

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JULY 2009

U.S. natural soda ash production in July was 794,000 metric tons (t), 9% higher than the previous month's production of 731,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for July 2009 were 219,000 t, 12% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in July was 971,000 t. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in June 2009 was 462,000 t, 14% higher than that of June 2008, and ending stocks were 18% higher.

Exports and imports of soda ash in June 2009 were 292,000 t and 200 t, respectively.

The trends in soda ash statistics for June 2009, compared with those of June 2008, were as follows: production was 22% lower; imports were 82% lower; exports were 45% lower; and apparent consumption, 14% higher. 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-July	6,480 ^r	XX	10,100 ^r
June	935	211	1,480
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 ^r	249	1,140
July	794	219	971
January-July	5,180	XX	8,520

^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			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	2	\$8,490
Australia	7,000	7,000	10,600	--	7,030	7,000	\$1,630	\$233	38,600	2	9,150
Belgium	47,600	32,400	9,200	23,000	10,800	35,200	5,280	150	158,000	8	26,300
Brazil	50,200	28,200	35,000	41,200	40,000	29,200	6,760	231	224,000	11	47,700
Cameroon	--	--	60	--	--	--	--	--	60	(4)	20
Canada	21,800	21,100	25,800	17,700	19,600	21,100	4,560	216	127,000	6	25,700
Chile	19,800	10,000	14,300	15,800	8,100	15,200	3,350	220	83,200	4	17,800
China	--	--	--	--	10,000	11,500	912	79	21,500	1	1,290
Colombia	19,500	6,770	8,100	--	--	--	--	--	34,400	2	7,320
Costa Rica	4,500	4,920	--	--	4,500	--	--	--	13,900	1	3,880
Dominican Republic	1,980	2,000	--	--	--	843	202	240	4,830	(4)	1,370
Ecuador	--	5,770	--	--	--	5,070	1,430	281	10,800	(4)	3,130
France	15,000	--	--	14,900	--	--	--	--	29,900	2	4,930
Germany	--	--	39	--	--	--	--	--	39	(4)	21
Guatemala	--	--	2,500	--	--	--	--	--	2,500	(4)	728
India	--	--	--	--	620	1,240	264	213	1,860	(4)	396
Indonesia	9,600	--	20,500	--	31,100	23,100	2,770	120	84,300	4	13,900
Japan	6,000	20,500	19,500	--	38,400	--	--	--	84,400	4	9,980
Korea, Republic of	16,000	13,100	100	20,100	100	19,500	3,580	183	68,900	4	13,800
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	13,200	229	361,000	18	79,500
Netherlands	23,800	11,100	20,200	17,500	--	10,700	1,770	165	83,300	4	15,600
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	--	--	--	18,800	1	4,430
Philippines	5,000	--	14,100	--	5,000	--	--	--	24,100	1	3,720
Portugal	13,500	6,000	--	11,000	--	--	--	--	30,500	2	3,990
Saudi Arabia	17,500	--	13,700	15,000	--	--	--	--	46,200	2	9,750
Singapore	--	185	--	--	--	--	--	--	185	(4)	20
South Africa	22,500	6,460	--	--	--	16,600	2,480	149	45,600	2	8,960
Spain	28,200	--	28,700	5,500	--	13,600	1,980	145	76,100	4	12,300
Taiwan	14,500	--	12,500	8,550	10,500	--	--	--	46,100	2	6,520
Thailand	--	17,500	--	--	20,600	21,000	3,690	176	59,000	3	12,100
Turkey	--	25	--	--	--	--	--	--	25	(4)	17
United Arab Emirates	7,520	--	11,500	3,500	--	--	--	--	22,600	1	5,600
Venezuela	4,000	12,400	6,000	30,900	--	3,500	711	203	56,800	3	14,200
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	6,000	--	--	--	6,000	(4)	818
Other	--	--	14	--	17	1	4	4,000	32	(4)	29
Total	423,000	287,000	329,000	295,000	336,000	292,000	54,600	187	1,960,000	100	386,000

-- Zero.

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

²July 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-June	6,780	\$1,620
June	1,130	360
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
January-June	2,530	1,100

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

²July 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-June	5,570,000	6,780	2,670,000	5,060	--	2,900,000
June	935,000	1,130	531,000	1,550	--	405,000
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 ^r	200	292,000	--	22,300	462,000
July	794,000	NA	NA	--	30,100	NA
January-June	4,380,000	2,530	1,960,000	--	10,600	2,440,000

^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.