

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN SEPTEMBER 2008

U.S. natural soda ash production in September was 935,000 metric tons (t), 4.2% lower than the previous month's production of 976,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for September 2008 were 265,000 t, 20% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in September 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 August 2008 was 508,000 t, 11% lower than in August 2007, and ending stocks were 4% higher.

Exports and imports of soda ash in August 2008 were 414,000 t and 1,070 t, respectively.

Cumulative soda ash statistics from January through August 2008, compared with those of January through August 2007, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were 54% higher; exports were 3% higher; and apparent consumption, 4% 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 STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2007:			
January-September	8,310	XX	12,700
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
August	976	222	1,480
September	935	265	1,470
January-September	8,380	XX	12,900

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 2008^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	93,500	\$15,300	\$163
Taiwan	38,500	7,300	190
Canada	32,400	4,710	145
Indonesia	27,400	6,650	243
Venezuela	27,000	5,290	196
Japan	26,500	4,710	178
Chile	25,800	4,450	173
Brazil	24,000	3,690	154
Australia	23,600	4,500	191
Lithuania	17,500	2,030	116
United Arab Emirates	12,000	2,090	174
Saudi Arabia	11,000	1,910	174
Netherlands	11,000	1,780	162
Spain	9,800	1,230	125
Other	33,900	6,350	187
Total or average	414,000	71,900	174

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

²September 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	July	August	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	--	62,600	2
Aruba	--	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	8	(3)
Australia	9,000	4,970	28,500	--	--	12,200	4,380	23,600	82,700	2
Bahrain	--	195	--	--	159	195	--	195	744	(3)
Belgium	17,600	10,600	19,900	38,600	11,000	21,900	21,100	1,930	143,000	4
Belize	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	(3)
Brazil	53,200	61,800	35,000	50,200	49,800	45,200	37,300	24,000	357,000	10
Cameroon	--	20	20	--	--	--	--	--	40	(3)
Canada	39,900	38,600	41,400	33,400	30,900	30,600	30,100	32,400	277,000	8
Chile	14,000	32,400	28,400	13,500	35,900	30,900	20,700	25,800	202,000	6
China	--	--	--	38	--	2	84	--	124	(3)
Colombia	8,500	5,500	23,800	--	10,300	10,300	7,900	10,100	76,300	2
Costa Rica	--	5,980	196	--	7,330	4,230	--	--	17,700	1
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	382	(3)
Guatemala	8,500	--	--	9,000	--	19	9,080	47	26,600	1
Indonesia	53,400	36,100	17,000	16,200	40,300	19,000	40,000	27,400	249,000	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	133,000	4
Korea, Republic of	--	27,600	--	24,100	--	18,500	10,000	9,000	89,200	3
Lithuania	--	17,000	--	17,400	--	17,500	--	17,500	69,300	2
Malaysia	--	18,200	--	--	8,500	5,100	7,500	--	39,300	1
Mexico	84,600	71,500	81,500	88,500	79,300	84,900	75,600	93,500	659,000	19
Netherlands	--	176	21,100	176	--	37,000	11,100	11,000	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	--	--	10,900	(3)
Peru	--	8,080	--	--	5,700	8,500	--	9,000	31,300	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	--	16,000	11,000	86,900	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	5,360	--	68,800	2
Spain	--	15,400	9,800	10,000	--	17,100	--	9,800	62,100	2
Taiwan	--	34,300	9,950	21,000	--	33,700	22,800	38,500	160,000	5
Thailand	13,000	19,000	--	16,000	18,800	--	22,500	--	89,300	3
United Arab Emirates	11,800	--	16,000	10,000	9,660	57	12,000	12,000	71,500	2
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	(3)
Venezuela	32,400	17,900	23,200	5,000	35,800	37,900	20,900	27,000	200,000	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	3,500,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²September 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-August	5,500	1,690
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	1,130	360
July	632	214
August	1,070	407
January-August	8,490	2,240

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

²September 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-August	7,420,000	5,500	3,410,000	--	76,100	4,090,000
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	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	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-August	7,450,000	8,490	3,500,000	15,800	--	3,940,000

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.