

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN AUGUST 2007

U.S. natural soda ash production in August was 971,000 metric tons (t), slightly lower than the previous month's production of 985,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 213,000 t, 2.9% 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 was 456,000 t, 16.2% lower than in July 2006, and ending stocks were 20% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in July 2007 were 521,000 t and 1,150 t, respectively.

The trends in annual cumulative soda ash statistics through July 2007, compared with those through July 2006, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were 29.7% higher; exports, 8.7% higher; and apparent consumption, slightly lower.

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	
2006:			
January-August	7,270	XX	10,700
August	926	230	1,500
September	859	212	1,480
October	955	203	1,560
November	930	226	1,480
December	946	290	1,490
January-December	11,000	XX	16,700
2007:			
January	864	260	1,420
February	880	227	1,400
March	962	238	1,590
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
January-August	7,420	XX	11,600

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 2007<sup>1,2</sup>

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	80,700	\$11,800	\$147
Brazil	69,000	9,240	134
Chile	37,100	5,190	140
Canada	36,300	4,980	137
Taiwan	36,100	5,730	159
Spain	32,900	4,570	139
Japan	31,500	3,920	124
Venezuela	25,800	4,270	165
Saudi Arabia	21,000	2,850	136
Thailand	20,600	3,040	148
Argentina	19,100	2,720	142
Korea, Republic of	18,200	2,780	153
Other	93,200	13,600	146
Total or average	521,000	74,700	144

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

<sup>2</sup>August 2007 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 2007<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Total	% of total
Argentina	15,600	10	2	7,300	16,000	9	19,100	58,100	2
Aruba	6	--	--	--	--	--	6	12	(3)
Australia	--	12,200	14,000	--	22,100	9,060	--	57,400	2
Belgium	26	32,800	--	29,000	17,500	25,900	9,850	115,000	4
Botswana	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	(3)
Brazil	51,000	54,800	31,400	69,500	13,300	64,500	69,000	353,000	12
Cameroon	--	57	--	39	20	--	--	116	(3)
Canada	39,600	37,500	44,300	34,600	31,600	36,800	36,300	261,000	9
Chile	10,300	25,900	37,700	10,200	25,600	28,300	37,100	175,000	6
China	--	17,900	3	10,300	--	37	11,300	39,600	1
Colombia	--	19,700	--	24,000	--	26,700	16,100	86,400	3
Costa Rica	--	6,300	5	2,000	--	6,010	--	14,300	(3)
Ecuador	--	3,000	--	--	--	207	9,270	12,500	(3)
El Salvador	--	--	--	--	--	9,000	--	9,000	(3)
Finland	--	17	--	--	--	--	34	51	(3)
France	--	15,000	--	198	15,000	45	7,500	37,800	(3)
Germany	--	20	105	95	40	158	22	440	(3)
Grenada	--	--	--	--	--	--	10	10	(3)
Guatemala	--	5,590	2,500	--	--	9,100	--	17,200	(3)
Iceland	--	--	--	18	144	--	--	162	(3)
Indonesia	54,700	113	55,200	27,500	20,000	27,000	--	184,000	6
Ireland	--	4	--	--	--	--	--	4	(3)
Italy	--	--	33	33	108	49	49	272	(3)
Jamaica	--	--	7	--	6	27	--	40	(3)
Japan	16,800	15,100	17,000	37,900	26,800	14,100	31,500	159,000	5
Korea, Republic of	9,430	15,500	13,000	10,600	12,500	17,400	18,200	96,700	3
Lithuania	--	--	--	--	16,100	--	--	16,100	1
Malaysia	15,300	--	10,000	--	19,000	--	39	44,300	1
Mexico	69,100	59,200	73,000	62,200	72,200	76,100	80,700	492,000	16
Netherlands	11,000	12,600	10,100	9,890	28,000	62	10,900	82,500	3
Netherlands Antilles	--	--	--	--	5	--	--	5	(3)
New Zealand	--	--	5,970	--	4	--	6,000	12,000	(3)
Nicaragua	--	78	--	--	--	--	--	78	(3)
Panama	--	2,000	--	1,500	--	2,000	--	5,500	(3)
Peru	--	8,100	--	--	8,530	--	9,100	25,700	(3)
Philippines	--	--	10,500	7,500	8,100	--	--	26,100	1
Portugal	--	--	9,350	8,570	--	--	--	17,900	1
Russia	--	7	--	--	--	--	--	7	(3)
Saudi Arabia	--	10,700	18,000	5,060	--	--	21,000	54,800	2
South Africa	6,510	6,550	6,990	--	10,700	--	--	30,800	1
Spain	14,700	20,000	--	--	17,700	8,190	32,900	93,500	3
Suriname	--	--	--	--	30	--	--	30	(3)
Sweden	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	(3)
Taiwan	21,300	33,400	18,800	20,100	14,600	--	36,100	144,000	5
Thailand	10,500	--	27,800	23,200	7,000	--	20,600	89,100	3
United Arab Emirates	--	6,270	--	6,940	--	--	6,000	19,200	1
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	20	(3)
Venezuela	35,000	24,600	24,800	11,500	28,000	17,100	25,800	167,000	6
Vietnam	--	--	3,500	--	--	--	7,000	10,500	(3)
Total	381,000	445,000	434,000	420,000	431,000	378,000	521,000	3,010,000	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 2007 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)
2006:		
January-July	3,770	\$1,310
August	297	102
September	487	192
October	757	187
November	478	167
December	1,060	332
January-December	6,850	2,290
2007:		
January	477	184
February	501	148
March	763	215
April	394	140
May	1,200	418
June	405	118
July	1,150	262
January-July	4,890	1,490

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

<sup>2</sup>August 2007 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	
2006:						
January-July	6,340,000	3,770	2,770,000	14,800 <sup>r</sup>	--	3,560,000
July	952,000	359	382,000	26,800	--	544,000
August	926,000	297	391,000	--	27,400	563,000
September	859,000	487	364,000	--	18,700	514,000
October	955,000	757	483,000	--	8,470	482,000
November	930,000	478	366,000	23,400	--	541,000
December	946,000	1,060	452,000	63,100	--	432,000
January-December	11,000,000	6,850	4,820,000	46,900	--	6,100,000
2007:						
January	864,000	477	381,000	--	29,500	513,000
February	880,000	501	445,000	--	33,000	468,000
March	962,000	763	434,000	11,200	--	517,000
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	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-July	6,450,000	4,890	3,010,000	--	82,300	3,520,000

<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.