

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN AUGUST 2009

U.S. natural soda ash production in August was 827,000 metric tons (t), 4% higher than the previous month's production of 794,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for August 2009 were 216,000 t, slightly lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in August was 1,220,000 t. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in July 2009 was 494,000 t, 8% lower than that of July 2008, and ending stocks were 30% higher.

Exports and imports of soda ash in July 2009 were 331,000 t and 309 t, respectively.

The trends in soda ash statistics for July 2009, compared with those of July 2008, were as follows: production was 13% lower; imports were 51% lower; exports were 21% lower; and apparent consumption, 8% lower. Global economic problems have reduced world soda ash consumption, which in turn has reduced U.S. soda ash exports. To avoid an oversupply of soda ash inventories, domestic soda ash production has been cut back intentionally, but should begin to increase because the export market is forecast to improve in the next few months.

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	Ending stocks	
2008:			
January-August	7,460 ^r	XX	11,700 ^r
July	912	169	1,200
August	976	222	1,630
September	935	265	1,490
October	996	247	1,560
November	965	262	1,530
December	917	259	1,510
January-December	11,300	XX	17,800
2009:			
January	806	258	1,160
February	670	273	2,020
March	732	280	983
April	664	239	1,080
May	780	271	1,180
June	731	249	1,140
July	794	219	971
August	827	216	1,220
January-August	6,000	XX	9,740

^rRevised. XX Not applicable.

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 2009^{1, 2}

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July			Year to date		
							Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit Value	Quantity (metric tons)	% of total	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	17,800	--	--	13,000	--	--	--	--	30,800	1	\$8,490
Australia	7,000	7,000	10,600	--	7,030	7,000	--	--	--	38,600	2	9,150
Belgium	47,600	32,400	9,200	23,000	10,800	35,200	--	--	--	158,000	7	26,300
Brazil	50,200	28,200	35,000	41,200	40,000	29,200	46,000	\$9,880	\$215	270,000	12	57,600
Cameroon	--	--	60	--	--	--	--	--	--	60	(4)	20
Canada	21,800	21,100	25,800	17,700	19,600	21,100	24,400	5,220	214	152,000	7	30,900
Chile	19,800	10,000	14,300	15,800	8,100	15,200	13,500	2,670	198	96,700	4	20,500
China	--	--	--	--	10,000	11,500	10,000	780	78	31,500	1	2,070
Colombia	19,500	6,770	8,100	--	--	--	--	--	--	34,400	1	7,320
Costa Rica	4,500	4,920	--	--	4,500	--	3,150	773	245	17,100	1	4,650
Dominican Republic	1,980	2,000	--	--	--	843	--	--	--	4,830	(4)	1,370
Ecuador	--	5,770	--	--	--	5,070	--	--	--	10,800	(4)	3,130
France	15,000	--	--	14,900	--	--	10,000	1,300	130	39,900	2	6,230
Germany	--	--	39	--	--	--	--	--	--	39	(4)	21
Guatemala	--	--	2,500	--	--	--	2,850	653	229	5,350	(4)	1,380
India	--	--	--	--	620	1,240	620	132	213	2,480	(4)	528
Indonesia	9,600	--	20,500	--	31,100	23,100	13,000	2,410	185	97,300	4	16,300
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,000	800	160	5,000	(4)	800
Japan	6,000	20,500	19,500	--	38,400	--	4,000	568	142	88,400	4	10,500
Korea, Republic of	16,000	13,100	100	20,100	100	19,500	15,000	2,560	171	83,900	4	16,300
Lithuania	--	--	--	--	36,400	--	--	--	--	36,400	2	5,180
Malaysia	--	--	4,000	--	8,000	--	--	--	--	12,000	(4)	2,600
Mexico	57,000	56,300	67,000	63,000	60,200	57,800	70,800	16,600	234	432,000	19	96,000
Netherlands	23,800	11,100	20,200	17,500	--	10,700	19,900	2,910	146	103,000	5	18,500
New Zealand	--	7,000	6,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	13,000	1	2,870
Panama	2,110	--	--	2,540	--	--	--	--	--	4,650	(4)	1,350
Peru	8,550	--	--	4,500	5,770	--	7,500	1,550	206	26,300	1	5,970
Philippines	5,000	--	14,100	--	5,000	--	--	--	--	24,100	1	3,720
Portugal	13,500	6,000	--	11,000	--	--	12,000	1,260	105	42,500	2	5,250
Saudi Arabia	17,500	--	13,700	15,000	--	--	10,500	1,850	176	56,700	2	11,600
Singapore	--	185	--	--	--	--	128	14	109	314	(4)	34
South Africa	22,500	6,460	--	--	--	16,600	--	--	--	45,600	2	8,960
Spain	28,200	--	28,700	5,500	--	13,600	--	--	--	76,100	3	12,300
Taiwan	14,500	--	12,500	8,550	10,500	--	16,600	2,500	151	62,600	3	9,030
Thailand	--	17,500	--	--	20,600	21,000	--	--	--	59,000	3	12,100
Turkey	--	25	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	25	(4)	17
United Arab Emirates	7,520	--	11,500	3,500	--	--	14,500	2,520	173	37,100	2	8,120
Venezuela	4,000	12,400	6,000	30,900	--	3,500	31,300	7,420	237	88,200	4	21,600
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	6,000	--	24	3	125	6,020	(4)	821
Other	--	--	14	--	17	1	--	--	--	32	(4)	29
Total	423,000	287,000	329,000	295,000	336,000	292,000	331,000	64,300	194	2,290,000	100	450,000

-- Zero.

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

²August 2009 data were not available at time of publication.

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

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH^{1, 2}

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2008:		
January-July	7,420 ^r	\$1,840 ^r
July	632	214
August	1,070	407
September	658	282
October	1,410	530
November	615	211
December	1,730	553
January-December	12,900	3,820
2009:		
January	169	108
February	495	241
March	666	238
April	513	214
May	482	170
June	200	129
July	309	156
January-July	2,830	1,260

^rRevised.

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

²August 2009 data were not available at time of publication.

³Cost, insurance, and freight value 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	
2008:						
January-July	6,480,000 ^r	7,420 ^r	3,090,000	--	36,800 ^r	3,440,000 ^r
July	912,000	632	417,000	--	41,900	538,000
August	976,000	1,070	414,000	52,600	--	511,000
September	935,000	658	417,000	43,200	--	475,000
October	996,000	1,410	468,000	--	18,000	547,000
November	965,000	615	525,000	15,000	--	426,000
December	917,000	1,730	455,000	--	2,750	466,000
January-December	11,300,000	12,900	5,370,000	53,200	--	5,860,000
2009:						
January	806,000	169	423,000	--	1,160	384,000
February	670,000	495	287,000	14,900	--	369,000
March	732,000	666	329,000	6,750	--	397,000
April	664,000	513	295,000	--	40,400	411,000
May	780,000	482	336,000	31,700	--	413,000
June	731,000	200	292,000	--	22,300	462,000
July	794,000	309	331,000	--	30,100	494,000
August	827,000	NA	NA	--	3,050	NA
January-July	5,180,000	2,830	2,290,000	--	40,700	2,930,000

^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.