

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JANUARY 2014

U.S. natural soda ash production in January was 954,000 metric tons (t), slightly lower than the previous month's production of 968,000 t.

Ending inventories for January 2014 were 310,000 t, 11% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in January 2014 was 1.39 million metric tons.

Exports and imports of soda ash in December 2013 were 592,000 t and 2,429 t, respectively.

Soda ash statistics for December 2013, compared with those of December 2012, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were 86% higher; exports were 14% higher; and apparent consumption was 9% lower. Soda ash import tonnages can vary widely from month to month, but generally are of much smaller volume than soda ash export tonnages.

The soda ash end use data for the first three quarters of 2013 are shown in table 5. All percentages in this report were computed using unrounded data.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2013:			
January	941	295	1,570
February	892	330	1,440
March	979 ^r	343	1,560 ^r
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 ^r	350	1,490
January–December	11,500 ^r	350	17,400
2014, January	954	310	1,390

^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 2013^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December			January–December		
												Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	20,000	2,580	--	14,200	--	59	16,300	10,100	--	12,800	--	14,700	2,920	199	90,700	1	17,600
Australia	7,000	--	7,060	15,000	19	14,500	40,500	--	34,500	33,500	--	75,300	15,400	204	227,000	4	45,900
Belgium	11,000	106	145	7,620	10,100	6,060	29,400	44,600	95	28,400	6,090	--	--	--	144,000	2	20,700
Brazil	55,100	134,000	72,300	22,600	127,000	18,700	119,000	31,100	87,100	39,100	99,500	42,800	7,690	179	849,000	13	158,000
Canada	26,600	27,800	26,900	25,200	27,600	28,100	23,000	24,300	25,800	26,100	23,300	23,900	4,760	199	308,000	5	60,800
Chile	35,200	18,800	21,500	35,700	27,700	41,600	35,800	22,000	16,900	37,300	15,600	39,500	8,110	205	348,000	5	71,500
China	30,000	30,500	67,300	--	--	--	--	7	17,500	20	144	7	4	571	146,000	2	14,400
Colombia	10,900	6,000	16,000	11,000	11,500	29,500	6,000	16,100	6,500	6,000	18,300	--	--	--	138,000	2	26,800
Indonesia	82,000	62,700	73,300	38,500	36,100	68,000	10,000	61,600	96,500	45,500	26,800	42,900	8,320	194	644,000	10	119,000
Japan	--	15,800	26,000	--	31,600	--	31,800	46,800	--	25,800	--	30,800	4,400	143	209,000	3	33,100
Korea, Republic of	30,600	14,000	31,800	25,300	17,800	18,800	12,800	34,000	29	22,800	15,800	30,800	5,090	165	254,000	4	44,900
Malaysia	--	20,000	--	--	23,000	8,000	--	17,000	--	--	15,000	8,300	1,590	191	91,300	1	17,400
Mexico	70,600	67,100	72,900	99,100	92,500	82,200	84,800	86,900	80,300	78,300	69,600	99,700	20,400	205	984,000	15	225,000
Netherlands	26,500	100	16,500	16,500	24,200	93	27,200	35,000	25,100	20,100	14,100	45,400	6,820	150	251,000	4	39,000
Philippines	15,000	--	7,000	32	7,000	38	--	11,500	10,500	21,000	--	--	--	--	72,100	1	13,200
Saudi Arabia	18,500	22,500	21,300	18,300	180	17,600	22,300	333	--	17,000	--	16,000	2,570	161	154,000	2	25,700
South Africa	7,100	15,300	5,710	22,000	19,200	4,600	6,330	10,600	21,800	5,000	5,000	11,700	1,780	151	134,000	2	20,200
Spain	21,000	6,000	5,760	18,500	--	--	8,000	13,100	5,110	29,800	20,000	--	--	--	127,000	2	19,700
Taiwan	11,500	--	37,600	18,400	13,700	12,500	19,000	24,700	18,000	13,800	13,500	15,500	2,570	166	198,000	3	32,800
Thailand	45,000	8,500	12,500	9,520	9,000	19,000	20	141	9,990	26,900	17,100	14,800	3,040	206	173,000	3	32,400
Tunisia	14,800	14,800	--	--	26,100	21,000	17,200	22,900	--	24,000	11,700	46,100	6,740	146	199,000	3	29,100
United Arab Emirates	11,500	9,000	4,000	14,000	--	12,500	13,000	--	37	10,000	--	16,000	2,590	162	90,000	1	15,500
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	--	41,000	--	--	--	18,200	--	--	--	59,100	1	10,800
Venezuela	--	14,000	30,000	20,000	22,500	16,000	8,000	20,400	14,300	24,200	31,500	--	--	--	201,000	3	47,000
Vietnam	10,000	12,000	18,000	--	--	11,100	--	6,000	21,000	28,100	--	--	--	--	106,000	2	18,700
Other	500	25,800	21,200	45,700	7,650	15,500	20,200	39,600	11,500	43,100	20,600	17,400	2,970	171	269,000	4	53,500
Total	560,000	528,000	595,000	477,000	535,000	445,000	592,000	579,000	502,000	619,000	442,000	592,000	108,000	182	6,470,000	100	1,210,000

