

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN NOVEMBER 2008

U.S. natural soda ash production in November was 965,000 metric tons (t), 2.3% lower than the previous month's production of 988,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for November 2008 were 262,000 t, 9% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in November 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 October 2008 was 545,000 t, the same as in October 2007, and ending stocks were 19% higher.

Exports and imports of soda ash in October 2008 were 468,000 t and 1,408 t, respectively.

Cumulative soda ash statistics from January through October 2008, compared with those of January through October 2007, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were 28% higher; exports were 4% higher; and apparent consumption, 3% lower. Although imports have risen dramatically in 2008 compared with those of 2007, they represent only 2% of the 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-November	10,100	XX	15,600
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	1,200 ^r
August	976	222	1,620 ^r
September	935	265	1,470
October	988	241	1,500
November	965	262	1,510
January-November	10,300	XX	16,200

^rRevised. 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 OCTOBER 2008^{1, 2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Brazil	106,000	\$25,200	\$238
Mexico	75,500	13,300	176
Canada	31,900	4,840	152
Indonesia	26,600	5,850	219
Chile	25,200	4,320	172
Taiwan	18,500	3,310	179
Thailand	18,500	3,300	178
Australia	18,100	3,110	172
Korea, Republic of	17,000	3,320	195
Saudi Arabia	16,000	2,830	177
United Arab Emirates	14,000	2,470	177
Philippines	12,800	2,700	211
Malaysia	12,400	2,490	201
Japan	12,000	1,560	130
Other	63,900	12,000	188
Total or average	468,000	90,600	193

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

²November 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	September	October	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	18,100	108,000	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	51	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	106,000	507,000	12
Cameroon	--	20	20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	40	(3)
Canada	39,900	38,600	41,400	33,400	30,900	30,600	30,100	32,400	29,200	31,900	338,000	8
Chile	14,000	32,400	28,400	13,500	35,900	30,900	20,700	25,800	18,000	25,200	245,000	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	2
Costa Rica	--	5,980	196	--	7,330	4,230	--	--	--	7,310	25,000	(3)
Dominican Republic	--	--	53	--	--	--	4,420	--	--	--	4,470	(3)
Ecuador	--	4,740	--	--	--	3,500	100	100	--	9,000	17,400	(3)
El Salvador	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7,600	7,600	(3)
Finland	--	--	--	17	--	--	--	--	--	--	17	(3)
France	--	154	15,000	--	--	10,000	17,300	97	--	--	42,600	1
Germany	--	--	147	--	--	117	103	15	162	84	628	(3)
Guatemala	8,500	--	--	9,000	--	19	9,080	47	4,500	10,500	41,700	1
Indonesia	53,400	36,100	17,000	16,200	40,300	19,000	40,000	27,400	15,500	26,600	292,000	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	12,000	154,000	4
Korea, Republic of	--	27,600	--	24,100	--	18,500	10,000	9,000	17,100	17,000	123,000	3
Lithuania	--	17,000	--	17,400	--	17,500	--	17,500	--	--	69,300	2
Malaysia	--	18,200	--	--	8,500	5,100	7,500	--	11,500	12,400	63,200	1
Mexico	84,600	71,500	81,500	88,500	79,300	84,900	75,600	93,500	109,000	75,500	844,000	19
Morocco	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,350	--	1,350	(3)
Netherlands	--	176	21,100	176	--	37,000	11,100	11,000	58	11,000	91,600	2
New Zealand	5,250	--	4,820	6,000	99	163	--	3,280	--	3,260	22,900	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	--	8,500	39,800	1
Philippines	--	13,100	--	11,000	--	10,000	--	--	6,880	12,800	53,800	1
Portugal	--	9,090	10,000	--	--	10,000	--	--	--	--	29,100	1
Qatar	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6	6	(3)
Saudi Arabia	15,200	--	18,000	13,000	13,700	--	16,000	11,000	19,000	16,000	122,000	3
Senegal	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	27	27	(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	--	--	6,510	75,400	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	--	18,500	179,000	4
Thailand	13,000	19,000	--	16,000	18,800	--	22,500	--	--	18,500	108,000	2
Trinidad	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7	--	7	(3)
United Arab Emirates	11,800	--	16,000	10,000	9,660	57	12,000	12,000	12,000	14,000	97,500	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	5
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	468,000	4,390,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²November 2008 data were not available at time of publication.

³Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH^{1,2}

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2007:		
January-October	8,270	\$2,420
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
October	1,410	530
January-October	10,600	3,060

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

²November 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-October	9,230,000	8,270	4,230,000	--	86,100	5,100,000
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	43,200 [†]	--	475,000
October	988,000	1,410	468,000	--	24,600	545,000
November	965,000	NA	NA	56,000	--	NA
January-October	9,370,000	10,600	4,390,000	34,400	--	4,960,000

[†]Revised. 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.