

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN OCTOBER 2007

U.S. natural soda ash production in October was 920,000 metric tons (t), 1.8% lower than the previous month's production of 937,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 203,000 t, 19.1% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in October 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 September was 506,000 t, slightly lower than in September 2006, and ending stocks were 18.4% higher.

Exports and imports of soda ash in September 2007 were 394,000 t and 855 t, respectively.

The trends in annual cumulative soda ash statistics through September 2007, compared with those through September 2006, were as follows: production was 2.8% higher; imports were 39.6% 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-October	9,080	XX	13,700
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
October	920	203	1,470
January-October	9,280	XX	14,600

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 SEPTEMBER 2007^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	75,800	\$11,400	\$150
Brazil	35,000	4,910	140
Canada	34,500	4,820	140
Saudi Arabia	32,500	4,490	138
Indonesia	26,800	3,910	146
Chile	26,600	3,840	144
Taiwan	21,200	3,380	160
Belgium	18,500	2,260	122
United Arab Emirates	17,700	2,450	139
South Africa	17,200	2,180	126
Thailand	15,200	2,330	153
Other	72,600	10,500	145
Total or average	394,000	56,500	144

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

²October 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	September	Total	% of total
Argentina	15,600	10	2	7,300	16,000	9	19,100	9,020	2	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	18,500	149,000	4
Botswana	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	(3)
Brazil	51,000	54,800	31,400	69,500	13,300	64,500	69,000	21,600	35,000	410,000	11
Cameroon	--	57	--	39	20	--	--	--	--	116	(3)
Canada	39,600	37,500	44,300	34,600	31,600	36,800	36,300	36,700	34,500	332,000	9
Chile	10,300	25,900	37,700	10,200	25,600	28,300	37,100	--	26,600	202,000	5
China	--	17,900	3	10,300	--	37	11,300	--	--	39,600	1
Colombia	--	19,700	--	24,000	--	26,700	16,100	7,000	13,100	106,000	3
Costa Rica	--	6,300	5	2,000	--	6,010	--	--	4,000	18,300	(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	7,500	45,400	1
Germany	--	20	105	95	40	158	22	--	62	502	(3)
Grenada	--	--	--	--	--	--	10	--	--	10	(3)
Guatemala	--	5,590	2,500	--	--	9,100	--	--	10,600	27,800	1
Iceland	--	--	--	18	144	--	--	180	--	342	(3)
Indonesia	54,700	113	55,200	27,500	20,000	27,000	--	44,500	26,800	256,000	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	5
Korea, Republic of	9,430	15,500	13,000	10,600	12,500	17,400	18,200	23,600	10,300	131,000	3
Lithuania	--	--	--	--	16,100	--	--	17,200	--	33,200	1
Malaysia	15,300	--	10,000	--	19,000	--	39	--	12,000	56,300	1
Mexico	69,100	59,200	73,000	62,200	72,200	76,100	80,700	83,800	75,800	652,000	17
Netherlands	11,000	12,600	10,100	9,890	28,000	62	10,900	23	5,760	88,300	2
Netherlands Antilles	--	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	--	5	(3)
New Zealand	--	--	5,970	--	4	--	6,000	4,000	--	16,000	(3)
Nicaragua	--	78	--	--	--	--	--	80	--	158	(3)
Oman	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	(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	--	--	--	--	9,310	27,200	1
Russia	--	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7	(3)
Saudi Arabia	--	10,700	18,000	5,060	--	--	21,000	--	32,500	87,400	2
Sierra Leone	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	33	--	33	(3)
South Africa	6,510	6,550	6,990	--	10,700	--	--	18,700	17,200	66,700	2
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	21,200	180,000	5
Thailand	10,500	--	27,800	23,200	7,000	--	20,600	--	15,200	104,000	3
United Arab Emirates	--	6,270	--	6,940	--	--	6,000	--	17,700	36,900	1
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	--	2	22	(3)
Venezuela	35,000	24,600	24,800	11,500	28,000	17,100	25,800	37,700	--	205,000	5
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	394,000	3,800,000	100

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

²October 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-September	4,550	\$1,600
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
September	855	316
January-September	6,350	2,000

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

²October 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-September	8,130,000	4,550	3,520,000	--	31,200	4,640,000
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	855	394,000	37,700	--	506,000
October	920,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-September	8,360,000	6,350	3,800,000	--	38,400	4,600,000

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.