

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN NOVEMBER 2014

U.S. natural soda ash production in November was 996,000 metric tons (t), a slight increase from the previous month's production.

Ending inventories for November 2014 were 346,000 t, 5% more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in November 2014 was 1.45 million metric tons, slightly less than that of October 2014.

Exports and imports of soda ash in October 2014 were 559,000 t and 2,040 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for October 2014, compared with those of October 2013, were as follows: production was slightly lower; exports were 10% lower; imports were 15% lower; and apparent consumption was 9% higher. 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. Through October 2014, imports from Germany were about nine times those of 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–November	10,500	355	15,900
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
November	996	346	1,450
January–November	10,600	346	16,100

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary.

<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	August	September	Quantity	October	Unit value	January–October		
											Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	16,000	14	--	17,600	15,000	--	11,000	--	15,300	\$2,930	\$192	75,000	1	\$14,700
Australia	9,000	59,900	7,000	36,700	--	62,600	31,500	--	--	60,200	11,900	197	267,000	5	52,800
Belgium	6,050	20,100	4,760	26,000	--	14,500	8,130	11,000	21,800	54	6	111	112,000	2	18,600
Brazil	114,000	51,700	103,000	70,000	74,300	87,700	63,800	48,100	86,300	51,900	9,810	189	751,000	14	142,000
Canada	23,200	19,500	25,200	24,300	21,800	19,700	23,600	19,300	19,300	19,500	4,010	205	215,000	4	45,700
Chile	--	25,800	13,100	42,000	30,300	14,800	42,900	34,200	35,600	--	--	--	239,000	4	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	7,000	33,000	6,390	194	161,000	3	31,300
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	63,600	13,300	208	557,000	10	114,000
Japan	11,000	31,400	33,000	4,000	31,600	16,700	17,500	27,000	--	20,500	4,070	199	193,000	4	32,600
Korea, Republic of	8,000	13,500	38,900	13,300	19,000	14,200	26,600	20,300	15,400	26,000	4,950	190	195,000	4	36,000
Malaysia	--	15,100	--	--	7,000	--	17,000	9,000	15,000	--	--	--	63,100	1	12,700
Mexico	97,900	74,000	87,000	87,800	84,400	91,300	91,500	91,600	76,000	73,600	17,700	240	855,000	16	196,000
Netherlands	185	9,030	23,500	24,000	127	10,200	12,000	10,100	9,030	35,100	5,660	161	133,000	2	20,700
Philippines	6,500	--	6,500	--	7,500	7,000	6,500	--	6,000	7,000	1,340	191	47,000	1	8,930
Peru	17,000	8,390	7,000	86	20,400	5,090	13,800	86	5,070	73	8	110	77,000	1	15,000
Saudi Arabia	18,000	18,000	20,000	--	14,000	15,300	16,000	--	15,000	--	--	--	116,000	2	19,500
South Africa	12,500	4,700	8,570	5,030	--	25,000	--	--	14,800	4,940	933	189	75,600	1	13,200
Taiwan	11,800	26,400	21,500	14,100	12,600	--	36,000	16,000	16,500	15,000	3,140	209	170,000	3	30,500
Thailand	48,500	19,500	--	18,000	15,800	31,500	12,500	16,500	9,100	20,500	4,010	196	192,000	3	36,600
Tunisia	--	18,000	40,000	--	19,600	--	23,900	20,000	25,000	--	--	--	147,000	3	20,700
United Arab Emirates	12,200	8,000	11,500	--	11,000	14,500	15,000	--	13,000	--	--	--	85,200	2	14,300
Venezuela	9,700	7,000	18,500	15,900	692	21,100	7,970	42,500	--	41,700	9,470	227	165,000	3	37,200
Vietnam	12,000	--	8,000	--	18,000	8,000	41,000	--	--	20,000	3,680	--	107,000	2	19,100
Other	12,700	35,200	20,500	56,400	36,600	49,300	36,600	30,600	57,200	50,800	9,170	180	386,000	7	70,000
Total	588,000	581,000	570,000	513,000	491,000	566,000	628,000	511,000	492,000	559,000	112,000	201	5,500,000	100	1,070,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>November 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	July	August	September	Quantity	October		January–October		
											Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
Canada	950	874	1,680	266	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3,770	12	\$374
China	--	28	103	378	20	29	6	1	31	--	--	--	596	2	204
Germany	644	1,540	1,860	2,330	1,780	1,230	1,860	3,260	1,610	1,180	\$162	\$138	17,300	54	2,480
Italy	207	777	62	188	737	1,190	703	795	361	190	27	142	5,220	16	1,030
Mexico	19	95	--	19	94	251	813	450	305	256	80	313	2,300	7	735
Poland	--	--	44	96	48	44	--	--	--	--	--	--	233	1	70
United Kingdom	248	168	72	377	93	95	72	233	339	288	70	243	1,980	6	642
Other	53	3 <sup>r</sup>	18 <sup>r</sup>	140 <sup>r</sup>	140 <sup>r</sup>	14 <sup>r</sup>	3	13 <sup>r</sup>	5 <sup>r</sup>	127	21	165	516	2	193
Total	2,120	3,480	3,830	3,790	2,910	2,860	3,460	4,750	2,650	2,040	360	177	31,900	100	5,720

<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>November 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–October	8,630,000 <sup>r</sup>	9,440	5,430,000	10,100 <sup>r</sup>	--	3,200,000
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–October	8,680,000	31,900	5,500,000	--	151	3,220,000
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	2,040	559,000	9,640	--	418,000
November	996,000	NA	NA	18,100	--	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.