

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN AUGUST 2004

Natural soda ash production in August was 929,000 metric tons (t), 4% lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were estimated to be 265,000 t, 14% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in August was 1.49 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in July was estimated to be 577,000 t, 10% higher than the July 2003 level of 526,000 t.

Exports and imports of soda ash in July 2004 were 322,000 t and 600 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through July 2004, compared with those of July 2003, were as follows: production was 3% higher, imports 5% lower, exports 9% higher, ending stocks 7% higher, and apparent consumption slightly higher.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2003:			
July	923	297	1,110
August	888	323	1,110
September	869	286	1,300
October	913	291	1,390
November	860	309	1,250
December	925	330	1,450
Total (January-August)	7,070	XX	10,100
Year total	10,600	XX	15,500
2004:			
January	857	331	1,310
February	852	291	1,330
March	937	264	1,500
April	913	281	1,430
May	935	299	1,340
June	894	252	1,240
July	963	317 ^e	1,400
August	929	265 ^e	1,490
Total	7,280	XX	11,100

^eEstimated. XX Not applicable.

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

²Production data includes 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 JULY 2004^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Japan	58,300	\$7,050	\$121
Mexico	41,800	5,370	128
Canada	33,900	2,840	84
Indonesia	28,700	2,970	104
Thailand	26,200	2,600	99
Brazil	18,600	2,080	112
South Africa	15,200	1,460	96
Australia	14,700	1,710	116
Taiwan	11,000	1,180	107
Venezuela	9,500	1,230	130
Other	64,400	7,460	116
Total or average	322,000	36,000	112

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

²August 2004 data were not available at time of publication.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2004^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Total	% of total
Argentina	20,500	19,600	31,500	--	13,500	4,000	9,010	98,100	4
Australia	--	15,500	7,500	15,500	--	--	14,700	53,200	2
Belgium	21,200	10,000	38,400	9,670	32,400	8,920	--	121,000	4
Brazil	15,000	28,200	8,550	39,600	10,000	33,200	18,600	153,000	6
Canada	28,100	28,800	37,500	30,700	27,400	30,400	33,900	217,000	8
Chile	409	30,700	11,200	30,600	29,900	32,500	--	135,000	5
China	23,000	31,400	22,900	5,000	17,400	6	8,010	108,000	4
Colombia	9,340	11,000	20,200	11,100	9,250	9,000	9,300	79,100	3
Costa Rica	--	2,000	--	2,000	--	2,000	--	6,000	(3)
Dominican Republic	--	--	27	36	--	--	--	63	(3)
Ecuador	5,310	--	--	--	--	--	6,000	11,300	(3)
Finland	--	--	--	34	--	--	--	34	(3)
France	6,940	21,000	7,540	--	10,000	17,400	8,940	71,800	3
Germany	347	--	578	--	--	--	--	925	(3)
Guatemala	--	5	--	2,500	3,000	3,500	--	9,010	(3)
Indonesia	42,300	--	38,800	22,600	45,300	31,300	28,700	209,000	8
Ireland	--	40	--	--	--	--	--	40	(3)
Italy	31	--	--	--	--	--	--	31	(3)
Japan	37,900	56,900	8,500	45,900	27,600	30,800	58,300	266,000	10
Korea, Republic of	18,100	16,900	19,000	20,900	14,900	23,600	--	113,000	4
Malaysia	--	8,000	16,500	8,000	--	17,700	--	50,200	2
Mexico	36,800	46,800	46,900	54,400	57,400	39,100	41,800	323,000	12
Netherlands	6,020	9,470	10,100	--	14,000	--	--	39,600	1
Netherlands Antilles	--	--	--	--	20	--	17	37	(3)
New Zealand	6,600	5,000	--	6,000	--	--	5,000	22,600	1
Pakistan	--	--	--	--	--	5,000	--	5,000	(3)
Panama	--	--	--	--	--	2,000	--	2,000	(3)
Peru	1,580	3,900	--	2,500	2,000	7,500	--	17,500	1
Philippines	7,500	--	12,000	--	8,000	8,000	4,500	40,000	1
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	11	11	(3)
Portugal	--	--	9,500	--	--	--	8,500	18,000	1
Russia	3	--	158	--	--	--	--	161	(3)
Saudi Arabia	--	20,000	16,000	--	17,000	23,000	--	76,000	3
South Africa	6,500	--	--	9,500	--	--	15,200	31,200	1
Spain	49	14,700	5,090	15,100	13,000	10,700	5,050	63,700	2
Taiwan	11,000	45,800	--	29,300	16,400	15,000	11,000	128,000	5
Thailand	19,000	16,200	14,900	10,000	--	21,200	26,200	108,000	4
United Arab Emirates	--	8,000	8,000	--	6,000	--	--	22,000	1
United Kingdom	--	--	24	7,700	--	2	60	7,790	(3)
Venezuela	366	16,700	31,300	24,100	12,800	25,800	9,500	121,000	4
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	10,000	--	10,000	(3)
Total	324,000	467,000	423,000	403,000	387,000	412,000	322,000	2,740,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²August 2004 data were not available at time of publication.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH^{1, 2}

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2003:		
July	380	\$134
August	263	78
September	266	104
October	331	103
November	435	126
December	543	144
Total (January-July)	3,490	955
Year total	5,330	1,510
2004:		
January	511	155
February	470	123
March	438	141
April	332	137
May	448	174
June	517	193
July	600	189
Total	3,320	1,110

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

²August 2004 data were not available at time of publication.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2003:						
July	923,000	380	356,000	41,700	--	526,000
August	888,000	263	422,000	26,000	--	440,000
September	869,000	266	385,000	--	36,800	522,000
October	913,000	331	295,000	4,910	--	613,000
November	860,000	435	404,000	18,000	--	439,000
December	925,000	543	426,000	21,300	--	478,000
Total (January-July)	6,180,000	3,490	2,520,000	75,000	--	3,590,000
Year total	10,600,000	5,330	4,450,000	108,000	--	6,090,000
2004:						
January	857,000	511	324,000	660	--	533,000
February	852,000	470	467,000	--	40,200	426,000
March	937,000	438	423,000	--	26,900	541,000
April	913,000	332	403,000	16,800	--	494,000
May	935,000	448	387,000	18,700	--	529,000
June	894,000	517	412,000	--	47,000	530,000
July	963,000	600	322,000	64,600 ^e	--	577,000 ^e
August	929,000	NA	NA		51,900 ^e	NA
January-July	6,350,000	3,320	2,740,000	--	13,200 ^e	3,630,000 ^e

^eEstimated. 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.