

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN SEPTEMBER 2012

U.S. natural soda ash production in September was 962,000 metric tons (t), 5% lower than the previous month's production of 1.02 million metric tons (Mt).

Ending inventories for September 2012 were 339,000 t, 3% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in September 2012 was 1.13 Mt.

Exports and imports of soda ash in August 2012 were 513,000 t and 929 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for August 2012, compared with those of August 2011, were as follows: production was 5%

higher; imports were about 78% lower; exports were 11% higher; and apparent consumption was 7% lower. Imports fluctuate widely and are insignificant relative to exports.

The soda ash end use data for the first (revised) and second quarters of 2012 are shown in table 5.

All percentages in this report were computed using unrounded data.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Stocks, end of period	
2011:			
January–September	7,950	267	12,200
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
September	962	339	1,130
January–September	8,290	339	12,600

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

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

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August			January–August		
								Quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	--	21,500	--	25,400	8,000	27,600	49	5	\$102	82,600	2	16,600
Australia	12,300	14,500	5,800	12,000	15,200	7,500	--	7,030	1,470	209	74,300	2	16,300
Belgium	13,800	11,100	12,000	--	19,500	78	10,000	11,100	1,720	154	77,600	2	10,600
Brazil	36,900	46,500	98,900	30,200	83,900	39,600	42,500	73,200	15,400	210	452,000	12	91,800
Canada	24,600	24,300	25,200	19,700	25,700	22,800	22,900	26,100	5,350	205	191,000	5	36,400
Chile	52,000	9,990	41,300	8,850	29,600	40,100	22,200	34,400	7,250	210	238,000	6	50,900
Colombia	6,710	11,000	10,200	29,400	--	6,130	24,300	40,500	8,750	216	128,000	3	23,900
France	15,200	--	--	16,000	--	--	--	5,090	702	138	36,300	1	4,380
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	66,000	13,600	205	390,000	10	84,200
Japan	31,600	13,400	19,100	24,900	234	44,300	496	29,800	5,510	185	164,000	4	32,600
Korea, Republic of	15,000	29,700	24,500	11,800	--	40,800	12,500	17,000	3,420	201	151,000	4	35,300
Mexico	81,700	86,800	101,000	78,700	89,700	98,000	76,800	93,500	20,900	224	706,000	18	160,000
Netherlands	22,700	14,300	26,500	23,000	16,100	39,000	56,000	25	13	520	198,000	5	31,300
Peru	3,840	17,100	7,500	5,000	13,700	5,610	--	8,220	1,820	222	61,000	2	13,600
Philippines	--	8,500	--	11,500	--	8,500	8,500	--	--	--	37,000	1	8,130
Portugal	5,500	--	5,000	--	5,500	--	5,100	--	--	--	21,100	1	3,020
Saudi Arabia	--	15,000	18,000	--	--	14,600	14,300	333	114	342	62,300	2	13,000
South Africa	15,000	--	14,000	37,400	4,970	12,000	11,100	--	--	--	94,400	2	13,600
Spain	10,200	--	16,000	7,950	5,000	--	65	--	--	--	39,200	1	6,540
Taiwan	15,700	68	28,800	26,100	--	20,500	19,500	17,600	3,790	216	128,000	3	28,100
Thailand	21,000	--	404	22,500	20,500	13,000	--	23,000	4,830	210	100,000	3	22,200
Tunisia	25,100	--	12,200	--	25,800	20,000	--	22,000	3,680	167	105,000	3	18,000
United Arab Emirates	--	10,800	7,000	--	--	11,000	12,000	--	--	--	40,800	1	8,430
Venezuela	4,810	--	37,600	--	17,200	25,900	--	11,300	3,050	270	96,800	2	24,700
Other	23,300	15,000	31,400	33,100	12,300	14,900	31,700	26,400	5,930	224	188,000	5	39,400
Total	454,000	403,000	602,000	473,000	465,000	568,000	431,000	513,000	107,000	209	3,910,000	100	799,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>September 2012 data were not available at time of publication.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2012<sup>1, 2</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	August							January–August					
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
Canada <sup>4</sup>	(5)	1	425	874	866	--	--	--	--	--	2,170	25	257
China	--	--	229	8	444	18	--	--	--	--	699	8	262
Dominican Republic <sup>4</sup>	--	225	252	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	477	6	74
France	208	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	211	2	49
Germany	1	210	3	(5)	(5)	(5)	3	--	--	--	217	3	120
Greece <sup>4</sup>	60	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	60	1	23
Italy	701	54	760	36	61	54	36	325	52	160	2,030	24	520
Japan	--	--	--	346	1	3	--	--	--	--	349	4	68
Mexico	19	19	--	51	173	78	256	275	88	320	871	10	261
Poland	22	22	--	--	22	--	22	--	--	--	89	1	35
Turkey	--	--	--	--	--	300	--	--	--	--	300	4	111
United Kingdom	108	90	57	145	160	55	128	165	92	558	907	11	505
Other	1	--	3	--	3	--	--	164	41	250	173	(5)	68
Total	1,120	622	1,730	1,460	1,730	508	445	929	272	293	8,550	98	2,350
Zero.													

