

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN OCTOBER 2008

U.S. natural soda ash production in October was 988,000 metric tons (t), 5.6% higher than the previous month's production of 935,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for October 2008 were 241,000 t, 9% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in October 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 September 2008 was 475,000 t, 4% higher than in September 2007, and ending stocks were 6% higher.

Exports and imports of soda ash in August 2008 were 417,000 t and 658 t, respectively.

Cumulative soda ash statistics from January through September 2008, compared with those of January through September 2007, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were 44% 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-October	9,230	XX	14,200
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
September	935	265	1,470
October	988	241	1,500
January-October	9,370	XX	14,400

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

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	109,000	\$18,600	\$170
Brazil	44,900	12,400	277
Canada	29,200	4,420	151
Venezuela	26,800	4,960	185
Colombia	23,200	3,880	167
Belgium	23,000	3,210	140
Spain	22,600	2,840	126
Saudi Arabia	19,000	3,260	171
Chile	18,000	3,690	205
Korea, Republic of	17,100	3,930	230
Australia	16,000	3,780	236
Indonesia	15,500	3,410	220
Malaysia	11,500	2,720	236
Other	41,600	7,680	184
Total or average	417,000	78,800	189

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

<sup>2</sup>October 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	August	September	Total	% of total
Andorra, Principality of	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	179	--	179	(3)
Angola	--	6	--	--	177	4	--	--	--	187	(3)
Argentina	14,000	--	17,000	58	17,400	--	14,200	--	16,000	78,600	2
Aruba	--	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8	(3)
Australia	9,000	4,970	28,500	--	--	12,200	4,380	23,600	7,230	89,900	2
Bahrain	--	195	--	--	159	195	--	195	351	1,100	(3)
Belgium	17,600	10,600	19,900	38,600	11,000	21,900	21,100	1,930	23,000	166,000	4
Belize	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	(3)
Brazil	53,200	61,800	35,000	50,200	49,800	45,200	37,300	24,000	44,900	401,000	10
Cameroon	--	20	20	--	--	--	--	--	--	40	(3)
Canada	39,900	38,600	41,400	33,400	30,900	30,600	30,100	32,400	29,200	307,000	8
Chile	14,000	32,400	28,400	13,500	35,900	30,900	20,700	25,800	18,000	220,000	6
China	--	--	--	38	--	2	84	--	68	192	(3)
Colombia	8,500	5,500	23,800	--	10,300	10,300	7,900	10,100	23,200	99,600	3
Costa Rica	--	5,980	196	--	7,330	4,230	--	--	--	17,700	(3)
Dominican Republic	--	--	53	--	--	--	4,420	--	--	4,470	(3)
Ecuador	--	4,740	--	--	--	3,500	100	100	--	8,440	(3)
Finland	--	--	--	17	--	--	--	--	--	17	(3)
France	--	154	15,000	--	--	10,000	17,300	97	--	42,600	1
Germany	--	--	147	--	--	117	103	15	162	544	(3)
Guatemala	8,500	--	--	9,000	--	19	9,080	47	4,500	31,100	1
Indonesia	53,400	36,100	17,000	16,200	40,300	19,000	40,000	27,400	15,500	265,000	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	26,500	9,000	142,000	4
Korea, Republic of	--	27,600	--	24,100	--	18,500	10,000	9,000	17,100	106,000	3
Lithuania	--	17,000	--	17,400	--	17,500	--	17,500	--	69,300	2
Malaysia	--	18,200	--	--	8,500	5,100	7,500	--	11,500	50,800	1
Mexico	84,600	71,500	81,500	88,500	79,300	84,900	75,600	93,500	109,000	768,000	20
Morocco	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,350	1,350	(3)
Netherlands	--	176	21,100	176	--	37,000	11,100	11,000	58	80,600	2
New Zealand	5,250	--	4,820	6,000	99	163	--	3,280	--	19,600	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	--	--	34	11,000	(3)
Peru	--	8,080	--	--	5,700	8,500	--	9,000	--	31,300	1
Philippines	--	13,100	--	11,000	--	10,000	--	--	6,880	41,000	1
Portugal	--	9,090	10,000	--	--	10,000	--	--	--	29,100	1
Saudi Arabia	15,200	--	18,000	13,000	13,700	--	16,000	11,000	19,000	106,000	3
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	--	9,800	22,600	84,700	2
Taiwan	--	34,300	9,950	21,000	--	33,700	22,800	38,500	--	160,000	4
Thailand	13,000	19,000	--	16,000	18,800	--	22,500	--	--	89,300	2
Trinidad	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7	7	(3)
United Arab Emirates	11,800	--	16,000	10,000	9,660	57	12,000	12,000	12,000	83,500	2
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	10	12	(3)
Venezuela	32,400	17,900	23,200	5,000	35,800	37,900	20,900	27,000	26,800	227,000	6
Vietnam	--	7,000	--	--	--	8,000	--	--	--	15,000	(3)
Total	387,000	513,000	429,000	430,000	383,000	531,000	417,000	414,000	417,000	3,920,000	100

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>October 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-September	6,350	2,000
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	1,130	360
July	632	214
August	1,070	407
September	658	282
January-September	9,140	2,530

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

<sup>2</sup>October 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-September	8,310,000 <sup>r</sup>	6,350	3,800,000	--	38,400	4,550,000 <sup>r</sup>
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	1,130	531,000	1,550	--	405,000
July	905,000	632	417,000	--	45,000	534,000
August	976,000	1,070	414,000	55,700	--	508,000
September	935,000	658	417,000	43,100	--	475,000
October	988,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-September	8,380,000	9,140	3,920,000	58,900	--	4,410,000

<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.