



Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN SEPTEMBER 2018

U.S. natural soda ash production in September was 1.01 million metric tons (Mt), 9% more than the previous month's production and slightly more than that of September 2017. Ending stocks were 316,000 metric tons (t), 7% less than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in September 2018 was 1.16 Mt, slightly less than that of August 2018 and 22% less than that of September 2017 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash in August 2018 were 542,000 t, 11% less than those of July 2018 and 4% less than those of August 2017 (tables 2, 4). August 2018 imports of soda ash were 1,020 t, 35% less than those of July 2018 and 14% less than those of August 2017 (tables 3, 4). Soda ash import tonnages can differ significantly from month to month, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages.

Apparent consumption for August 2018 was 381,000 t, an 11% decrease from of July 2018 and a 10% decrease from that

of August 2017. Apparent consumption can change significantly from month to month mostly owing to changes in the quantity of exports but usually stabilizes over the course of the year. For the first 8 months of 2018, apparent consumption was 3.23 Mt, 4% less than that of the same period of 2017 (table 4).

All percentages in this report were calculated using unrounded data.

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TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2017:			
January–September	8,820	251	13,400
September	989	251	1,490
October	1,040	237	1,510
November	1,000	259	1,400
December	1,100	293	1,710
January–December	12,000	293	18,000
2018:			
January	992	309	1,630
February	945	307	1,490
March	1,020	317	1,620
April	958	318	1,480
May	952	310	1,450
June	961	299	1,420
July	1,070	333	1,490
August	930	340	1,180
September	1,010	316	1,160
January–September	8,840	316	12,900

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 OR LOCALITY, IN 2018^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August			January–August		
								Quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	78	20	18,700	8,520	17,200	11,700	6,560	--	--	--	62,700	1	\$14,100
Australia	40,000	--	28,300	--	33,000	33,000	26,500	--	--	--	161,000	4	32,800
Belgium	213	--	126	189	822	108	502	339	\$37	\$110	2,300	(4)	253
Brazil	102,000	68,400	62,100	117,000	30,200	81,700	65,200	74,100	13,400	181	600,000	13	117,000
Canada	18,100	17,900	17,900	19,400	21,300	13,200	17,000	14,200	3,150	222	139,000	3	28,300
Chile	39,600	8,100	45,900	59,400	34,600	38,400	49,400	--	--	--	275,000	6	60,200
China	--	50,100	60	47,100	60	10,100	--	40,100	6,470	162	147,000	3	25,200
Colombia	27,500	12,000	21,500	18,700	5,060	21,500	--	22,100	4,580	207	128,000	3	26,000
Costa Rica	5,000	--	5,000	--	--	5,000	--	5,500	1,220	222	20,500	(4)	4,530
Ecuador	6,000	--	4,000	--	7,150	--	--	8,200	1,710	208	25,400	1	4,890
El Salvador	--	--	5,000	--	--	3,000	5,000	--	--	--	13,000	(4)	2,600
Guatemala	3,500	--	8,620	--	8,860	5,000	7,700	--	--	--	33,700	1	7,410
India	29,000	--	28,500	--	--	--	16,000	--	--	--	73,500	2	11,200
Indonesia	23,500	112,000	45,000	53,200	48,900	18,700	68,500	15,700	3,450	220	386,000	8	82,300
Ireland	101	--	262	108	40	69	22	100	38	377	701	(4)	172
Japan	40,100	21,500	30,500	3,500	26,000	32,300	22,800	21,900	3,910	178	199,000	4	35,900
Korea, Republic of	17,000	15,000	18,700	21,500	27,700	18,000	31,700	34,100	6,710	197	184,000	4	35,000
Malaysia	3,000	31,000	34,200	35,500	28,100	23,000	46,000	45,000	9,500	211	246,000	5	51,000
Mexico	99,300	83,800	114,000	98,400	109,000	130,000	118,000	109,000	26,400	242	863,000	19	200,000
Netherlands	--	--	12,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12,000	(4)	2,400
New Zealand	--	--	6,000	--	--	--	7,600	--	--	--	13,600	(4)	2,340
Nigeria	--	--	10,000	8,000	134	--	8,000	--	--	--	26,100	1	8,080
Peru	15,000	--	13,500	75	22,200	75	75	15,100	3,320	220	66,000	1	14,500
Philippines	7,000	--	8,000	--	9,000	--	--	9,500	2,060	217	33,500	1	7,250
Saudi Arabia	857	11,100	11,600	98	59	23,500	--	271	30	110	47,400	1	7,330
South Africa	7,530	11,200	14,900	8,460	--	7,480	--	7,580	1,620	214	57,200	1	11,800
Spain	--	--	45	742	--	136	45	--	--	--	968	(4)	106
Taiwan	22,500	6,000	27,300	5,500	28,000	--	25,000	14,300	3,070	215	129,000	3	26,200
Thailand	33,000	25,500	18,400	21,000	42,100	17,000	24,000	34,900	7,630	219	216,000	5	47,200
Tunisia	--	--	--	25,000	--	--	27,000	--	--	--	52,000	1	11,500
United Arab Emirates	10,000	16,000	19,500	--	--	18,500	--	--	--	--	64,000	1	10,400
United Kingdom	8,520	5,070	16,100	--	15,400	--	14,200	--	--	--	59,400	1	11,400

