

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JUNE 2013

U.S. natural soda ash production in June was 962,000 metric tons (t), slightly lower than the previous month's production of 985,000 t.

Ending inventories for June 2013 were 335,000 t, slightly higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in June 2013 was 1.36 million metric tons.

Exports and imports of soda ash in May 2013 were 535,000 t and 1,150 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for May 2013, compared with those of May 2012, were as follows: production was 18%

higher; imports were 34% lower; exports were 15% higher; and apparent consumption was 5% 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 quarter 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 | |
| 2012: | | | |
| January–June | 5,370 | 265 | 8,680 |
| 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 |
| April | 894 | 285 | 1,440 |
| May | 985 | 333 | 1,460 |
| June | 962 | 335 | 1,360 |
| January–June | 5,630 | 335 | 8,800 |

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 | | January–May | | | |
|----------------------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|--|-------------|-----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | | Quantity | Value ³ (thousand dollars) | Unit value | Quantity | Percent of total quantity | Value (thousand dollars) |
| Argentina | 20,000 | 2,580 | -- | 14,200 | -- | -- | -- | 36,800 | 1 | 6,980 |
| Australia | 7,000 | -- | 7,060 | 15,000 | 19 | 10 | \$526 | 29,100 | 1 | 5,620 |
| Belgium | 11,000 | 106 | 145 | 7,620 | 10,100 | 1,210 | 120 | 29,000 | 1 | 3,490 |
| Brazil | 55,100 | 134,000 | 72,300 | 22,600 | 127,000 | 24,100 | 189 | 412,000 | 15 | 77,300 |
| Canada | 26,600 | 27,800 | 26,900 | 25,200 | 27,600 | 5,190 | 188 | 134,000 | 5 | 26,800 |
| Chile | 35,200 | 18,800 | 21,500 | 35,700 | 27,700 | 5,770 | 209 | 139,000 | 5 | 28,300 |
| China | 30,000 | 30,500 | 67,300 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 128,000 | 5 | 12,500 |
| Colombia | 10,900 | 6,000 | 16,000 | 11,000 | 11,500 | 2,180 | 190 | 55,400 | 2 | 10,600 |
| Indonesia | 82,000 | 62,700 | 73,300 | 38,500 | 36,100 | 6,650 | 184 | 293,000 | 11 | 53,300 |
| Japan | -- | 15,800 | 26,000 | -- | 31,600 | 6,370 | 202 | 73,400 | 3 | 12,600 |
| Korea, Republic of | 30,600 | 14,000 | 31,800 | 25,300 | 17,800 | 3,080 | 173 | 119,000 | 4 | 21,600 |
| Malaysia | -- | 20,000 | -- | -- | 23,000 | 4,350 | 189 | 43,000 | 2 | 8,320 |
| Mexico | 70,600 | 67,100 | 72,900 | 99,100 | 92,500 | 21,500 | 232 | 402,000 | 15 | 91,800 |
| Netherlands | 26,500 | 100 | 16,500 | 16,500 | 24,200 | 4,170 | 172 | 83,900 | 3 | 13,400 |
| Philippines | 15,000 | -- | 7,000 | 32 | 7,000 | 1,350 | 193 | 29,000 | 1 | 5,740 |
| Saudi Arabia | 18,500 | 22,500 | 21,300 | 18,300 | 180 | 66 | 367 | 80,900 | 3 | 14,200 |
| South Africa | 7,100 | 15,300 | 5,710 | 22,000 | 19,200 | 2,690 | 140 | 69,200 | 3 | 10,500 |
| Spain | 21,000 | 6,000 | 5,760 | 18,500 | -- | -- | -- | 51,200 | 2 | 7,700 |
| Taiwan | 11,500 | -- | 37,600 | 18,400 | 13,700 | 2,180 | 159 | 81,100 | 3 | 13,400 |
| Thailand | 45,000 | 8,500 | 12,500 | 9,520 | 9,000 | 1,770 | 197 | 84,500 | 3 | 15,900 |
| Tunisia | 14,800 | 14,800 | -- | -- | 26,100 | 3,790 | 146 | 55,700 | 2 | 8,130 |
| United Arab Emirates | 11,500 | 9,000 | 4,000 | 14,000 | -- | -- | -- | 38,500 | 1 | 6,890 |
| Venezuela | -- | 14,000 | 30,000 | 20,000 | 22,500 | 5,080 | 226 | 86,400 | 3 | 20,700 |
| Vietnam | 10,000 | 12,000 | 18,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 40,000 | 1 | 7,440 |
| Other | 500 | 25,800 | 21,200 | 45,700 | 7,650 | 1,510 | 198 | 101,000 | 4 | 18,500 |
| Total | 560,000 | 528,000 | 595,000 | 477,000 | 535,000 | 103,000 | 193 | 2,690,000 | 100 | 502,000 |

-- Zero.