-- Zero.

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

²January 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 2013^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December			January–December		
												Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada	--	--	--	--	100	--	43	4	(4)	38	76	--	--	--	261	2	66
China	--	30	1	7	42	57	109	76	28	138	--	88	31	352	576	4	253
Germany	179	(4)	1	5	574	(4)	(4)	523	(4)	645	891	898	127	141	3,720	28	568
Italy	474	302	773	36	--	147	18	401	36	1,000	190	1,060	181	170	4,450	33	784
Japan	--	--	--	2	--	--	101	--	1	137	3	1	3	3,000	245	2	61
Mexico	163	92	136	57	169	132	313	133	151	151	90	--	--	--	1,590	12	539
Romania	--	60	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	--	--	--	--	--	80	1	30
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	60	--	--	--	--	60	--	--	--	--	120	1	46
United Kingdom	73	107	268	93	183	75	130	318	145	58	108	177	55	311	1,730	13	829
Other	4	6	--	--	22	(4)	25	6	32	163	194	201	83	413	650	5	293
Total	892	597	1,180	200	1,150	411	739	1,460	413	2,390	1,550	2,430	480	198	13,400	100	3,470

-- Zero.

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

²January 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	
2012:						
January–December	11,100,000	12,700	6,110,000	55,600	--	4,980,000
December	966,000	1,310	521,000	24,300	--	422,000
2013:						
January–December	11,500,000	13,400	6,470,000	12,800	--	4,990,000
January	941,000	892	560,000	--	42,300	424,000
February	892,000	597	528,000	34,300	--	331,000
March	979,000 ^r	1,180	595,000	13,500	--	372,000 ^r
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 ^r	2,430	592,000	--	4,170	383,000
2014, January	954,000	NA	NA	--	40,800	NA

^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.

TABLE 5
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN
THE UNITED STATES BY END USE, BY QUARTER¹

(Thousand metric tons)

NAICS ² code	End use	2,012			2013			
		3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	1st quarter– 3d quarter
3272	Glass:							
327213	Container	312	306	1,260	290	319	319	928
327211	Flat	240	243	928	226	243	241	710
327993	Fiber	29	32	117	36	34	35	105
327212	Other	26	28	110	32	28	25	85
	Total	608	609	2,420	584	624	620	1,830
32518	Chemicals	368	366	1,480	343	361	361	1,070
325611	Soaps and detergents	96	100	391	101	91	98	290
322	Pulp and paper	23	18	81	18	19	19	56
221310	Water treatment ³	17	14	62	15	16	16	47
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	49	47	164	47	47	66	160
422	Distributors	70	68	281	77	70	71	217
	Other	53	50	185	49	46	55	149
	Total domestic consumption ⁴	1,280	1,270	5,060	1,230	1,280	1,310	3,810
	Exports ⁵	1,450	1,640	5,930	1,580	1,600	1,380	4,560
	Canada	56	66	242	69	61	59	188
	Total industry sales ⁶	2,740	2,910 ^r	11,000	2,810	2,880	2,690	8,370
	Total sales from plants	2,780	2,920	11,100	2,800	2,870	2,850	8,520
	Total production	2,840	2,920	11,100	2,790	2,840	2,880	8,510

^rRevised.

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

²North American Industry Classification System.

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

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

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

⁶Represents 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.