

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN SEPTEMBER 2004

Natural soda ash production in September was estimated to be 904,000 metric tons (t), 3% lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were estimated to be 245,000 t, 8% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in September was 1.42 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in August was 578,000 t, 31% higher than the August 2003 level of 440,000 t. Exports and imports of soda ash in August 2004 were 403,000 t and 504 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through August 2004, compared with those of August 2003, were as follows: production was 3% higher, imports 2% higher, exports 7% higher, ending stocks 18% lower, and apparent consumption 4% higher.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Ending stocks	
2003:			
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-September)	7,940	XX	11,400
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	318 <sup>r</sup>	1,400
August	929	266 <sup>r</sup>	1,490
September	904 <sup>e</sup>	245 <sup>e</sup>	1,420
Total	8,180	XX	12,500

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. XX Not applicable.

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

<sup>2</sup>Production 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 AUGUST 2004<sup>1,2</sup>

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	48,100	\$6,150	\$128
Brazil	45,500	6,800	149
Canada	36,200	3,060	84
Japan	35,500	3,470	98
Chile	30,100	3,770	125
Korea, Republic of	22,600	2,440	108
Thailand	22,000	2,260	103
Malaysia	19,000	2,120	111
China	18,200	1,530	84
Saudi Arabia	18,000	1,530	85
Other	108,000	12,600	116
Total or average	403,000	45,700	113

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

<sup>2</sup>September 2004 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Free alongside ship value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2004<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Total	% of total
Argentina	20,500	19,600	31,500	--	13,500	4,000	9,010	15,100	113,000	4
Australia	--	15,500	7,500	15,500	--	--	14,700	9,500	62,700	2
Belgium	21,200	10,000	38,400	9,670	32,400	8,920	--	12,400	133,000	4
Brazil	15,000	28,200	8,550	39,600	10,000	33,200	18,600	45,500	198,000	6
Canada	28,100	28,800	37,500	30,700	27,400	30,400	33,900	36,200	253,000	8
Chile	409	30,700	11,200	30,600	29,900	32,500	--	30,100	165,000	5
China	23,000	31,400	22,900	5,000	17,400	6	8,010	18,200	126,000	4
Colombia	9,340	11,000	20,200	11,100	9,250	9,000	9,300	14,700	93,800	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	2
Germany	347	--	578	--	--	--	--	--	925	(3)
Guatemala	--	5	--	2,500	3,000	3,500	--	3,000	12,000	(3)
Indonesia	42,300	--	38,800	22,600	45,300	31,300	28,700	--	209,000	7
Ireland	--	40	--	--	--	--	--	--	40	(3)
Italy	31	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	31	(3)
Japan	37,900	56,900	8,500	45,900	27,600	30,800	58,300	35,500	301,000	10
Korea, Republic of	18,100	16,900	19,000	20,900	14,900	23,600	--	22,600	136,000	4
Malaysia	--	8,000	16,500	8,000	--	17,700	--	19,000	69,200	2
Mexico	36,800	46,800	46,900	54,400	57,400	39,100	41,800	48,100	371,000	12
Netherlands	6,020	9,470	10,100	--	14,000	--	--	16,800	56,400	2
Netherlands Antilles	--	--	--	--	20	--	17	--	37	(3)
New Zealand	6,600	5,000	--	6,000	--	--	5,000	7,500	30,100	1
Pakistan	--	--	--	--	--	5,000	--	--	5,000	(3)
Panama	--	--	--	--	--	2,000	--	2,000	4,000	(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	34	45	(3)
Portugal	--	--	9,500	--	--	--	8,500	--	18,000	1
Russia	3	--	158	--	--	--	--	--	161	(3)
Saudi Arabia	--	20,000	16,000	--	17,000	23,000	--	18,000	94,000	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	9,400	73,100	2
Taiwan	11,000	45,800	--	29,300	16,400	15,000	11,000	--	128,000	4
Thailand	19,000	16,200	14,900	10,000	--	21,200	26,200	22,000	130,000	4
United Arab Emirates	--	8,000	8,000	--	6,000	--	--	9,000	31,000	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	8,790	129,000	4
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	10,000	--	--	10,000	(3)
Total	324,000	467,000	423,000	403,000	387,000	412,000	322,000	403,000	3,140,000	100

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>September 2004 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH<sup>1,2</sup>

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)
2003:		
August	263	\$78
September	266	104
October	331	103
November	435	126
December	543	144
Total (January-August)	3,760	1,030
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
August	504	163
Total	3,820	1,280

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

<sup>2</sup>September 2004 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Cost, insurance, and freight value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption <sup>2</sup>
				Increase	Decrease	
2003:						
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-August)	7,070,000	3,760	2,940,000	101,000	--	4,030,000
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	65,600 <sup>r</sup>	--	576,000 <sup>r</sup>
August	929,000	504	403,000	--	51,300 <sup>r</sup>	578,000
September	904,000	NA	NA	--	21,200 <sup>e</sup>	NA
January-August	7,280,000	3,820	3,140,000	--	63,600	4,210,000

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.