

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN AUGUST 2012

U.S. natural soda ash production in August was 1.02 million metric tons (Mt), 9% higher than the previous month's production of 933,000 metric tons (t).

Ending inventories for August 2012 were 350,000 t, 12% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in August 2012 was 1.46 Mt.

Exports and imports of soda ash in July 2012 were 431,000 t and 445 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for July 2012, compared with those of July 2011, were as follows: production was 2% higher; imports were about 89% lower; exports were 3% higher; and apparent consumption was 4% higher. Imports fluctuate widely and are insignificant relative to exports.

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	Stocks, end of period	
2011:			
January–August	7,100	275	10,900
August	970	275	1,450
September	849	267	1,300
October	941	279	1,480
November	864	256	1,360
December	975	282	1,420
January–December	10,700	282	16,500
2012:			
January	929	341	1,520
February	833	306	1,410
March	964	317	1,560
April	861	298	1,380
May	833	243	1,330
June	952	265	1,470
July	933	312	1,320
August	1,020	350	1,460
January–August	7,320	350	11,500

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 2012^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July			January–July		
							Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	--	21,500	--	25,400	8,000	27,600	5,830	\$211	82,500	2	16,600
Australia	12,300	14,500	5,800	12,000	15,200	7,500	--	--	--	67,300	2	1,490
Belgium	13,800	11,100	12,000	--	19,500	78	10,000	1,300	130	66,500	2	8,840
Brazil	36,900	46,500	98,900	30,200	83,900	39,600	42,500	8,020	189	378,000	11	76,500
Canada	24,600	24,300	25,200	19,700	25,700	22,800	22,900	4,440	194	165,000	5	31,000
Chile	52,000	9,990	41,300	8,850	29,600	40,100	22,200	4,920	222	204,000	6	43,700
Colombia	6,710	11,000	10,200	29,400	--	6,130	24,300	4,770	196	87,700	3	15,200
France	15,200	--	--	16,000	--	--	--	--	--	31,200	1	4,680
India	--	--	22,000	--	22,000	--	--	--	--	44,000	1	6,750
Indonesia	17,000	74,500	16,500	74,500	32,500	76,000	33,000	6,910	210	324,000	10	70,600
Japan	31,600	13,400	19,100	24,900	234	44,300	496	161	325	134,000	4	27,100
Korea, Republic of	15,000	29,700	24,500	11,800	--	40,800	12,500	2,570	206	134,000	4	31,900
Mexico	81,700	86,800	101,000	78,700	89,700	98,000	76,800	18,100	236	613,000	18	139,000
Netherlands	22,700	14,300	26,500	23,000	16,100	39,000	56,000	8,280	148	198,000	6	31,300
Peru	3,840	17,100	7,500	5,000	13,700	5,610	--	--	--	52,800	2	11,700
Philippines	--	8,500	--	11,500	--	8,500	8,500	1,810	213	37,000	1	8,130
Portugal	5,500	--	5,000	--	5,500	--	5,100	674	132	21,100	1	3,020
Saudi Arabia	--	15,000	18,000	--	--	14,600	14,300	3,010	210	61,900	2	12,800
South Africa	15,000	--	14,000	37,400	4,970	12,000	11,100	1,370	124	94,400	3	13,600
Spain	10,200	--	16,000	7,950	5,000	--	65	7	108	39,200	1	6,540
Taiwan	15,700	68	28,800	26,100	--	20,500	19,500	4,200	215	111,000	3	24,300
Thailand	21,000	--	404	22,500	20,500	13,000	--	--	--	77,400	2	17,400
Tunisia	25,100	--	12,200	--	25,800	20,000	--	--	--	83,000	2	14,300
United Arab Emirates	--	10,800	7,000	--	--	11,000	12,000	2,480	207	40,800	1	8,430
Venezuela	4,810	--	37,600	--	17,200	25,900	--	--	--	85,500	3	21,700
Other	23,300 [†]	15,000	31,400	33,100	12,300	14,900	31,700	6,520	205	162,000	5	45,900
Total	454,000	403,000	602,000	473,000	465,000	568,000	431,000	85,400	198	3,390,000	100	692,000

[†]Revised. -- Zero.

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

²August 2012 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 2012^{1, 2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	Quantity	July	Unit value	January–July		
								Value ³ (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada ⁴	(5)	1	425	874	866	--	--	--	--	2,170	28	257
China	--	--	229	8	444	18	--	--	--	699	9	262
Dominican Republic ⁴	--	225	252	--	--	--	--	--	--	477	6	74
France	208	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	211	3	49
Germany	1	210	3	(5)	(5)	(5)	3	19	6	217	3	120
Greece ⁴	60	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	60	1	23
Italy	701	54	760	36	61	54	36	20	556	1,700	22	468
Japan	--	--	--	346	1	3	--	--	--	349	5	68
Mexico	19	19	--	51	173	78	256	79	309	596	8	173
Poland	22	22	--	--	22	--	22	9	409	89	1	35
Turkey	--	--	--	--	--	300	--	--	--	300	4	111
United Kingdom	108	90	57	145	160	55	128	69	539	742	10	413
Other	1	--	3	--	3	--	--	6	--	9	(5)	27
Total	1,120	622	1,730	1,460	1,730	508	445	201	452	7,620	100	2,080

-- Zero.

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

²August 2012 data were not available at time of publication.

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

⁴Not a soda-ash-producing country, material transshipped or possible erroneous data, according to the Journal of Commerce PIERs trade data.

⁵Less than ½ unit.

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	
2011:						
January–December	10,700,000	26,900	5,470,000	61,800	--	5,220,000
January–July	6,130,000	10,100	3,000,000	48,500	--	3,080,000
July	918,000	4,070	420,000	65,200	--	437,000
August	970,000	4,150	464,000	6,510	--	504,000
September	849,000	6,410	478,000	--	8,350	386,000
October	941,000	3,570	502,000	11,800	--	430,000
November	864,000	1,120	507,000	--	22,800	381,000
December	975,000	1,560	517,000	26,100	--	434,000
2012:						
January–July	6,300,000	7,620	3,390,000	30,100	--	2,890,000
January	929,000	1,120	454,000	58,600	--	418,000
February	833,000	622	403,000	--	34,600	465,000
March	964,000	1,730	602,000	11,100	--	352,000
April	861,000	1,460	473,000	--	19,100	409,000
May	833,000	1,730	465,000	--	55,000	425,000
June	952,000	508	568,000	22,000 ^r	-- ^r	362,000 ^r
July	933,000	445	431,000	47,100	--	455,000
August	1,020,000	NA	NA	38,400	NA	NA

^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.