

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN AUGUST 2014

U.S. natural soda ash production in August was 1.0 million metric tons (Mt), unchanged from the previous month's production.

Ending inventories for August 2014 were 315,000 metric tons (t), 5% less than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in August 2014 was 1.43 Mt, slightly less than that of July 2014.

Exports and imports of soda ash in July 2014 were 628,000 t and 3,460 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for July 2014, compared with those of July 2013, were as follows: production was slightly higher; exports were 6% higher; imports were 4 times higher; and apparent consumption was 4% lower. Soda ash import tonnages can vary widely from month to month, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages.

The soda ash end use data for the first half of 2014 are shown in table 5. Notable consumption changes in soda ash end-use

markets January through June 2014 compared to the same period of 2013 were: chemicals increased by 7%, flue gas desulfurization was up by 18%, pulp and paper decreased by 11%, and soaps and detergents declined by 9%. The total amount of soda ash consumed in glass was unchanged but the amount used for fiberglass and "other" glass increased by 10% and 12%, respectively. Soda ash used for container and flat glass declined slightly. All percentages in this report were computed using unrounded data.

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TABLE 1  
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Stocks, end of period	
2013: <sup>p</sup>			
January–August	7,670 <sup>r</sup>	417	11,700
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
June	975	292	1,480
July	1,000	331	1,460
August	1,030	315	1,430
January–August	7,740	315	11,700

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Production 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<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July			January–July		
							Quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	16,000	14	--	17,600	15,000	--	--	--	48,700	1	\$9,640
Australia	9,000	59,900	7,000	36,700	--	62,600	31,500	\$7,160	\$227	207,000	5	41,000
Belgium	6,050	20,100	4,760	26,000	--	14,500	8,130	805	99	79,600	2	12,100
Brazil	114,000	51,700	103,000	70,000	74,300	87,700	63,800	11,900	186	565,000	14	106,000
Canada	23,200	19,500	25,200	24,300	21,800	19,700	23,600	5,040	213	157,000	4	33,200
Chile	--	25,800	13,100	42,000	30,300	14,800	42,900	9,870	230	169,000	4	35,600
China	15,700	32,000	41	62	69	103	66	17	258	48,100	1	7,460
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	3,300	150	44,100	1	6,640
Indonesia	92,900	62,100	56,500	57,500	39,300	30,300	62,100	12,800	206	401,000	10	81,100
Japan	11,000	31,400	33,000	4,000	31,600	16,700	17,500	2,850	163	145,000	4	24,000
Korea, Republic of	8,000	13,500	38,900	13,300	19,000	14,200	26,600	4,830	181	134,000	3	24,100
Malaysia	--	15,100	--	--	7,000	--	17,000	3,420	201	39,100	1	7,740
Mexico	97,900	74,000	87,000	87,800	84,400	91,300	91,500	21,300	233	614,000	16	139,000
Netherlands	185	9,030	23,500	24,000	127	10,200	12,000	1,750	146	79,100	2	12,000
Philippines	6,500	--	6,500	--	7,500	7,000	6,500	1,240	191	34,000	1	6,460
Peru	17,000	8,390	7,000	86	20,400	5,090	13,800	3,040	220	71,700	2	13,800
Saudi Arabia	18,000	18,000	20,000	--	14,000	15,300	16,000	2,710	169	101,000	3	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	6,650	185	122,000	3	21,800
Thailand	48,500	19,500	--	18,000	15,800	31,500	31,500	5,980	190	165,000	4	24,800
Tunisia	--	18,000	40,000	--	19,600	--	23,900	2,600	108	102,000	3	14,000
United Arab Emirates	12,200	8,000	11,500	--	11,000	14,500	15,000	2,540	170	72,200	2	12,100
Venezuela	9,700	7,000	18,500	15,900	692	21,100	7,970	1,790	225	80,800	2	18,100
Vietnam	12,000	--	8,000	--	18,000	8,000	41,000	7,250	177	87,000	2	15,400
Other	12,700	35,200	20,500	56,400	36,600	49,300	17,500	4,200	240	228,000	6	47,200
Total	588,000	581,000	570,000	513,000	491,000	566,000	628,000	123,000	196	3,940,000	100	757,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>August 2014 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2014<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	Quantity	July		Quantity	January–July	
								Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value		Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
Canada	950	874	1,680	266	--	--	--	--	--	3,770	17	\$374
China	--	28	103	378	20	29	6	\$7	\$1,170	565	3	173
Germany	644	1,540	1,860	2,330	1,780	1,230	1,860	287	154	11,200	50	1,640
Italy	207	777	62	188	737	1,190	703	130	185	3,870	17	724
Japan	--	3	2	135	1	5	(4)	3	10	147	1	50
Mexico	19	95	--	19	94	251	813	256	315	1,290	6	412
Poland	--	--	44	96	48	44	--	--	--	233	1	70
United Kingdom	248	168	72	377	93	95	72	40	556	1,120	5	426
Other	53	--	16	5	139	9	3	2	667	225	1	94
Total	2,120	3,480	3,830	3,790	2,910	2,860	3,460	725	210	22,500	100	3,970

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>August 2014 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption <sup>2</sup>
				Increase	Decrease	
2013: <sup>P</sup>						
January–July	6,680,000 <sup>r</sup>	5,170	3,730,000	77,200 <sup>r</sup>	--	2,870,000
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–July	6,700,000	22,500	3,940,000	--	30,100	2,820,000
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	NA	NA	18,200	--	NA

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.

TABLE 5  
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTER<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

NAICS <sup>2</sup> code	End use	2013				2014		
		2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	Total	1st quarter	2d quarter	Total
3272	Glass:							
327213	Container	319	319	303	1,230	292	299	591
327211	Flat	243	241	242	952	228	238	466
327993	Fiber	34	35	42	147	39	38	77
327212	Other	28	25	25	111	35	32	67
	Total	624	620	613	2,440	594	607	1,200
32518	Chemicals	361	361	384	1,450	374	380	754
325611	Soaps and detergents	91	98	94	384	91	83	174
322	Pulp and paper	19	19	19	75	17	16	33
221310	Water treatment <sup>3</sup>	16	16	14	61	15	15	30
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	47	66	57	217	57	54	111
422	Distributors	70	71	68	285	75	70	145
	Other	46	55	53	202	54	50	104
	Total domestic consumption <sup>4</sup>	1,280	1,310	1,300	5,120	1,280	1,280	2,550
	Exports <sup>5</sup>	1,600	1,380	1,630	6,190	1,470	1,420	2,890
	Canada	61	59	58	246	61	55	116
	Total industry sales <sup>6</sup>	2,880	2,690	2,930	11,300	2,750	2,690	5,440
	Total sales from plants	2,870	2,850	2,930	11,500	2,910	2,990	5,900
	Total production	2,840	2,880	2,930	11,500	2,910	2,790	5,700

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

<sup>2</sup>North American Industry Classification System.

<sup>3</sup>Includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors and purge liquors sold to powerplants for water treatment. Sales of mine water are excluded.

<sup>4</sup>Imports reported by the producer/importer have been distributed into appropriate end-use categories listed above.

<sup>5</sup>As reported by producers; includes Canada. Data may not necessarily agree with those reported by the U.S. Census Bureau for the same periods.

<sup>6</sup>Represents 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.