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

²June 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 | February | March | April | May | | | January–May | | |
|----------------------|---------|----------|-------|-------|----------|--|------------|-------------|---------------------------|--|
| | | | | | Quantity | Value ³ (thousand dollars) | Unit value | Quantity | Percent of total quantity | Value ³ (thousand dollars) |
| Canada | -- | -- | -- | -- | 100 | 26 | \$260 | 100 | 2 | 26 |
| China | -- | 30 | 1 | 7 | 42 | 24 | 571 | 80 | 2 | 60 |
| Germany | 179 | (4) | 1 | 5 | 574 | 76 | 132 | 759 | 19 | 128 |
| Italy | 474 | 302 | 773 | 36 | -- | -- | -- | 1,590 | 39 | 258 |
| Mexico | 163 | 92 | 136 | 57 | 169 | 56 | 331 | 617 | 15 | 211 |
| Romania | -- | 60 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 60 | 1 | 23 |
| United Arab Emirates | -- | -- | -- | -- | 60 | 23 | 383 | 60 | 1 | 23 |
| United Kingdom | 73 | 107 | 268 | 93 | 183 | 101 | 552 | 722 | 18 | 365 |
| Other | 4 | 6 | -- | 2 | 22 | 9 | 409 | 34 | 1 | 58 |
| Total | 892 | 597 | 1,180 | 200 | 1,150 | 315 | 274 | 4,020 | 100 | 1,150 |

-- Zero.

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

²June 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–May | 4,420,000 | 6,660 | 2,400,000 | -- | 39,000 | 2,070,000 |
| 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–May | 4,670,000 | 4,020 | 2,690,000 | -- | 4,830 | 1,980,000 |
| January | 941,000 | 892 | 560,000 | -- | 42,300 | 424,000 |
| February | 892,000 | 597 | 528,000 | 34,300 | -- | 331,000 |
| March | 957,000 | 1,180 | 595,000 | 13,500 | -- | 350,000 |
| April | 894,000 | 200 | 477,000 | -- | 57,800 ^r | 475,000 |
| May | 985,000 | 1,150 | 535,000 | 47,500 | -- | 404,000 |
| June | 926,000 | NA | NA | -- | 25,300 | 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 | 2012 | | | | 2013 | |
|----------------------------|---|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| | | 1st quarter | 2d quarter | 3d quarter | 4th quarter | 1st quarter– 4th quarter | 1st quarter |
| 3272 | Glass: | | | | | | |
| 327213 | Container | 322 | 321 | 312 | 306 | 1,260 | 290 |
| 327211 | Flat | 219 | 226 | 240 | 243 | 928 | 226 |
| 327993 | Fiber | 29 | 28 | 29 | 32 | 117 | 36 |
| 327212 | Other | 27 | 29 | 26 | 28 | 110 | 32 |
| | Total | 597 | 604 | 608 | 609 | 2,420 | 585 |
| 32518 | Chemicals | 373 | 375 | 368 | 366 | 1,480 | 343 |
| 325611 | Soaps and detergents | 104 | 92 | 96 | 100 | 392 | 101 |
| 322 | Pulp and paper | 21 | 20 | 23 | 18 | 81 | 18 |
| 221310 | Water treatment ³ | 16 | 16 | 17 | 14 | 62 | 15 |
| 56221 | Flue gas desulfurization | 38 | 30 | 49 | 47 | 164 | 47 |
| 422 | Distributors | 71 | 72 | 70 | 68 | 281 | 77 |
| | Other | 33 | 49 | 53 | 50 | 185 | 48 |
| | Total domestic consumption ⁴ | 1,250 | 1,260 | 1,280 | 1,270 | 5,060 | 1,230 |
| | Exports ⁵ | 1,410 | 1,430 | 1,450 | 1,640 | 5,930 | 1,580 |
| | Canada | 63 | 56 | 56 | 66 | 242 | 69 |
| | Total industry sales ⁶ | 2,670 | 2,680 | 2,740 | 2,900 | 11,000 | 2,810 |
| | Total sales from plants | 2,670 | 2,720 | 2,780 | 2,920 | 11,100 | 2,800 |
| | Total production | 2,730 | 2,650 | 2,840 | 2,920 | 11,100 | 2,790 |

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.