

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

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

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

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

SODA ASH IN JULY 2008

U.S. natural soda ash production in July was 905,000 metric tons (t), 3% lower than the previous month's production of 935,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for July 2008 were 166,000 t, 21% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in July was 1.1 million metric tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in June 2008 was 406,000 t, 31% lower than in June 2007, and ending stocks were 7% higher.

Exports and imports of soda ash in June 2008 were 531,000 t and 2,270 t, respectively.

Cumulative soda ash statistics from January through June 2008, compared with those of January through June 2007, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were 112% higher; exports were 7% higher; and apparent consumption, 6% lower. Although imports have risen dramatically in 2008 compared with those of 2007, they still represent less than 3% of apparent consumption.

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	
2007:			
January-July	6,450	XX	10,200
July	985	207	1,500
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
January-July	6,470	XX	9,950

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 JUNE 2008^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	84,900	\$14,300	\$169
Brazil	45,200	7,790	172
Japan	40,500	6,690	165
Venezuela	37,900	7,470	197
Netherlands	37,000	6,290	170
Taiwan	33,700	6,740	200
Chile	30,900	5,670	183
Canada	30,600	4,530	148
Belgium	21,900	3,010	138
Indonesia	19,000	4,390	231
Korea, Republic of	18,500	3,970	215
Lithuania	17,500	2,030	116
Spain	17,100	2,250	132
Australia	12,200	1,830	150
Other	83,700	15,500	185
Total or average	531,000	92,500	174

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

²July 2008 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 2008^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total	% of total
Angola	--	6	--	--	177	4	187	(3)
Argentina	14,000	--	17,000	58	17,400	--	48,400	2
Aruba	--	8	--	--	--	--	8	(3)
Australia	9,000	4,970	28,500	--	--	12,200	54,700	2
Bahrain	--	195	--	--	159	195	549	(3)
Belgium	17,600	10,600	19,900	38,600	11,000	21,900	120,000	4
Belize	--	2	--	--	--	--	2	(3)
Brazil	53,200	61,800	35,000	50,200	49,800	45,200	295,000	11
Cameroon	--	20	20	--	--	--	40	(3)
Canada	39,900	38,600	41,400	33,400	30,900	30,600	215,000	8
Chile	14,000	32,400	28,400	13,500	35,900	30,900	155,000	6
China	--	--	--	38	--	2	40	(3)
Colombia	8,500	5,500	23,800	--	10,300	10,300	58,400	2
Costa Rica	--	5,980	196	--	7,330	4,230	17,700	1
Dominican Republic	--	--	53	--	--	--	53	(3)
Ecuador	--	4,740	--	--	--	3,500	8,240	(3)
Finland	--	--	--	17	--	--	17	(3)
France	--	154	15,000	--	--	10,000	25,200	1
Germany	--	--	147	--	--	117	264	(3)
Guatemala	8,500	--	--	9,000	--	19	17,500	1
Indonesia	53,400	36,100	17,000	16,200	40,300	19,000	182,000	7
Italy	--	--	--	--	19	535	554	(3)
Ireland	--	223	--	614	--	--	837	(3)
Jamaica	7	--	--	18	--	--	25	(3)
Japan	--	24,700	--	35,500	--	40,500	101,000	4
Korea, Republic of	--	27,600	--	24,100	--	18,500	70,200	3
Lithuania	--	17,000	--	17,400	--	17,500	51,900	2
Malaysia	--	18,200	--	--	8,500	5,100	31,800	1
Mexico	84,600	71,500	81,500	88,500	79,300	84,900	490,000	18
Netherlands	--	176	21,100	176	--	37,000	58,400	2
New Zealand	5,250	--	4,820	6,000	99	163	16,300	1
Oman	--	--	--	100	439	301	840	(3)
Pakistan	--	--	1	--	1	12	14	(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	--	59,900	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	63,500	2
Spain	--	15,400	9,800	10,000	--	17,100	52,300	2
Taiwan	--	34,300	9,950	21,000	--	33,700	98,900	4
Thailand	13,000	19,000	--	16,000	18,800	--	66,800	3
United Arab Emirates	11,800	--	16,000	10,000	9,660	57	47,500	2
Venezuela	32,400	17,900	23,200	5,000	35,800	37,900	152,000	6
Vietnam	--	7,000	--	--	--	8,000	15,000	1
Total	387,000	513,000	429,000	430,000	383,000	531,000	2,670,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²July 2008 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)
2007:		
January-June	3,740	1,220
July	1,150	262
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
January-June	7,920	1,980

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

²July 2008 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	
2007:						
January-June	5,460,000	3,740	2,490,000	--	91,300	3,070,000
July	985,000	1,150	521,000	9,030	--	456,000
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	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-June	5,570,000	7,920	2,670,000	5,060	--	2,900,000

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.