



Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN SEPTEMBER 2007

U.S. natural soda ash production in September was 937,000 metric tons (t), 3.5% lower than the previous month's production of 971,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 251,000 t, 17.8% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in September was 1.47 million metric tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in August was 568,000 t, slightly higher than in August 2006, and ending stocks were 4.7% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in August 2007 were 398,000 t and 610 t, respectively.

The trends in annual cumulative soda ash statistics through August 2007, compared with those through August 2006, were as follows: production was 2% higher; imports were 35.3% higher; exports, 7.9% higher; and apparent consumption, slightly 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	
2006:			
January-September	8,130	XX	12,100
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
September	937	251	1,470
January-September	8,360	XX	13,100

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 AUGUST 2007^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	83,800	\$11,800	\$141
Indonesia	44,500	6,560	147
Venezuela	37,700	5,570	148
Canada	36,700	5,140	140
Japan	35,200	4,320	123
Korea, Republic of	23,600	3,660	155
Brazil	21,600	2,990	139
South Africa	18,700	2,580	138
Lithuania	17,200	1,780	104
Belgium	15,000	1,800	120
Taiwan	14,900	2,240	150
Other	49,100	6,700	136
Total or average	398,000	55,200	137

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

²September 2007 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 2007^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Total	% of total
Argentina	15,600	10	2	7,300	16,000	9	19,100	9,020	67,100	2
Aruba	6	--	--	--	--	--	6	5	17	(3)
Australia	--	12,200	14,000	--	22,100	9,060	--	12,000	69,400	2
Belgium	26	32,800	--	29,000	17,500	25,900	9,850	15,000	130,000	4
Botswana	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	(3)
Brazil	51,000	54,800	31,400	69,500	13,300	64,500	69,000	21,600	375,000	11
Cameroon	--	57	--	39	20	--	--	--	116	(3)
Canada	39,600	37,500	44,300	34,600	31,600	36,800	36,300	36,700	297,000	9
Chile	10,300	25,900	37,700	10,200	25,600	28,300	37,100	--	175,000	5
China	--	17,900	3	10,300	--	37	11,300	--	39,600	1
Colombia	--	19,700	--	24,000	--	26,700	16,100	7,000	93,400	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	45	37,900	1
Germany	--	20	105	95	40	158	22	--	440	(3)
Grenada	--	--	--	--	--	--	10	--	10	(3)
Guatemala	--	5,590	2,500	--	--	9,100	--	--	17,200	1
Iceland	--	--	--	18	144	--	--	180	342	(3)
Indonesia	54,700	113	55,200	27,500	20,000	27,000	--	44,500	229,000	7
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	35,200	194,000	6
Korea, Republic of	9,430	15,500	13,000	10,600	12,500	17,400	18,200	23,600	120,000	4
Lithuania	--	--	--	--	16,100	--	--	17,200	33,200	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	83,800	576,000	17
Netherlands	11,000	12,600	10,100	9,890	28,000	62	10,900	23	82,500	2
Netherlands Antilles	--	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	5	(3)
New Zealand	--	--	5,970	--	4	--	6,000	4,000	16,000	(3)
Nicaragua	--	78	--	--	--	--	--	80	158	(3)
Panama	--	2,000	--	1,500	--	2,000	--	--	5,500	(3)
Peru	--	8,100	--	--	8,530	--	9,100	--	25,700	1
Philippines	--	--	10,500	7,500	8,100	--	--	9,500	35,600	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
Sierra Leone	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	33	33	(3)
South Africa	6,510	6,550	6,990	--	10,700	--	--	18,700	49,400	1
Spain	14,700	20,000	--	--	17,700	8,190	32,900	7,230	101,000	3
Suriname	--	--	--	--	30	--	--	--	30	(3)
Sweden	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	(3)
Taiwan	21,300	33,400	18,800	20,100	14,600	--	36,100	14,900	159,000	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	37,700	205,000	6
Vietnam	--	--	3,500	--	--	--	7,000	--	10,500	(3)
Total	381,000	445,000	434,000	420,000	431,000	378,000	521,000	398,000	3,410,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²September 2007 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)
2006:		
January-August	4,060	\$1,410
August	685	227
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
August	610	200
January-August	5,500	1,690

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

²September 2007 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	
2006:						
January-August	7,270,000	4,060	3,160,000	--	12,500 ^r	4,130,000
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	610	398,000	6,160	--	568,000
September	937,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-August	7,420,000	5,500	3,410,000	--	76,100	4,090,000

^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.