

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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**For information, contact:**

Dennis S. Kostick, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
989 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192  
Telephone: (703) 648-7715, Fax: (703) 648-7757  
E-mail: [dkostick@usgs.gov](mailto:dkostick@usgs.gov)

Martha L. Jackson (Data)  
Telephone: (703) 648-7944  
Fax: (703) 648-7975  
E-mail: [mjackson@usgs.gov](mailto:mjackson@usgs.gov)

**Internet:** <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

## SODA ASH IN AUGUST 2008

U.S. natural soda ash production in August was 976,000 metric tons (t), 8% higher than the previous month's production of 905,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for August 2008 were 222,000 t, 34% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in August 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 July 2008 was 534,000 t, 17% higher than in July 2007, and ending stocks were 20% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in July 2008 were 417,000 t and 632 t, respectively.

Cumulative soda ash statistics from January through July 2008, compared with those of January through July 2007, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were 52% higher; exports were 3% higher; and apparent consumption, 3% lower. Although imports have risen dramatically in 2008 compared with those of 2007, they still represent less than 1% of apparent consumption.

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>	Ending stocks	
2007:			
January-August	7,420	XX	11,600
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
May	987	210	1,490
June	935	211	1,480
July	905	166	1,070
August	976	222	1,480
January-August	7,450	XX	11,400

XX Not applicable.

<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 JULY 2008<sup>1,2</sup>

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	75,600	\$12,800	\$169
Indonesia	40,000	6,900	172
Brazil	37,300	6,980	187
Canada	30,100	4,430	147
Taiwan	22,800	4,520	198
Thailand	22,500	3,500	156
Belgium	21,100	2,990	141
Venezuela	20,900	3,770	180
Chile	20,700	3,810	184
France	17,300	2,160	125
Saudi Arabia	16,000	2,780	174
Argentina	14,200	2,760	195
United Arab Emirates	12,000	2,090	174
Netherlands	11,100	1,670	150
Other	55,100	11,400	206
Total or average	417,000	72,500	174

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

<sup>2</sup>August 2008 data were not available at time of publication.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2008<sup>1, 2</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Total	% of total
Angola	--	6	--	--	177	4	--	187	(3)
Argentina	14,000	--	17,000	58	17,400	--	14,200	62,600	2
Aruba	--	8	--	--	--	--	--	8	(3)
Australia	9,000	4,970	28,500	--	--	12,200	4,380	59,100	2
Bahrain	--	195	--	--	159	195	--	549	(3)
Belgium	17,600	10,600	19,900	38,600	11,000	21,900	21,100	141,000	5
Belize	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	2	(3)
Brazil	53,200	61,800	35,000	50,200	49,800	45,200	37,300	333,000	11
Cameroon	--	20	20	--	--	--	--	40	(3)
Canada	39,900	38,600	41,400	33,400	30,900	30,600	30,100	245,000	8
Chile	14,000	32,400	28,400	13,500	35,900	30,900	20,700	176,000	6
China	--	--	--	38	--	2	84	124	(3)
Colombia	8,500	5,500	23,800	--	10,300	10,300	7,900	66,300	2
Costa Rica	--	5,980	196	--	7,330	4,230	--	17,700	1
Dominican Republic	--	--	53	--	--	--	4,420	4,470	(3)
Ecuador	--	4,740	--	--	--	3,500	100	8,340	(3)
Finland	--	--	--	17	--	--	--	17	(3)
France	--	154	15,000	--	--	10,000	17,300	42,500	1
Germany	--	--	147	--	--	117	103	367	(3)
Guatemala	8,500	--	--	9,000	--	19	9,080	26,600	1
Indonesia	53,400	36,100	17,000	16,200	40,300	19,000	40,000	222,000	7
Italy	--	--	--	--	19	535	38	592	(3)
Ireland	--	223	--	614	--	--	--	837	(3)
Jamaica	7	--	--	18	--	--	--	25	(3)
Japan	--	24,700	--	35,500	--	40,500	6,000	107,000	3
Korea, Republic of	--	27,600	--	24,100	--	18,500	10,000	80,200	3
Lithuania	--	17,000	--	17,400	--	17,500	--	51,900	2
Malaysia	--	18,200	--	--	8,500	5,100	7,500	39,300	1
Mexico	84,600	71,500	81,500	88,500	79,300	84,900	75,600	566,000	18
Netherlands	--	176	21,100	176	--	37,000	11,100	69,600	2
New Zealand	5,250	--	4,820	6,000	99	163	--	16,300	1
Nicaragua	--	--	--	--	--	--	54	54	(3)
Nigeria	--	--	--	--	--	--	11	11	(3)
Oman	--	--	--	100	439	301	100	940	(3)
Pakistan	--	--	1	--	1	12	1	15	(3)
Panama	--	7,490	1,540	--	--	1,920	--	10,900	(3)
Peru	--	8,080	--	--	5,700	8,500	--	22,300	1
Philippines	--	13,100	--	11,000	--	10,000	--	34,100	1
Portugal	--	9,090	10,000	--	--	10,000	--	29,100	1
Saudi Arabia	15,200	--	18,000	13,000	13,700	--	16,000	75,900	2
Sierra Leone	--	--	--	--	35	--	--	35	(3)
Slovakia	--	--	--	18	39	--	--	57	(3)
South Africa	6,580	21,400	6,480	10,500	7,840	10,700	5,360	68,800	2
Spain	--	15,400	9,800	10,000	--	17,100	--	52,300	2
Taiwan	--	34,300	9,950	21,000	--	33,700	22,800	122,000	4
Thailand	13,000	19,000	--	16,000	18,800	--	22,500	89,300	3
United Arab Emirates	11,800	--	16,000	10,000	9,660	57	12,000	59,500	2
Venezuela	32,400	17,900	23,200	5,000	35,800	37,900	20,900	173,000	6
Vietnam	--	7,000	--	--	--	8,000	--	15,000	(3)
Total	387,000	513,000	429,000	430,000	383,000	531,000	417,000	3,090,000	100

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>August 2008 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH<sup>1, 2</sup>

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)
2007:		
January-July	4,890	1,490
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
April	895	204
May	906	308
June	2,270	720
July	632	214
January-July	8,550	2,200

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

<sup>2</sup>August 2008 data were not available at time of publication.

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
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	
2007:						
January-July	6,450,000	4,890	3,010,000	--	82,300	3,520,000
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	895	430,000	--	30,300	492,000
May	987,000	906	383,000	45,600	--	559,000
June	935,000	2,270	531,000	1,550	--	406,000
July	905,000	632	417,000	--	45,000	534,000
August	976,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-July	6,470,000	8,550	3,090,000	--	40,000	3,430,000

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.