

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN MAY 2014

U.S. natural soda ash production in May was 890,000 metric tons (t), 4% lower than the previous month's production of 926,000 t.

Ending inventories for May 2014 were 324,000 t, slightly lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in May 2014 was 1.56 million metric tons, about 4% lower than in April 2014.

Exports and imports of soda ash in March 2014 were 570,000 t and 3,830 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for April 2014, compared with those of April 2013, were as follows: production was 4%

higher; imports were 18 times higher; exports were 7% lower; and apparent consumption was 2% 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.

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TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2013:			
January–May	4,690 ^r	333	7,470 ^r
May	985	333	1,460
June	962	335	1,360
July	1,020	414	1,450
August	998	417	1,410
September	857	346	1,400
October	1,000	347	1,430
November	957	355	1,380
December	968	350	1,490
January–December	11,500	350	17,400
2014:			
January	954	310	1,390
February	904	336	1,380
March	1,060	375	1,510
April	926	327	1,500
May	890	324	1,560
January–May	4,730	324	7,330

^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 2014^{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	--	16,000	14	--	--	--	16,000	1	\$3,130
Australia	9,000	59,900	7,000	36,700	\$6,090	\$166	113,000	5	21,700
Belgium	6,050	20,100	4,760	26,000	3,370	129	56,900	3	9,590
Brazil	114,000	51,700	103,000	70,000	13,200	188	339,000	15	64,200
Canada	23,200	19,500	25,200	24,300	5,050	208	92,200	4	18,800
Chile	--	25,800	13,100	42,000	8,560	204	80,800	4	16,400
China	15,700	32,000	41	62	14	226	47,800	2	7,400
Colombia	27,000	5,300	15,500	17,600	3,530	200	65,400	3	12,700
India	22,000	40	--	--	--	--	22,000	1	3,320
Indonesia	92,900	62,100	56,500	57,500	11,700	203	269,000	12	54,100
Japan	11,000	31,400	33,000	4,000	694	174	79,400	4	13,000
Korea, Republic of	8,000	13,500	38,900	13,300	2,330	175	73,700	3	13,200
Malaysia	--	15,100	--	--	--	--	15,100	1	2,890
Mexico	97,900	74,000	87,000	87,800	20,300	231	347,000	15	76,800
Netherlands	185	9,030	23,500	24,000	3,490	146	56,700	3	8,530
New Zealand	--	12,500	--	--	--	--	12,500	1	2,170
Philippines	6,500	--	6,500	--	--	--	13,000	1	2,460
Peru	17,000	8,390	7,000	86	9	105	32,500	1	5,910
Saudi Arabia	18,000	18,000	20,000	--	--	--	56,000	2	9,280
South Africa	12,500	4,700	8,570	5,030	890	177	30,800	1	5,140
Spain	--	--	12,000	--	--	--	12,000	1	2,050
Taiwan	11,800	26,400	21,500	14,100	2,470	175	73,800	3	12,900
Thailand	48,500	19,500	--	18,000	3,550	197	86,000	4	16,100
Tunisia	--	18,000	40,000	--	--	--	58,000	3	8,550
United Arab Emirates	12,200	8,000	11,500	--	--	--	31,700	1	5,210
Venezuela	9,700	7,000	18,500	15,900	3,470	218	51,100	2	11,300
Vietnam	12,000	--	8,000	--	--	--	20,000	1	3,720
Other	12,700 ^r	22,700 ^r	8,460	56,400	10,200	181	100,000	4	18,500
Total	588,000	581,000	570,000	513,000	98,900	193	2,250,000	100	429,000

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²May 2014 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 2014^{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)
Canada	950	874	1,680	266	\$26	\$98	3,770	28	\$374
China	--	28	103	378	76	201	509	4	113
Germany	644	1,540	1,860	2,330	332	143	6,370	48	930
Italy	207	777	62	188	37	197	1,230	9	237
Japan	--	3	2	135	17	126	140	1	29
Mexico	19	95	--	19	6	316	133	1	45
Poland	--	--	44	96	28	292	140	1	42
United Kingdom	248	168	72	377	86	228	865	7	279
Other	53 ^r	-- ^r	16 ^r	5	11	2,200	74	1	55
Total	2,120	3,480	3,830	3,790	619	163	13,200	100	2,100

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²April 2014 data were not available at time of publication.

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

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	
2013:						
January–April	3,710,000 ^r	2,870	2,160,000	--	51,800 ^r	1,600,000
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	--	352,000
August	998,000	1,460	579,000	3,010	--	417,000
September	857,000	413	502,000	--	71,300	426,000
October	1,000,000	2,390	619,000	1,230	--	383,000
November	957,000	1,550	442,000	7,130	--	509,000
December	968,000	2,430	592,000	--	4,170	383,000
January–December	11,500,000	13,400	6,470,000	12,800	--	4,990,000
2014:						
January–April	3,840,000	13,200	2,250,000	--	34,200	1,640,000
January	954,000	2,120	588,000	--	40,800	409,000
February	904,000	3,480	581,000	15,800	--	311,000
March	1,060,000	3,830	570,000	39,000	--	450,000
April	926,000	3,790	513,000	--	48,200	465,000
May	890,000	NA	NA	--	3,240	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.