

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN OCTOBER 2014

U.S. natural soda ash production in October was 985,000 metric tons (t), about 7% more than the previous month's production.

Ending inventories for October 2014 were 328,000 t, 7% less than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in October 2014 was 1.48 million metric tons, 4% more than that of September 2014.

Exports and imports of soda ash in September 2014 were 492,000 t and 2,650 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for September 2014, compared with those of September 2013, were as follows: production was 7% higher; exports were 2% lower; imports were five times greater; and apparent consumption was essentially unchanged. Soda ash import tonnages can vary widely from month to month, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages. For 2014, the U.S. Census Bureau monthly data has consistently shown a significant

increase of soda ash imports from Germany and this accounts for the large increase in total imports compared with 2013.

End use data for the third quarter of 2014 is published in table 5. Comparing the third quarter of 2014 to the third quarter of 2013, total soda ash consumed was slightly higher. By use, soda ash consumed for glass decreased slightly but increased by 11% for chemical uses. For the year through September, 2014, comparing the same period in 2013, total soda ash consumption increased slightly, consumption for glass decreased slightly, and consumption for chemicals increased about 8%.

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: ^p			
January–October	9,530 ^r	347	14,500
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
June	975	292	1,480
July	1,000	331	1,460
August	1,030	315	1,430
September	917	352	1,420
October	985	328	1,480
January–October	9,640	328	14,600

^pPreliminary. ^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	April	May	June	July	August	Quantity	September	Unit value	January–September		
										Value ³ (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	16,000	14	--	17,600	15,000	--	11,000	--	--	--	59,700	1	\$11,800
Australia	9,000	59,900	7,000	36,700	--	62,600	31,500	--	--	--	--	207,000	4	41,000
Belgium	6,050	20,100	4,760	26,000	--	14,500	8,130	11,000	21,800	\$5,140	\$236	112,000	2	18,600
Brazil	114,000	51,700	103,000	70,000	74,300	87,700	63,800	48,100	86,300	16,000	185	699,000	14	132,000
Canada	23,200	19,500	25,200	24,300	21,800	19,700	23,600	19,300	19,300	4,310	224	196,000	4	41,700
Chile	--	25,800	13,100	42,000	30,300	14,800	42,900	34,200	35,600	7,310	205	239,000	5	49,900
China	15,700	32,000	41	62	69	103	66	12	--	--	--	48,100	1	7,470
Colombia	27,000	5,300	15,500	17,600	9,060	12,000	--	34,300 ^r	7,000	1,420	203	128,000	3	24,900
India	22,000	40	--	--	--	40	22,000	21,800	--	--	--	65,900	1	10,500
Indonesia	92,900	62,100	56,500	57,500	39,300	30,300	62,100	47,900	45,000	9,450	210	494,000	10	101,000
Japan	11,000	31,400	33,000	4,000	31,600	16,700	17,500	27,000	--	--	--	172,000	3	28,600
Korea, Republic of	8,000	13,500	38,900	13,300	19,000	14,200	26,600	20,300	15,400	3,040	197	169,000	3	31,000
Malaysia	--	15,100	--	--	7,000	--	17,000	9,000	15,000	3,080	205	63,100	1	12,700
Mexico	97,900	74,000	87,000	87,800	84,400	91,300	91,500	91,600	76,000	17,900	236	781,000	16	178,000
Netherlands	185	9,030	23,500	24,000	127	10,200	12,000	10,100	9,030	1,340	148	98,200	2	15,000
Philippines	6,500	--	6,500	--	7,500	7,000	6,500	--	6,000	1,140	189	40,000	1	7,590
Peru	17,000	8,390	7,000	86	20,400	5,090	13,800	86	5,070	1,170	230	76,900	2	15,000
Saudi Arabia	18,000	18,000	20,000	--	14,000	15,300	16,000	--	15,000	2,540	169	116,000	2	19,500
South Africa	12,500	4,700	8,570	5,030	--	25,000	--	--	14,800	2,690	182	70,600	1	12,300
Taiwan	11,800	26,400	21,500	14,100	12,600	--	36,000	16,000	16,500	2,860	173	155,000	3	27,400
Thailand	48,500	19,500	--	18,000	15,800	31,500	12,500	16,500	9,100	1,800	198	171,000	3	32,600
Tunisia	--	18,000	40,000	--	19,600	--	23,900	20,000	25,000	3,770	151	147,000	3	20,700
United Arab Emirates	12,200	8,000	11,500	--	11,000	14,500	15,000	--	13,000	2,200	169	85,200	2	14,300
Venezuela	9,700	7,000	18,500	15,900	692	21,100	7,970	42,500	--	--	--	123,000	2	27,700
Vietnam	12,000	--	8,000	--	18,000	8,000	41,000	--	--	--	--	87,000	2	15,400
Other	12,700	35,200	20,500	56,400	36,600	49,300	36,600	30,600 ^r	57,200	10,400	182	335,000	7	60,800
Total	588,000	581,000	570,000	513,000	491,000	566,000	628,000	511,000	492,000	97,500	198	4,940,000	100	957,000

