

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN MAY 2013

U.S. natural soda ash production in May was 985,000 metric tons (t), 10% more than the previous month's production of 894,000 t.

Ending inventories for May 2013 were 333,000 t, 17% more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in May 2013 was 1.46 million metric tons.

Exports and imports of soda ash in April 2013 were 477,000 t and 200 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for April 2013, compared with those of April 2012, were as follows: production was 4% higher; imports were 86% lower; exports were slightly higher; and apparent consumption was 16% 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–May	4,420	243	7,210
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
March	957	343	1,540
April	894	285	1,440
May	985	333	1,460
January–May	4,670	333	7,450

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	Quantity	April		January–April		
					Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value (thousand dollars)
Argentina	20,000	2,580	--	14,200	2,580	\$181	36,800	2	6,980
Australia	7,000	--	7,060	15,000	2,930	195	29,100	1	5,600
Belgium	11,000	106	145	7,620	933	122	18,900	1	2,280
Brazil	55,100	134,000	72,300	22,600	4,180	185	284,000	13	53,100
Canada	26,600	27,800	26,900	25,200	4,890	194	106,000	5	21,600
Chile	35,200	18,800	21,500	35,700	7,540	211	111,000	5	22,600
China	30,000	30,500	67,300	--	--	--	128,000	6	12,500
Colombia	10,900	6,000	16,000	11,000	2,050	186	43,900	2	8,420
Indonesia	82,000	62,700	73,300	38,500	7,050	183	257,000	12	46,700
Japan	--	15,800	26,000	--	--	--	41,800	2	6,220
Korea, Republic of	30,600	14,000	31,800	25,300	4,500	178	102,000	5	18,500
Malaysia	--	20,000	--	--	--	--	20,000	1	3,980
Mexico	70,600	67,100	72,900	99,100	21,500	217	310,000	14	70,300
Netherlands	26,500	100	16,500	16,500	2,400	145	59,600	3	9,260
Philippines	15,000	--	7,000	32	3	94	22,000	1	4,390
Saudi Arabia	18,500	22,500	21,300	18,300	3,360	183	80,700	4	14,100
South Africa	7,100	15,300	5,710	22,000	3,840	175	50,100	2	7,840
Spain	21,000	6,000	5,760	18,500	2,280	124	51,200	2	7,700
Taiwan	11,500	--	37,600	18,400	2,950	161	67,400	3	11,300
Thailand	45,000	8,500	12,500	9,520	1,750	184	75,500	3	14,100
Tunisia	14,800	14,800	--	--	--	--	29,600	1	4,340
United Arab Emirates	11,500	9,000	4,000	14,000	2,550	182	38,500	2	6,890
Venezuela	--	14,000	30,000	20,000	4,790	240	63,900	3	15,600
Vietnam	10,000	12,000	18,000	--	--	--	40,000	2	7,440
Other	500	25,800	21,200	45,700	8,880	194	93,300	4	16,900
Total	560,000	528,000	595,000	477,000	91,000	191	2,160,000	100	399,000

-- Zero.

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

²May 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	Quantity	April		January–April		
					Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
China	--	30	1	7	5	\$714	38	1	36
Germany	179	(4)	1	5	18	3,600	186	6	52
Italy	474	302	773	36	16	444	1,590	55	257
Mexico	163	92	136	57	19	333	448	16	154
Romania	--	60	--	--	--	--	60	2	23
United Kingdom	73	107	268	93	54	581	539	19	264
Other	4	6	--	2	7	--	12	(4)	52
Total	892	597	1,180	200	119	595	2,870	100	838

-- Zero.

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

²May 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–April	3,590,000	4,930	1,930,000	16,000	--	1,640,000
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–April	3,690,000	2,870	2,160,000	--	52,400	1,580,000
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	--	57,900	475,000
May	985,000	NA	NA	47,500	--	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.