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

<sup>2</sup>September 2012 data were not available at time of publication.

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

<sup>4</sup>Not a soda-ash-producing country, material transhipped or possible erroneous data, according to the Journal of Commerce PIERS trade data.

<sup>5</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
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	
2011:						
January–December	10,700,000	26,900	5,470,000	61,800	--	5,220,000
January–August	7,100,000	14,200	3,470,000	55,100	--	3,590,000
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–August	7,320,000	8,550	3,910,000	68,500	--	3,350,000
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	--	362,000
July	933,000	445	431,000	47,100	--	455,000
August	1,020,000	929	513,000	38,400	--	468,000
September	962,000	NA	NA	--	11,700	NA

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.

TABLE 5  
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN  
THE UNITED STATES BY END USE, BY QUARTER<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

NAICS <sup>2</sup> code	End use	2011	2012		
			1st quarter	2d quarter	1st quarter– 2d quarter
3272	Glass:				
327213	Container	1,260	322 <sup>r</sup>	321	643
327211	Flat	973	219 <sup>r</sup>	226	445
327993	Fiber	132	29 <sup>r</sup>	28	57
327212	Other	122	27 <sup>r</sup>	29	56
	Total	2,480	597 <sup>r</sup>	604	1,200
32518	Chemicals	1,510	373 <sup>r</sup>	375	748
325611	Soaps and detergents	430	104 <sup>r</sup>	92	196
322	Pulp and paper	85	21 <sup>r</sup>	20	41
221310	Water treatment <sup>3</sup>	58	16 <sup>r</sup>	16	32
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	160	38 <sup>r</sup>	30	68
422	Distributors	282	71 <sup>r</sup>	72	143
	Other	138	33 <sup>r</sup>	49	82
	Total domestic consumption <sup>4</sup>	5,150	1,250 <sup>r</sup>	1,260	2,510
	Exports <sup>5</sup>	5,470	1,410 <sup>r</sup>	1,430	2,840
	Canada	249	63 <sup>r</sup>	56	119
	Total industry sales <sup>6</sup>	10,600	2,670 <sup>r</sup>	2,680	5,350
	Total sales from plants	15,800	2,670	2,720	5,390
	Total production	10,700	2,730	2,650	5,370

<sup>1</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>North American Industry Classification System.

<sup>3</sup>Includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors and purge liquors sold to powerplants for water treatment. Sales of mine water are excluded.

<sup>4</sup>Imports reported by the producer/importer have been distributed into appropriate end-use categories listed above.

<sup>5</sup>As reported by producers; includes Canada. Data may not necessarily agree with those reported by the U.S. Census Bureau for the same periods.

<sup>6</sup>Represents soda ash from domestic origin (production and inventory changes) and imports and exports. Includes soda ash sold by coproducers and distributed by purchasers into appropriate end-use categories.