



Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN APRIL 2008

U.S. natural soda ash production in April was 890,000 metric tons (t), 6.8% lower than the previous month's production of 955,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for April 2008 were 164,000 t, 15% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in April was 1.5 million metric tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in March 2008 was 524,000 t, slightly higher than in March 2007, and ending stocks were 2% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in March 2008 were 429,000 t and 1,200 t, respectively.

Cumulative soda ash statistics from January through March 2008, compared with those of January through March 2007, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were 120% higher (an unusually high increase for the quarter); exports, 6% higher; and apparent consumption, 4% lower.

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	
2007:			
January-April	3,590	XX	5,870
April	880	208	1,450
May	950	242	1,460
June	926	198	1,310
July	985	207	1,500
August	971	213	1,490
September	890	251	1,110
October	920	203	1,450
November	903	158	1,450
December	936	206	1,510
January-December	11,100	XX	17,200
2008:			
January	922	221	1,510
February	878	190	1,370
March	955	194	1,510
April	890	164	1,530
January-April	3,650	XX	5,920

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 MARCH 2008^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	81,500	\$14,000	\$172
Canada	41,400	5,910	143
Brazil	35,000	6,640	189
Australia	28,500	6,270	220
Chile	28,400	4,600	162
Colombia	23,800	4,000	168
Venezuela	23,200	3,970	171
Netherlands	21,100	3,290	156
Belgium	19,900	3,300	166
Saudi Arabia	18,000	3,130	174
Indonesia	17,000	3,310	194
Argentina	17,000	3,310	195
United Arab Emirates	16,000	2,780	174
France	15,000	1,880	125
Other	43,000	7,340	171
Total or average	429,000	73,700	172

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

²April 2008 data were not available at time of publication.

³Free alongside ship value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2008^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	Total	% of total
Angola	--	6	--	6	(3)
Argentina	14,000	--	17,000	31,000	2
Aruba	--	8	--	8	(3)
Australia	9,000	4,970	28,500	42,500	3
Bahrain	--	195	--	195	(3)
Belgium	17,600	10,600	19,900	48,100	4
Belize	--	2	--	2	(3)
Brazil	53,200	61,800	35,000	150,000	11
Cameroon	--	20	20	40	(3)
Canada	39,900	38,600	41,400	120,000	9
Chile	14,000	32,400	28,400	74,800	6
Colombia	8,500	5,500	23,800	37,800	3
Costa Rica	--	5,980	196	6,180	(3)
Dominican Republic	--	--	53	53	(3)
Ecuador	--	4,740	--	4,740	(3)
France	--	154	15,000	15,200	(3)
Germany	--	--	147	147	(3)
Guatemala	8,500	--	--	8,500	1
Indonesia	53,400	36,100	17,000	107,000	8
Ireland	--	223	--	223	(3)
Jamaica	7	--	--	7	(3)
Japan	--	24,700	--	24,700	1
Korea, Republic of	--	27,600	--	27,600	1
Lithuania	--	17,000	--	17,000	1
Malaysia	--	18,200	--	18,200	1
Mexico	84,600	71,500	81,500	238,000	18
Netherlands	--	176	21,100	21,300	(3)
New Zealand	5,250	--	4,820	10,100	1
Pakistan	--	--	1	1	(3)
Panama	--	7,490	1,540	9,030	1
Peru	--	8,080	--	8,080	1
Philippines	--	13,100	--	13,100	1
Portugal	--	9,090	10,000	19,100	1
Saudi Arabia	15,200	--	18,000	33,200	2
South Africa	6,580	21,400	6,480	34,400	3
Spain	--	15,400	9,800	25,200	2
Taiwan	--	34,300	9,950	44,200	3
Thailand	13,000	19,000	--	32,000	2
United Arab Emirates	11,800	--	16,000	27,800	2
Venezuela	32,400	17,900	23,200	73,600	6
Vietnam	--	7,000	--	7,000	1
Total	387,000	513,000	429,000	1,330,000	100

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

²April 2008 data were not available at time of publication.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH^{1,2}

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2007:		
January-March	1,740	547
April	394	140
May	1,200	418
June	405	118
July	1,150	262
August	610	200
September	855	316
October	1,910	423
November	412	152
December	465	184
January-December	9,140	2,760
2008:		
January	1,870	326
February	774	203
March	1,210	222
January-March	3,850	751

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

²April 2008 data were not available at time of publication.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2007:						
January-March	2,710,000	1,740	1,260,000	--	51,200	1,500,000
April	880,000	394	420,000	--	30,400	491,000
May	950,000	1,200	431,000	33,900	--	487,000
June	926,000	405	378,000	--	43,600	592,000
July	985,000	1,150	521,000	9,030	--	456,000
August	971,000	610	398,000	6,160	--	568,000
September	890,000	855	394,000	37,700	--	459,000
October	920,000	1,910	425,000	--	47,700	545,000
November	903,000	412	513,000	--	45,100	436,000
December	936,000	465	392,000	47,800	--	497,000
January-December	11,100,000	9,140	5,130,000	--	83,400	6,030,000
2008:						
January	922,000	1,870	387,000	14,500	--	523,000
February	878,000	774	513,000	--	30,100	396,000
March	955,000	1,210	429,000	3,820	--	524,000
April	890,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-March	2,760,000	3,850	1,330,000	--	11,800	1,440,000

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.