

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN APRIL 2014

U.S. natural soda ash production in April was 926,000 metric tons (t), 12% lower than the previous month's production of 1.06 million metric tons (Mt).

Ending inventories for April 2014 were 327,000 t, 13% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in April 2014 was 1.5 Mt.

Exports and imports of soda ash in March 2014 were 570,000 t and 3,830 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for March 2014, compared with those of March 2013, were as follows: production was 8% higher; imports were 225% higher; exports were 4% lower; and apparent consumption was 21% higher. 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	
2013:			
January–April ^f	3,710	286	6,010
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
March	1,060	375	1,510
April	926	327	1,500
January–April	3,840	327	5,780

^fRevised.

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	January	February	March			January–March		
			Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	16,000	14	\$14	\$1,000	16,000	1	\$3,130
Australia	9,000	59,900	7,000	1,490	213	75,900	4	15,600
Belgium	6,050	20,100	4,760	2,850	600	30,900	2	6,220
Brazil	114,000	51,700	103,000	19,400	188	269,000	15	51,000
Canada	23,200	19,500	25,200	5,220	207	67,900	4	13,700
Chile	--	25,800	13,100	2,740	209	38,800	2	7,860
China	15,700	32,000	41	10	244	47,800	3	7,390
Colombia	27,000	5,300	15,500	3,110	201	47,800	3	9,210
Costa Rica	3,000	5,900	--	--	--	8,900	1	1,810
India	22,000	40	--	--	--	22,000	1	3,320
Indonesia	92,900	62,100	56,500	11,400	202	211,000	12	42,400
Japan	11,000	31,400	33,000	5,320	161	75,400	4	12,300
Korea, Republic of	8,000	13,500	38,900	7,080	182	60,400	3	10,900
Malaysia	--	15,100	--	--	--	15,100	1	2,890
Mexico	97,900	74,000	87,000	20,200	232	259,000	15	56,500
Netherlands	185	9,030	23,500	3,700	157	32,800	2	5,040
New Zealand	--	12,500	--	--	--	12,500	1	2,170
Philippines	6,500	--	6,500	1,250	192	13,000	1	2,460
Peru	17,000	8,390	7,000	1,020	146	32,400	2	5,900
Saudi Arabia	18,000	18,000	20,000	3,390	169	56,000	3	9,280
South Africa	12,500	4,700	8,570	1,490	174	25,800	1	4,250
Spain	--	--	12,000	2,050	170	12,000	1	2,050
Taiwan	11,800	26,400	21,500	3,740	174	59,700	3	10,400
Thailand	48,500	19,500	--	--	--	68,000	4	12,500
Tunisia	--	18,000	40,000	5,820	145	58,000	3	8,550
United Arab Emirates	12,200	8,000	11,500	1,860	162	31,700	2	5,210
Venezuela	9,700	7,000	18,500	4,090	221	35,200	2	7,850
Vietnam	12,000	--	8,000	1,250	156	20,000	1	3,720
Other	9,660	16,800 [†]	8,460	1,440	170	34,900	2	6,500
Total	588,000	581,000	570,000	110,000	193	1,740,000	100	330,000

[†]Revised. -- Zero.

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

²April 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 2014^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	Quantity	March		January–March		
				Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada	950	874	1,680	\$169	\$101	3,500	37	\$348
China	--	28	103	14	136	131	1	37
Germany	644	1,540	1,860	266	143	4,040	43	598
Italy	207	777	62	33	532	1,050	11	200
Mexico	19	95	--	--	--	114	1	38
Romania	50	--	--	--	--	50	1	19
United Kingdom	248	168	72	39	542	488	5	193
Other	3	2	62	42	677	67	1	52
Total	2,120	3,480	3,830	563	147	9,440	100	1,490

-- Zero.

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

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

³Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

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–March	2,810,000 ^r	2,670	1,680,000	5,800 ^r	--	1,130,000 ^r
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
January–December	11,500,000	13,400	6,470,000	12,800	--	4,990,000
2014:						
January–March	2,910,000	9,440	1,740,000	13,900	--	1,170,000
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	NA	NA		48,200	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.