	47
422	Distributors	71	72	70	68	281	77
	Other	33	49	53	50	185	48
	Total domestic consumption ⁴	1,250	1,260	1,280	1,270	5,060	1,230
	Exports ⁵	1,410	1,430	1,450	1,640	5,930	1,580
	Canada	63	56	56	66	242	69
	Total industry sales ⁶	2,670	2,680	2,740	2,900	11,000	2,810
	Total sales from plants	2,670	2,720	2,780	2,920	11,100	2,800
	Total production	2,730	2,650	2,840	2,920	11,100	2,790

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.