

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JULY 2014

U.S. natural soda ash production in July was 1.0 million metric tons (Mt), almost 3% more than the previous month's production of 975,000 metric tons (t).

Ending inventories for July 2014 were 331,000 t, 13% more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in July 2014 was 1.46 Mt, about equal to that of June 2014.

Exports and imports of soda ash in June 2014 were 566,000 t and 2,860 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for June 2014, compared with those of June 2013, were as follows: production was slightly higher; exports were 27% higher; imports were 6 times higher; and apparent consumption was 14% 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 2014 are shown in table 5. Notable consumption changes in soda ash end-use markets in the first quarter of 2014 compared to the first quarter of 2013 were: chemicals increased by 9%, flue gas desulfurization was up by 21%, pulp and paper decreased by 6%, and soaps and detergents declined by 10%. All percentages in this report were computed using unrounded data.

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TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2013: ^P			
January–July	6,680 ^r	414 ^r	10,300
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
May	890	324	1,560
June	975	292	1,480
July	1,000	331	1,460
January–July	6,710	331	10,300

^PPreliminary. ^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 2014^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June			January–June		
						Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	16,000	14	--	17,600	15,000	\$3,050	\$204	48,700	1	\$9,640
Australia	9,000	59,900	7,000	36,700	--	62,600	12,100	193	175,000	5	33,800
Belgium	6,050	20,100	4,760	26,000	--	14,500	1,740	120	71,400	2	11,300
Brazil	114,000	51,700	103,000	70,000	74,300	87,700	16,300	186	501,000	15	94,400
Canada	23,200	19,500	25,200	24,300	21,800	19,700	4,390	223	134,000	4	28,200
Chile	--	25,800	13,100	42,000	30,300	14,800	3,130	211	126,000	4	25,800
China	15,700	32,000	41	62	69	103	24	233	48,000	1	7,440
Colombia	27,000	5,300	15,500	17,600	9,060	12,000	2,240	187	86,400	3	16,900
India	22,000	40	--	--	--	40	22	550	22,100	1	3,340
Indonesia	92,900	62,100	56,500	57,500	39,300	30,300	6,240	206	339,000	10	68,400
Japan	11,000	31,400	33,000	4,000	31,600	16,700	2,680	160	128,000	4	21,200
Korea, Republic of	8,000	13,500	38,900	13,300	19,000	14,200	2,660	188	107,000	3	19,200
Malaysia	--	15,100	--	--	7,000	--	--	--	22,100	1	4,320
Mexico	97,900	74,000	87,000	87,800	84,400	91,300	21,400	234	522,000	16	117,000
Netherlands	185	9,030	23,500	24,000	127	10,200	1,700	166	67,100	2	10,200
Philippines	6,500	--	6,500	--	7,500	7,000	1,340	192	27,500	1	5,220
Peru	17,000	8,390	7,000	86	20,400	5,090	1,080	211	57,900	2	10,800
Saudi Arabia	18,000	18,000	20,000	--	14,000	15,300	2,590	169	85,300	3	14,200
South Africa	12,500	4,700	8,570	5,030	--	25,000	4,430	177	55,800	2	9,570
Taiwan	11,800	26,400	21,500	14,100	12,600	--	--	--	86,400	3	15,100
Thailand	48,500	19,500	--	18,000	15,800	31,500	5,980	190	133,000	4	24,800
Tunisia	--	18,000	40,000	--	19,600	--	--	--	77,600	2	11,400
United Arab Emirates	12,200	8,000	11,500	--	11,000	14,500	2,460	169	57,200	2	9,530
Venezuela	9,700	7,000	18,500	15,900	692	21,100	4,940	234	72,900	2	16,300
Vietnam	12,000	--	8,000	--	18,000	8,000	1,640	204	46,000	1	8,150
Other	12,700	35,200	20,500	56,400	36,600	49,300	8,380	170	211,000	6	37,100
Total	588,000	581,000	570,000	513,000	491,000	566,000	110,000	195	3,310,000	100	634,000

-- Zero.

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

²July 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	March	April	May	June Quantity	June		January–June		
							Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada	950	874	1,680	266	--	--	--	--	3,770	20	\$374
China	--	28	103	378	20	29	\$26	\$897	558	3	140
Germany	644	1,540	1,860	2,330	1,780	1,230	178	145	9,380	49	1,180
Italy	207	777	62	188	737	1,190	215	180	3,170	17	379
Japan	--	3	2	135	1	5	14	2,800	147	1	33
Mexico	19	95	--	19	94	251	80	319	478	3	76
Poland	--	--	44	96	48	44	14	318	232	1	56
United Kingdom	248	168	72	377	93	95	57	600	1,050	6	329
Other	53	--	16	5	139	9	10	1,110	222	1	676
Total	2,120	3,480	3,830	3,790	2,910	2,860	594	208	19,000	100	3,240

-- Zero.

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

²July 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: ^P						
January–June	5,650,000 ^r	4,430	3,140,000	--	2,160 ^r	2,520,000 ^r
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–June	5,700,000	19,000	3,310,000	--	69,000	2,480,000
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	3,790	513,000	--	48,200	465,000
May	890,000	2,910	491,000	--	3,240	405,000
June	975,000	2,860	566,000	--	31,500	443,000
July	1,000,000	NA	NA	38,900	--	NA

^PPreliminary. ^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	2013				Total	2014
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter		1st quarter
3272	Glass:						
327213	Container	290	319	319	303	1,230	292
327211	Flat	226	243	241	242	952	228
327993	Fiber	36	34	35	42	147	39
327212	Other	32	28	25	25	111	35
	Total	584	624	620	613	2,440	594
32518	Chemicals	343	361	361	384	1,450	374
325611	Soaps and detergents	101	91	98	94	384	91
322	Pulp and paper	18	19	19	19	75	17
221310	Water treatment ³	15	16	16	14	61	15
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	47	47	66	57	217	57
422	Distributors	77	70	71	68	285	75
	Other	49	46	55	53	202	54
	Total domestic consumption ⁴	1,230	1,280	1,310	1,300	5,120	1,280
	Exports ⁵	1,580	1,600	1,380	1,630	6,190	1,470
	Canada	69	61	59	58	246	61
	Total industry sales ⁶	2,810	2,880	2,690	2,930	11,300	2,750
	Total sales from plants	2,810	2,870	2,850	2,930	11,500	2,910
	Total production	2,810	2,840	2,880	2,930	11,500	2,910

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.