

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN AUGUST 2018

U.S. natural soda ash production in August was 930,000 metric tons (t), 13% less than the previous month's production and 7% less than that of August 2017 (table 1). Ending stocks were 340,000 t, slightly more than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in August 2018 was 1.18 million metric tons (Mt), 21% less than that of July 2018 and 22% less than that of August 2017.

Exports of soda ash in July 2018 were 609,000 t, 19% more than those of June 2018 but 4% less than those of July 2017 (table 4). July 2018 imports of soda ash were 1,560 t, 27% more than those of June 2018 but 9% less than those of July 2017. Soda ash import tonnages can differ significantly from month to month, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages.

Apparent consumption for July 2018 was 428,000 t, a 7% decrease from that of June 2018 and 5% less than that of July 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 7 seven months of 2018, apparent consumption was 2.85 Mt, 3% less than that of the same period of 2017.

Table 5 provides reported soda ash consumption statistics for the second quarter of 2018. During the second quarter, 591,000 t (48%) went to glassmaking and 369,000 t (30%) was consumed in the production of chemicals. Compared with that of the second quarter of 2017, the quantity of soda ash used for total glass decreased by 3%. Of all the glass categories listed, the only increase (11%) was for the production of fiberglass. Consumption of soda ash for chemicals increased by 9% compared with that of the second quarter of 2017.

All percentages in this report were calculated using unrounded data.

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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	
2017:			
January–August	7,830	244	11,900
August	997	244	1,510
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 <sup>r</sup>	1,490
August	930	340	1,180
January–August	7,830	340	11,800

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<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 OR LOCALITY, IN 2018<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July			January–July		
							Quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
Argentina	78	20	18,700	8,520	17,200	11,700	6,560	\$1,520	\$232	62,700	2	\$14,100
Australia	40,000	--	28,300	--	33,000	33,000	26,500	5,430	205	161,000	4	32,800
Belgium	213	--	126	189	822	108	502	55	110	1,960	)(	216
Brazil	102,000	68,400	62,100	117,000	30,200	81,700	65,200	13,500	207	526,000	13	104,000
Canada	18,100	17,900	17,900	19,400	21,300	13,200	17,000	3,760	222	125,000	3	25,200
Chile	39,600	8,100	45,900	59,400	34,600	38,400	49,400	10,600	216	275,000	7	60,200
China	--	50,100	60	47,100	60	10,100	--	--	--	107,000	3	18,700
Colombia	27,500	12,000	21,500	18,700	5,060	21,500	--	--	--	106,000	3	21,400
Costa Rica	5,000	--	5,000	--	--	5,000	--	--	--	15,000	)(	3,310
Ecuador	6,000	--	4,000	--	7,150	--	--	--	--	17,200	)(	3,190
El Salvador	--	--	5,000	--	--	3,000	5,000	985	197	13,000	)(	2,600
Guatemala	3,500	--	8,620	--	8,860	5,000	7,700	1,690	219	33,700	1	7,410
India	29,000	--	28,500	--	--	--	16,000	2,540	159	73,500	2	11,200
Indonesia	23,500	112,000	45,000	53,200	48,900	18,700	68,500	15,100	221	370,000	9	78,900
Ireland	101	--	262	108	40	69	22	22	980	601	)(	134
Japan	40,100	21,500	30,500	3,500	26,000	32,300	22,800	4,030	177	177,000	4	32,000
Korea, Republic of	17,000	15,000	18,700	21,500	27,700	18,000	31,700	6,110	192	150,000	4	28,200
Malaysia	3,000	31,000	34,200	35,500	28,100	23,000	46,000	9,910	215	201,000	5	41,500
Mexico	99,300	83,800	114,000	98,400	109,000	130,000	118,000	27,500	233	754,000	19	173,000
Netherlands	--	--	12,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	12,000	)(	2,400
New Zealand	--	--	6,000	--	--	--	7,600	1,300	171	13,600	)(	2,340
Nigeria	--	--	10,000	8,000	134	--	8,000	2,480	310	26,100	1	8,080
Peru	15,000	--	13,500	75	22,200	75	75	8	110	50,900	1	11,200
Philippines	7,000	--	8,000	--	9,000	--	--	--	--	24,000	1	5,190
Saudi Arabia	857	11,100	11,600	98	59	23,500	--	--	--	47,200	1	7,300
South Africa	7,530	11,200	14,900	8,460	--	7,480	--	--	--	49,600	1	10,200
Spain	--	--	45	742	--	136	45	5	110	968	)(	106
Taiwan	22,500	6,000	27,300	5,500	28,000	--	25,000	5,260	210	114,000	3	23,200
Thailand	33,000	25,500	18,400	21,000	42,100	17,000	24,000	5,190	216	181,000	5	39,600
Tunisia	--	--	--	25,000	--	--	27,000	5,940	220	52,000	1	11,500
United Arab Emirates	10,000	16,000	19,500	--	--	18,500	--	--	--	64,000	2	10,400
United Kingdom	8,520	5,070	16,100	--	15,400	--	14,200	2,730	192	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<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July			January–July		
							Quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
Venezuela	--	5,170	--	12,300	--	--	--	--	--	17,400	)4(	4,530
Vietnam	--	35,400	25,000	24,100	29,000	--	21,500	4,650	216	135,000	3	28,700
Other	216	127	100	69	506	77	160	26	164	1,260	)4(	393
Total	559,000	536,000	671,000	588,000	544,000	512,000	609,000	130,000	214	4,020,000	100	835,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>August 2018 data were not available at time of publication.

