

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN JUNE 2014

U.S. natural soda ash production in June was 975,000 metric tons (t), almost 10% more than the previous month's production of 890,000 t.

Ending inventories for June 2014 were 292,000 t, 10% lower than the preceding month's inventories. This is the lowest level of monthly inventories since April 2013 when inventories were 286,000 t. Wyoming trona production in June 2014 was 1.48 million metric tons, about 5% lower than in May 2014.

Exports and imports of soda ash in May 2014 were 491,000 t and 2,910 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for May 2014, compared with those of May 2013, were as follows: production was 10% lower; exports were 8% lower; imports were 1.5 times higher;

and apparent consumption was slightly higher. Soda ash import tonnages can vary widely from month to month, but generally are of much smaller volume than soda ash export tonnages. Imports during the first five months of 2014 are about 4 times higher than in the same period of 2013.

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–June	5,650 <sup>r</sup>	335	8,830 <sup>r</sup>
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
June	975	292	1,480
January–June	5,700	292	8,820

<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	Quantity	May		January–May		
						Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	16,000	14	--	17,600	\$3,460	\$196	33,700	1	\$6,590
Australia	9,000	59,900	7,000	36,700	--	--	--	113,000	4	21,700
Belgium	6,050	20,100	4,760	26,000	--	--	--	56,900	2	9,590
Brazil	114,000	51,700	103,000	70,000	74,300	13,900	187	413,000	15	78,100
Canada	23,200	19,500	25,200	24,300	21,800	5,040	231	114,000	4	23,800
Chile	--	25,800	13,100	42,000	30,300	6,210	205	111,000	4	22,600
China	15,700	32,000	41	62	69	19	275	47,900	2	7,420
Colombia	27,000	5,300	15,500	17,600	9,060	1,880	207	74,400	3	14,600
India	22,000	40	--	--	--	--	--	22,000	1	3,320
Indonesia	92,900	62,100	56,500	57,500	39,300	8,050	205	308,000	11	62,100
Japan	11,000	31,400	33,000	4,000	31,600	5,490	174	111,000	4	18,500
Korea, Republic of	8,000	13,500	38,900	13,300	19,000	3,370	177	92,700	3	16,600
Malaysia	--	15,100	--	--	7,000	1,430	205	22,100	1	4,320
Mexico	97,900	74,000	87,000	87,800	84,400	19,100	226	431,000	16	95,900
Netherlands	185	9,030	23,500	24,000	127	14	110	56,900	2	8,550
Philippines	6,500	--	6,500	--	7,500	1,410	--	20,500	1	3,870
Peru	17,000	8,390	7,000	86	20,400	3,820	187	52,900	2	9,730
Saudi Arabia	18,000	18,000	20,000	--	14,000	2,370	170	70,000	3	11,600
South Africa	12,500	4,700	8,570	5,030	--	--	--	30,800	1	5,140
Taiwan	11,800	26,400	21,500	14,100	12,600	2,240	178	86,400	3	15,100
Thailand	48,500	19,500	--	18,000	15,800	2,740	174	102,000	4	18,800
Tunisia	--	18,000	40,000	--	19,600	2,860	146	77,600	3	11,400
United Arab Emirates	12,200	8,000	11,500	--	11,000	1,870	170	42,700	2	7,080
Venezuela	9,700	7,000	18,500	15,900	692	76	110	51,800	2	11,400
Vietnam	12,000	--	8,000	--	18,000	2,800	155	38,000	1	6,510
Other	12,700	35,200 <sup>r</sup>	20,500 <sup>r</sup>	56,400	36,600	5,930	162	161,000	6	28,700
Total	588,000	581,000	570,000	513,000	491,000	94,000	192	2,740,000	100	523,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>June 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	Quantity	May		Quantity	January–May	
						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	23	\$374
China	--	28	103	378	20	\$28	\$1,400	529	3	140
Germany	644	1,540	1,860	2,330	1,780	249	140	8,150	50	1,180
Italy	207	777	62	188	737	142	193	1,970	12	379
Japan	--	3	2	135	1	4	4,000	142	1	33
Mexico	19	95	--	19	94	32	340	227	1	76
Poland	--	--	44	96	48	14	292	188	1	56
United Kingdom	248	168	72	377	93	50	538	958	6	329
Other	53	--	16	5	139	24	173	213	1	81
Total	2,120	3,480	3,830	3,790	2,910	543	187	16,100	100	2,650

-- Zero.

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

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

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

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–May	4,690,000 <sup>r</sup>	4,020	2,690,000	--	4,630 <sup>r</sup>	2,010,000 <sup>r</sup>
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–May	4,730,000	16,100	2,740,000	--	37,500	2,040,000
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	NA	NA	--	31,500	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.