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2—Continued.
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY, IN 2018^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August Quantity	August		January–August		
									Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Venezuela	--	5,170	--	12,300	--	--	--	11,100	2,930	263	28,500	1	7,460
Vietnam	--	35,400	25,000	24,100	29,000	--	21,500	59,000	12,800	217	194,000	4	41,500
Other	216	127	100	69	506	77	160	409	49	119	1,670	(4)	442
Total	559,000	536,000	671,000	588,000	544,000	512,000	609,000	542,000	114,000	210	4,560,000	100	949,000

-- Zero.

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

²September 2018 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 BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY, IN 2018^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Quantity	August		January–August		
									Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Bulgaria	342	342	738	451	342	126	612	324	\$118	\$366	3,280	31	\$1,130
China	57	257	336	228	241	76	100	93	60	643	1,390	13	877
France	--	62	69	69	19	19	69	19	7	350	325	3	189
Germany	1	3	1	4	61	3	2	--	--	--	75	1	268
Italy	190	342	190	21	398	791	604	--	--	--	2,540	24	449
Mexico	72	182	267	470	136	132	36	422	144	341	1,720	16	643
Poland	--	--	--	--	116	--	58	57	26	462	231	2	101
United Kingdom	94	91	94	286	86	73	70	92	64	701	885	8	602
Other	21	3	14	15	21	11	10	15	8	544	110	1	224
Total	776	1,280	1,710	1,550	1,420	1,230	1,560	1,020	428	419	10,500	100	4,480

-- Zero.

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

²September 2018 data were not available at time of publication.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Exports	Imports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2017:						
January–December	12,000,000	6,990,000	19,100	--	42,700	5,040,000
January–August	7,830,000	4,580,000	15,800	--	99,000 ^r	3,370,000
August	997,000	567,000	1,190	6,830	--	425,000
September	989,000	593,000	898	7,080	--	390,000
October	1,040,000	591,000	1,290	--	14,400	462,000
November	1,000,000	612,000	658	22,500	--	370,000
December	1,100,000	615,000	481	34,300	--	449,000
2018:						
January–August	7,830,000	4,560,000	10,500	47,000	--	3,230,000
January	992,000	559,000	776	15,700	--	419,000
February	945,000	536,000	1,280	--	1,710	412,000
March	1,020,000	671,000	1,710	9,160	--	342,000
April	958,000	588,000	1,550	1,580	--	371,000
May	952,000	544,000	1,420	--	8,440	417,000
June	961,000	512,000	1,230	--	10,400	461,000
July	1,070,000	609,000	1,560	34,000	--	428,000
August	930,000	542,000	1,020	7,160	--	381,000
September	1,010,000	NA	NA	--	24,700	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.