

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN FEBRUARY 2014

U.S. natural soda ash production in February was 904,000 metric tons (t), 5% lower than the previous month's production of 954,000 t.

Ending inventories for February 2014 were 336,000 t, 8% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in February 2014 was 1.38 million metric tons.

Exports and imports of soda ash in January 2014 were 588,000 t and 2,120 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for January 2014, compared with those of January 2013, were as follows: production was

slightly higher; imports were about 138% higher; exports were 5% higher; and apparent consumption was 4% 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 2013 are shown in table 5. All percentages in this report were computed using unrounded data.

Note: The annual average value of U.S. soda ash production for 2013 was \$133.18 per short ton.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2013:			
January–February	1,830	330	3,010
February	892	330	1,440
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
January–February	1,860	336	2,770

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 2014^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	Quantity	January		
		Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Percent of total quantity
Australia	9,000	1,670	185	2
Belgium	6,050	957	158	1
Brazil	114,000	22,000	193	19
Canada	23,200	4,360	188	4
China	15,700	2,450	156	3
Colombia	27,000	5,080	188	5
Costa Rica	3,000	604	201	1
Ecuador	4,500	37	8	1
El Salvador	5,000	967	193	1
India	22,000	3,300	150	4
Indonesia	92,900	18,400	198	16
Japan	11,000	1,820	165	2
Korea, Republic of	8,000	1,320	165	1
Mexico	97,900	19,200	196	17
Philippines	6,500	1,220	187	1
Peru	17,000	3,140	185	3
Saudi Arabia	18,000	2,990	166	3
South Africa	12,500	1,930	154	2
Taiwan	11,800	2,010	171	2
Thailand	48,500	8,300	171	8
United Arab Emirates	12,200	2,020	166	2
Venezuela	9,700	2,180	225	2
Vietnam	12,000	2,470	206	2
Other	(4)	938	2,710	(4)
Total	588,000	109,000	186	100

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

²February 2014 data were not available at time of publication.

³Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2014^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	Quantity	January		Percent of total quantity
		Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	
Canada	950	94	99	45
Germany	644	85	132	30
Italy	207	41	198	10
Mexico	19	6	316	1
Romania	50	19	380	2
United Kingdom	248	57	230	12
Other	3	3	1,000	(4)
Total	2,120	305	144	100

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

²February 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	
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	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	954,000	2,120	588,000	--	40,800	409,000
February	904,000	NA	NA	15,800	--	NA

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	2012		2013				
		4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter
3272	Glass:							
327213	Container	306	1,260	290	319	319	303	1,230
327211	Flat	243	928	226	243	241	242	952
327993	Fiber	32	117	36	34	35	42	147
327212	Other	28	110	32	28	25	25	110
	Total	609	2,420	584	624	620	613	2,440
32518	Chemicals	366	1,480	343	361	361	384	1,450
325611	Soaps and detergents	100	391	101	91	98	94	384
322	Pulp and paper	18	81	18	19	19	19	75
221310	Water treatment ³	14	62	15	16	16	14	61
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	47	164	47	47	66	57	217
422	Distributors	68	281	77	70	71	68	285
	Other	50	185	49	46	55	53	202
	Total domestic consumption ⁴	1,270	5,060	1,230	1,280	1,310	1,300	5,120
	Exports ⁵	1,640	5,930	1,580	1,600	1,380	1,630	6,190
	Canada	66	242	69	61	59	58	246
	Total industry sales ⁶	2,910	11,000	2,810	2,880	2,690	2,930	11,300
	Total sales from plants	2,920	11,100	2,810 ^r	2,870	2,850	2,930	11,500
	Total production	2,920	11,100	2,810 ^r	2,840	2,880	2,930	11,500

^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.