

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

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

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

SODA ASH IN MARCH 2013

U.S. natural soda ash production in March was 957,000 metric tons (t), 7% more than the previous month's production of 892,000 t.

Ending inventories for March 2013 were 343,000 t, 4% more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in March 2013 was 1.54 million metric tons.

Exports and imports of soda ash in February 2013 were 528,000 t and 597 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for February 2013, compared with those of February 2012, were as follows: production was 7% higher; imports were 4% lower; exports were 31% higher; and apparent consumption was 29% 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 STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

| Period | Soda ash | | Wyoming trona production |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| | Production ² | Stocks, end of period | |
| 2012: | | | |
| January–March | 2,730 | 317 | 4,490 |
| March | 964 | 317 | 1,560 |
| April | 861 | 298 | 1,380 |
| May | 833 | 243 | 1,330 |
| June | 952 | 265 | 1,470 |
| July | 933 | 312 | 1,320 |
| August | 1,020 | 350 | 1,460 |
| September | 892 | 339 | 1,130 |
| October | 982 | 324 | 1,540 |
| November | 969 | 313 | 1,570 |
| December | 966 | 338 | 1,440 |
| January–December | 11,100 | 338 | 17,100 |
| 2013: | | | |
| January | 941 | 295 | 1,570 |
| February | 892 | 330 | 1,440 |
| March | 957 | 343 | 1,540 |
| January–March | 2,790 | 343 | 4,550 |

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 | February | | | | January–February | | |
|----------------------|----------|----------|---|---------------|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | January | Quantity | Value ³ (thousand dollars) | Unit value | Quantity | Percent of total quantity | Value (thousand dollars) |
| Argentina | 20,000 | 2,580 | 518 | \$201 | 22,600 | 2 | 4,390 |
| Australia | 7,000 | -- | -- | -- | 7,000 | 1 | 1,190 |
| Belgium | 11,000 | 106 | 12 | 113 | 11,100 | 1 | 1,330 |
| Brazil | 55,100 | 134,000 | 24,600 | 183 | 190,000 | 17 | 35,100 |
| Canada | 26,600 | 27,800 | 5,400 | 194 | 54,400 | 5 | 11,100 |
| Chile | 35,200 | 18,800 | 3,960 | 210 | 54,000 | 5 | 11,000 |
| China | 30,000 | 30,500 | 3,120 | 102 | 60,500 | 6 | 5,970 |
| Colombia | 10,900 | 6,000 | 1,070 | 179 | 16,900 | 2 | 3,170 |
| Indonesia | 82,000 | 62,700 | 11,400 | 182 | 145,000 | 13 | 26,400 |
| Japan | -- | 15,800 | 2,460 | 155 | 15,800 | 1 | 2,460 |
| Korea, Republic of | 30,600 | 14,000 | 2,620 | 187 | 44,600 | 4 | 8,660 |
| Malaysia | -- | 20,000 | 3,980 | 199 | 20,000 | 2 | 3,980 |
| Mexico | 70,600 | 67,100 | 15,100 | 226 | 138,000 | 13 | 31,900 |
| Netherlands | 26,500 | 100 | 11 | 110 | 26,600 | 2 | 4,480 |
| Peru | -- | 6,970 | 1,580 | 226 | 6,970 | 1 | 1,580 |
| Philippines | 15,000 | -- | -- | -- | 15,000 | 1 | 3,070 |
| Saudi Arabia | 18,500 | 22,500 | 3,640 | 161 | 41,000 | 4 | 7,280 |
| South Africa | 7,100 | 15,300 | 2,150 | 140 | 22,400 | 2 | 3,170 |
| Spain | 21,000 | 6,000 | 1,410 | 235 | 27,000 | 2 | 4,360 |
| Taiwan | 11,500 | -- | -- | -- | 11,500 | 1 | 2,110 |
| Thailand | 45,000 | 8,500 | 1,630 | 192 | 53,500 | 5 | 10,000 |
| Tunisia | 14,800 | 14,800 | 2,170 | 146 | 29,600 | 3 | 4,340 |
| United Arab Emirates | 11,500 | 9,000 | 1,450 | 162 | 20,500 | 2 | 3,690 |
| Venezuela | -- | 14,000 | 3,220 | 230 | 14,000 | 1 | 3,220 |
| Vietnam | 10,000 | 12,000 | 2,290 | 191 | 22,000 | 2 | 4,120 |
| Other | 500 | 18,900 | 3,420 | 182 | 19,400 | 2 | 3,540 |
| Total | 560,000 | 528,000 | 97,300 | 184 | 1,090,000 | 100 | 202,000 |

-- Zero.

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

²March 2013 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 | Quantity | February | | January–February | | |
|----------------|---------|----------|---|---------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| | | | Value ³ (thousand dollars) | Unit value | Quantity | Percent of total quantity | Value ³ (thousand dollars) |
| China | -- | 30 | 28 | \$933 | 30 | 2 | 28 |
| Germany | 179 | (4) | (4) | (4) | 180 | 12 | 31 |
| Italy | 474 | 302 | 55 | 182 | 776 | 52 | 132 |
| Mexico | 163 | 92 | 32 | 348 | 255 | 17 | 84 |
| Romania | -- | 60 | 23 | 383 | 60 | 4 | 23 |
| United Kingdom | 73 | 107 | 59 | 551 | 179 | 12 | 99 |
| Other | 4 | 6 | 20 | 3,330 | 10 | 1 | 43 |
| Total | 892 | 597 | 217 | 243 | 1,490 | 100 | 440 |

-- Zero.

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

²March 2013 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 |
| January–February | 1,760,000 | 1,740 | 856,000 | 24,000 | -- | 883,000 |
| February | 833,000 | 622 | 403,000 | -- | 34,600 | 465,000 |
| March | 964,000 | 1,730 | 602,000 | 11,100 | -- | 352,000 |
| April | 861,000 | 1,460 | 473,000 | -- | 19,100 | 409,000 |
| May | 833,000 | 1,730 | 465,000 | -- | 55,000 | 425,000 |
| June | 952,000 | 508 | 568,000 | 22,000 | -- | 362,000 |
| July | 933,000 | 445 | 431,000 | 47,100 | -- | 455,000 |
| August | 1,020,000 | 929 | 513,000 | 38,400 | -- | 468,000 |
| September | 892,000 | 1,460 | 570,000 | -- | 11,700 | 336,000 |
| October | 982,000 | 661 | 522,000 | -- | 14,800 | 476,000 |
| November | 969,000 | 727 | 588,000 | -- | 10,600 | 392,000 |
| December | 966,000 | 1,310 | 521,000 | 24,300 | -- | 422,000 |
| 2013: | | | | | | |
| January–February | 1,830,000 | 1,490 | 1,090,000 | -- | 8,030 | 754,000 |
| January | 941,000 | 892 | 560,000 | -- | 42,300 | 424,000 |
| February | 892,000 | 597 | 528,000 | 34,300 | -- | 331,000 |
| March | 957,000 | NA | NA | 13,500 | -- | 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.