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

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY, IN 2018<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July			January–July		
							Quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
Bulgaria	342	342	738	451	342	126	612	\$203	\$332	2,950	31	\$1,010
China	57	257	336	228	241	76	100	66	663	1,300	14	818
France	--	62	69	69	19	19	69	37	545	306	3	182
Germany	1	3	1	4	61	3	2	43	18,200	75	1	268
Italy	190	342	190	21	398	791	604	138	229	2,540	27	449
Mexico	72	182	267	470	136	132	36	20	552	1,300	14	499
Poland	--	--	--	--	116	--	58	24	420	173	2	74
United Kingdom	94	91	94	286	86	73	70	39	555	793	8	537
Other	21	3	14	15	21	11	10	30	2,880	95	1	216
Total	776	1,280	1,710	1,550	1,420	1,230	1,560	601	385	9,520	100	4,060

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>August 2018 data were not available at time of publication.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Exports	Imports	Net stock		Apparent consumption <sup>2</sup>
				Increase	Decrease	
2017:						
January–December	12,000,000	6,990,000	19,100	--	42,700	5,040,000
January–July	6,840,000	4,010,000	14,600	--	99,000	2,940,000
July	1,020,000	637,000	1,730	--	68,600	452,000
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–July	6,900,000	4,020,000	9,520	39,800	--	2,850,000
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 <sup>r</sup>	--	428,000
August	930,000	NA	NA	7,160	--	NA

<sup>r</sup>Revised. 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	2017					2018		
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	1st quarter– 2d quarter
3272	Glass:								
327213	Container	273	296	284	271	1,120	279 <sup>r</sup>	284	563
327211	Flat	242	252	235	259	989	222 <sup>r</sup>	243	464
327993	Fiber	36	36	36	36	144	39	40	80
327212	Other	27	27	25	26	105	26 <sup>r</sup>	25	51
	Total	577	611	581	592	2,360	566 <sup>r</sup>	591	1,160
32518	Chemicals	344	338	333	352	1,370	338 <sup>r</sup>	369	707
325611	Soaps and detergents	73	74	73	73	293	79	66	145
322	Pulp and paper	10	9	12	9	40	12	13	26
221310	Water treatment <sup>3</sup>	8	9	9	11	37	11	12	24
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	54	50	61	51	215	47 <sup>r</sup>	43	90
4246	Distributors	78	73	71	66	288	79 <sup>r</sup>	74	153
	Other	65	75	83	84	307	71	69	140
	Total domestic consumption <sup>4</sup>	1,210	1,240	1,220	1,240	4,910	1,200 <sup>r</sup>	1,240	2,440
	Exports <sup>5</sup>	1,690	1,630	1,830	1,790	6,940	1,750 <sup>r</sup>	1,590	3,340
	Canada	53	46	50	48	197	21 <sup>r</sup>	18	39
	Total industry sales <sup>6</sup>	2,890	2,870	3,060	3,030	11,800	2,950 <sup>r</sup>	2,830	5,780
	Total sales from plants	2,920	2,930	3,170	3,090	12,100	2,960	2,860	5,820
	Total production	2,860	2,960	3,010	3,140	12,000	2,960	2,870	5,830

<sup>r</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 power plants 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.