

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN SEPTEMBER 2014

U.S. natural soda ash production in September was 917,000 metric tons (t), about 11% less than the previous month's production.

Ending inventories for September 2014 were 352,000 t, 12% more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in September 2014 was 1.42 million metric tons, slightly less than that of August 2014.

Exports and imports of soda ash in August 2014 were 511,000 t and 4,750 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for August 2014, compared with those of August 2013, were as follows: production was 4% higher; exports were 12% lower; imports were more than

double; and apparent consumption was 22% higher. Soda ash import tonnages can vary widely from month to month, but generally are much smaller 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: ^p			
January–September	8,530 ^r	346	13,100
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
June	975	292	1,480
July	1,000	331	1,460
August	1,030	315	1,430
September	917	352	1,420
January–September	8,660	352	13,100

^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	Quantity	August	Unit value	January–August		
									Value ³ (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	16,000	14	--	17,600	15,000	--	11,000	\$2,130	\$193	59,700	1	\$11,800
Australia	9,000	59,900	7,000	36,700	--	62,600	31,500	--	--	--	207,000	5	41,000
Belgium	6,050	20,100	4,760	26,000	--	14,500	8,130	11,000	1,320	120	90,600	2	13,500
Brazil	114,000	51,700	103,000	70,000	74,300	87,700	63,800	48,100	9,980	208	613,000	14	116,000
Canada	23,200	19,500	25,200	24,300	21,800	19,700	23,600	19,300	4,170	216	177,000	4	37,400
Chile	--	25,800	13,100	42,000	30,300	14,800	42,900	34,200	6,990	204	203,000	5	42,600
China	15,700	32,000	41	62	69	103	66	12	7	583	48,100	1	7,470
Colombia	27,000	5,300	15,500	17,600	9,060	12,000	--	--	--	--	86,400	2	16,900
India	22,000	40	--	--	--	40	22,000	21,800	3,820	175	65,900	1	10,500
Indonesia	92,900	62,100	56,500	57,500	39,300	30,300	62,100	47,900	10,100	211	449,000	10	91,200
Japan	11,000	31,400	33,000	4,000	31,600	16,700	17,500	27,000	4,530	168	172,000	4	28,600
Korea, Republic of	8,000	13,500	38,900	13,300	19,000	14,200	26,600	20,300	3,920	193	154,000	3	28,000
Malaysia	--	15,100	--	--	7,000	--	17,000	9,000	1,860	207	48,100	1	9,600
Mexico	97,900	74,000	87,000	87,800	84,400	91,300	91,500	91,600	21,400	234	705,000	16	160,000
Netherlands	185	9,030	23,500	24,000	127	10,200	12,000	10,100	1,680	167	89,200	2	13,700
Philippines	6,500	--	6,500	--	7,500	7,000	6,500	--	--	--	34,000	1	6,460
Peru	17,000	8,390	7,000	86	20,400	5,090	13,800	86	9	105	71,800	2	13,900
Saudi Arabia	18,000	18,000	20,000	--	14,000	15,300	16,000	--	--	--	101,000	2	16,900
South Africa	12,500	4,700	8,570	5,030	--	25,000	--	--	--	--	55,800	1	9,570
Taiwan	11,800	26,400	21,500	14,100	12,600	--	36,000	16,000	2,750	172	138,000	3	24,500
Thailand	48,500	19,500	--	18,000	15,800	31,500	12,500 [†]	16,500	3,400	206	162,000	4	30,800
Tunisia	--	18,000	40,000	--	19,600	--	23,900	20,000	2,910	145	122,000	3	16,900
United Arab Emirates	12,200	8,000	11,500	--	11,000	14,500	15,000	--	--	--	72,200	2	12,100
Venezuela	9,700	7,000	18,500	15,900	692	21,100	7,970	42,500	9,620	226	123,000	3	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 [†]	64,900	12,400	191	312,000	7	57,000
Total	588,000	581,000	570,000	513,000	491,000	566,000	628,000	511,000	103,000	201	4,450,000	100	860,000

[†]Revised. -- Zero.

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

²September 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	Quantity	August		January–August		
									Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada	950	874	1,680	266	--	--	--	--	--	--	3,770	14	\$374
China	--	28	103	378	20	29	6	1	\$3	\$3,000	566	2	176
Germany	644	1,540	1,860	2,330	1,780	1,230	1,860	3,260	460	141	14,500	53	2,100
Italy	207	777	62	188	737	1,190	703	795	171	215	4,660	17	895
Japan	--	3	2	135	1	5	(4)	3	7	10	150	1	57
Mexico	19	95	--	19	94	251	813	450	146	324	1,740	6	558
Poland	--	--	44	96	48	44	--	--	--	--	233	1	70
United Kingdom	248	168	72	377	93	95	72	233	85	365	1,360	5	511
Other	53	--	16	5	139	9	3	10	11	1,100	235	1	105
Total	2,120	3,480	3,830	3,790	2,910	2,860	3,460	4,750	883	186	27,200	100	4,850

-- Zero.

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

²September 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–August	7,670,000 ^r	6,630	4,310,000	80,200 ^r	--	3,290,000
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–August	7,740,000	27,200	4,450,000	--	12,000	3,330,000
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	NA	NA	2,180	--	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.