

# Mineral Industry Surveys

---

**For information, contact:**

Thomas P. Dolley, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist (Acting)  
U.S. Geological Survey  
989 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192  
Telephone: (703) 648-7710, Fax: (703) 648-7757  
E-mail: [tdolley@usgs.gov](mailto:tdolley@usgs.gov)

Martha L. Jackson (Data)  
Telephone: (703) 648-7944  
Fax: (703) 648-7975  
E-mail: [mjackson@usgs.gov](mailto:mjackson@usgs.gov)

**Internet:** <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

## SODA ASH IN MARCH 2014

U.S. natural soda ash production in March was 1.06 million metric tons (Mt), 17% higher than the previous month's production of 904,000 metric tons (t).

Ending inventories for March 2014 were 375,000 t, 12% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in March 2014 was 1.51 Mt.

Exports and imports of soda ash in February 2014 were 581,000 t and 3,480 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for February 2014, compared with those of February 2013, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were 483% higher; exports were 10% higher; and apparent consumption was 6% 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.

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:			
January–March	2,810	343	4,570
March	979	343	1,560
April	894	286	1,440
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
January–March	2,910	375	4,280

<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			January–February		
		Quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	16,000	3,120	195	16,000	1	3,120
Australia	9,000	59,900	12,500	208	68,900	6	14,200
Belgium	6,050	20,100	2,410	120	26,100	2	3,370
Brazil	114,000	51,700	9,680	187	166,000	14	31,600
Canada	23,200	19,500	4,130	211	42,700	4	8,490
Chile	--	25,800	5,130	199	25,800	2	5,130
China	15,700	32,000	4,920	154	47,700	4	7,380
Colombia	27,000	5,300	1,030	194	32,300	3	6,100
Costa Rica	3,000	5,900	1,210	204	8,900	1	1,810
Guatemala	--	7,200	1,510	210	7,200	1	1,510
India	22,000	40	22	550	22,000	2	3,320
Indonesia	92,900	62,100	12,600	203	155,000	13	31,000
Japan	11,000	31,400	5,180	165	42,400	4	7,000
Korea, Republic of	8,000	13,500	2,480	184	21,500	2	3,800
Mexico	97,900	74,000	17,000	230	172,000	15	36,300
Netherlands	185	9,030	1,310	145	9,220	1	1,350
New Zealand	--	12,500	2,170	174	12,500	1	2,170
Philippines	6,500	--	--	--	6,500	1	1,220
Peru	17,000	8,390	1,740	207	25,400	2	4,880
Saudi Arabia	18,000	18,000	2,900	161	36,000	3	5,890
South Africa	12,500	4,700	822	175	17,200	1	2,760
Taiwan	11,800	26,400	4,680	177	38,200	3	6,690
Thailand	48,500	19,500	4,240	218	68,000	6	12,500
Tunisia	--	18,000	2,740	152	18,000	2	2,740
United Arab Emirates	12,200	8,000	1,330	166	20,200	2	3,350
Venezuela	9,700	7,000	1,580	225	16,700	1	3,760
Vietnam	12,000	--	--	--	12,000	1	2,470
Other	9,660 <sup>r</sup>	24,700	4,540	184	34,300	3	6,440
Total	588,000	581,000	111,000	191	1,170,000	100	220,000

<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>March 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			January–February		
		Quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
Canada	950	874	86	98	1,820	33	179
Germany	644	1,540	247	161	2,180	39	332
Italy	207	777	126	162	984	18	168
Mexico	19	95	32	337	114	2	38
Romania	50	--	--	--	50	1	19
United Kingdom	248	168	97	577	416	7	154
Other	3	30	29	967	33	1	32
Total	2,120	3,480	617	177	5,600	100	922

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>March 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:						
January–December	11,500,000	13,400	6,470,000	12,800	--	4,990,000
January–February	1,830,000	1,490	1,090,000	--	8,030	754,000
February	892,000	597	528,000	34,300	--	331,000
March	979,000	1,180	595,000	13,500	--	372,000
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
2014:						
January–February	1,860,000	5,600	1,170,000	--	25,000	720,000
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	NA	NA	39,000	--	NA

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.