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²October 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	April	May	June	July	August	Quantity	September		January–September		
										Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada	950	874	1,680	266	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3,770	13	\$374
China	--	28	103	378	20	29	6	1	31	\$28	\$903	596	2	204
Germany	644	1,540	1,860	2,330	1,780	1,230	1,860	3,260	1,610	211	131	16,100	54	2,310
Italy	207	777	62	188	737	1,190	703	795	361	108	299	5,030	17	1,000
Japan	--	3	2	135	1	5	(4)	3	2	6	10	152	1	63
Mexico	19	95	--	19	94	251	813	450	305	97	318	2,050	7	656
Poland	--	--	44	96	48	44	--	--	--	--	--	233	1	70
United Kingdom	248	168	72	377	93	95	72	233	339	61	180	1,700	6	572
Other	53	--	16	5	139	9	3	10	3	4	1,330	238	1	108
Total	2,120	3,480	3,830	3,790	2,910	2,860	3,460	4,750	2,650	515	194	29,900	100	5,360

-- Zero.

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

²October 2014 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	
2013: ^P						
January–September	8,530,000 ^r	7,040	4,810,000	8,880 ^r	--	3,720,000
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–September	7,700,000	29,900	4,940,000	--	9,790	2,800,000
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	2,910	491,000	--	3,240	405,000
June	975,000	2,860	566,000	--	31,500	443,000
July	1,000,000	3,460	628,000	38,900	--	337,000
August	1,030,000	4,750	511,000	18,200	--	508,000
September	917,000	2,650	492,000	2,180	--	426,000
October	985,000	NA	NA	9,640	--	NA

^PPreliminary. ^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.

TABLE 5
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTER¹

(Thousand metric tons)

NAICS ² code	End use	2013			2014			
		3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
3272	Glass:							
327213	Container	319	303	1,230	292	299	287	878
327211	Flat	241	242	952	228	238	254	721
327993	Fiber	35	42	147	39	38	38	115
327212	Other	25	25	111	35	32	30	96
	Total	620	613	2,440	594	607	609	1,810
32518	Chemicals	361	384	1,450	374	380	401	1,160
325611	Soaps and detergents	98	94	384	91	83	90	264
322	Pulp and paper	19	19	75	17	16	16	49
221310	Water treatment ³	16	14	61	13 ^r	14 ^r	15	42
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	66	57	217	57	54	65	176
422	Distributors	71	68	285	75	70	71	216
	Other	55	53	202	54	50	59	162
	Total domestic consumption ⁴	1,310	1,300	5,120	1,270 ^r	1,270 ^r	1,330	3,870
	Exports ⁵	1,380	1,630	6,190	1,630 ^r	1,520 ^r	1,550	4,710
	Canada	59	58	246	63 ^r	56 ^r	54	173
	Total industry sales ⁶	2,690	2,930	11,300	2,900 ^r	2,800 ^r	2,880	8,580
	Total sales from plants	2,850	2,930	11,500	2,910	2,990	2,930	8,820
	Total production	2,880	2,930	11,500	2,910	2,790	2,950	8,660

^rRevised.

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.