

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN AUGUST 2003

Natural soda ash production in August was 888,000 metric tons (t), 4% lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 323,000 t, 9% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in August was 1.11 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in July was 526,000 t, 3% lower than the July 2002 level of 543,000 t. Exports and imports of soda ash in July 2003 were 356,000 t and 380 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through July 2003, compared with those of 2002, were as follows: production was 3% higher, imports 37% lower, exports 5% higher, ending stocks 31% higher, and apparent consumption 1% lower.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2002:			
July	898	227	956
August	895	226	1,260
September	853	228	1,260
October	870	213	1,150
November	877	201	1,310
December	963	222	1,460
Total (January-August)	6,900	XX	9,970
Year total	10,500	XX	15,100
2003:			
January	867	278	1,470
February	820	251	1,240
March	897	263	1,410
April	865	234	1,320
May	926	298	1,340
June	878	255	1,110
July	923	297	1,110
August	888	323	1,110
Total	7,060	XX	10,100

XX Not applicable.

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

²Production data includes 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 JULY 2003^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	43,900	\$4,960	\$113
Brazil	35,100	4,660	133
Belgium	34,700	4,050	117
Argentina	34,200	4,450	130
Canada	33,500	2,520	75
Chile	22,500	3,240	144
Venezuela	21,800	3,120	143
China	19,500	1,460	75
Indonesia	17,500	2,460	141
Japan	15,200	1,680	110
Other	77,700	10,400	134
Total or average	356,000	43,000	121

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

²August 2003 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 2003^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Total	% of total
Argentina	11,000	--	26,000	11,300	15,000	1,900	34,200	99,400	4
Australia	27,400	6,600	38	17,000	6,000	14,500	7,560	79,100	3
Bahamas, The	--	--	9	--	--	--	9	18	(3)
Belgium	16,300	15,500	4,850	35,900	10,200	10,500	34,700	128,000	5
Belize	--	--	--	18	--	--	--	18	(3)
Brazil	32,000	--	28,200	26,400	26,000	--	35,100	148,000	6
Canada	38,100	29,800	38,500	33,700	28,900	32,800	33,500	235,000	9
Chile	10	36,400	--	32,600	--	27,200	22,500	119,000	5
China	37,900	18,300	38,300	--	35,100	28,700	19,500	178,000	7
Colombia	12,400	11,500	10,600	--	23,100	--	11,000	68,600	3
Costa Rica	--	3,000	2,990	49	--	10	--	6,050	(3)
Ecuador	4,500	--	--	--	9,030	--	6,040	19,600	1
Finland	--	--	17	--	--	17	--	34	(3)
France	7,500	--	9,950	--	7,510	9,960	--	34,900	1
Germany	--	--	--	--	20	--	--	20	(3)
Guatemala	--	3,000	2,970	--	--	3,000	3,000	12,000	(3)
Indonesia	17,200	14,500	31,900	--	42,000	22,300	17,500	145,000	6
Italy	--	--	--	16	56	17	48	137	(3)
Japan	41,700	26,200	35,300	18,500	24,300	46,200	15,200	207,000	8
Korea, Republic of	13,800	15,500	20,000	23,000	3,300	38,600	14,600	129,000	5
Malaysia	--	16,500	10,000	5,000	19,000	8,500	4,000	63,000	3
Mexico	53,500	52,100	34,300	52,500	23,000	45,600	43,900	305,000	12
Netherlands	10,000	--	10,200	--	110	--	9,940	30,200	1
Netherlands Antilles	11	--	--	--	--	--	--	11	(3)
Nigeria	--	--	3,430	--	--	--	--	3,430	(3)
Panama	--	1,500	--	--	4,010	--	--	5,510	(3)
Peru	--	3,000	--	4,800	--	4,800	--	12,600	1
Philippines	8,500	8,000	--	8,000	10,600	5,000	--	40,100	2
Portugal	--	--	--	10,000	--	--	--	10,000	(3)
Russia	--	--	--	8	1,210	355	--	1,580	(3)
Saudi Arabia	14,000	--	16,000	--	16,000	18,000	--	64,000	3
South Africa	650	8,900	6,520	--	6,430	--	6,500	29,000	1
Spain	15,000	25,000	--	10,900	14,500	--	--	65,400	3
Taiwan	9,790	13,300	15,000	17,500	--	28,600	15,000	99,200	4
Thailand	20,000	10,000	8,400	13,000	10,000	18,000	--	79,400	3
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	--	2,800	--	--	--	2,800	(3)
United Arab Emirates	--	--	6,000	--	5,000	4,000	--	15,000	1
United Kingdom	6,250	--	--	--	1	--	--	6,250	(3)
Venezuela	--	--	16,000	26,600	--	--	21,800	64,400	3
Vietnam	150	8,100	--	--	--	5,750	--	14,000	1
Total	398,000	327,000	375,000	350,000	340,000	374,000	356,000	2,520,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²August 2003 data were not available at time of publication.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2002:		
July	779	\$181
August	538	152
September	837	202
October	1,020	220
November	666	134
December	384	116
Total (January-July)	5,580	1,170
Year total	9,020	2,000
2003:		
January	615	135
February	375	133
March	540	165
April	784	145
May	662	165
June	138	78
July	380	134
Total	3,490	955

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

²August 2003 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	
2002:						
July	898,000	779	364,000	--	8,580	543,000
August	895,000	538	306,000	--	1,610	592,000
September	853,000	837	370,000	2,410	--	481,000
October	870,000	1,020	332,000	--	14,700	554,000
November	877,000	666	430,000	--	12,100	460,000
December	963,000	384	416,000	20,400	--	527,000
Total (January-July)	6,000,000	5,580	2,400,000	947	--	3,610,000
Year total	10,500,000	9,020	4,250,000	--	4,620	6,230,000
2003:						
January	867,000	615	398,000	56,700	--	413,000
February	820,000	375	327,000	--	27,200	521,000
March	897,000	540	375,000	11,500	--	510,000
April	865,000	784	350,000	--	28,300	545,000
May	926,000	662	340,000	63,900	--	523,000
June	878,000	138	374,000	--	43,300	547,000
July	923,000	380	356,000	41,700	--	526,000
August	888,000	NA	NA	26,000	--	NA
January-July	6,180,000	3,490	2,520,000	75,000	--	3,590,000

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.