

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN AUGUST 2019

U.S. natural soda ash production in August was 926,000 metric tons (t), a 5% decrease compared with that of the previous month and slightly less than that of August 2018. Ending stocks were 232,000 t, 7% less than those of the preceding month (tables 1, 4). Wyoming trona production in August 2019 was 1.49 million metric tons, 9% less than that of July 2019 but 26% more than that of August 2018. Exports of soda ash in August 2019 were 618,000 t, 11% more than those of July 2019 and 14% more than those of August 2018 (tables 2, 4).

Relatively large quantities of soda ash were imported from Turkey in September 2018, followed by similar quantities in March and June of 2019. August 2019 imports of soda ash were 1,180 t, slightly less than imports in July (tables 3, 4). Soda ash import tonnages can differ significantly from month to month, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages.

Apparent consumption for August 2019 was 327,000 t, a 28% decrease from that of July 2019 and 14% less than that of August 2018. Apparent consumption can change significantly from month to month mostly owing to changes in the quantity of exports but usually stabilizes over the course of the year. Apparent consumption for January 2019 through August 2019 was 5% less than during the same time period in 2018 (table 4).

All percentages in this report were calculated using unrounded data.

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TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2018:			
January–August	7,840 ^r	293 ^r	11,800
August	930	293	1,180
September	988	268	1,320
October	1,010	237	1,500
November	997	309	1,490
December	1,060	297	1,580
January–December	11,900	297	17,600
2019:			
January	1,000	300	1,680
February	920	270	1,500
March	941	276	1,680
April	999	337	1,530
May	994	275	1,310 ^r
June	946	287	1,610 ^r
July	972	250	1,640 ^r
August	926	232	1,490
January–August	7,700	232	12,400

¹Revised.

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 OR LOCALITY, IN 2019¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August			January–August		
								Quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Argentina	7,000	7,700	--	16,700	79	80	19,700	4,040	\$825	\$204	55,300	1	\$12,700
Australia	35,000	4,040	34,000	29,000	34,000	--	17,500	45,800	10,300	224	199,000	4	46,700
Brazil	94,500	104,000	35,000	60,800	83,400	82,000	50,300	81,100	16,500	203	591,000	13	124,000
Canada	15,800	17,500	15,200	18,300	18,400	14,700	15,700	15,400	3,680	238	131,000	3	31,600
Chile	13,000	45,200	31,500	14,200	46,800	46,300	32,800	38,700	8,900	230	268,000	6	62,000
China	--	61	--	--	36,000	--	--	36,000	6,190	172	72,100	2	13,400
Colombia	8,000	21,400	10,500	8,750	8,200	9,000	20,000	27,600	6,310	228	114,000	2	25,700
Ecuador	9,500	--	10,000	--	--	--	8,000	--	--	--	27,500	1	6,200
Guatemala	4,000	7,000	--	--	11,500	5,000	5,220	--	--	--	32,700	1	8,430
India	--	43,500	--	65,700	12,500	27,000	37,500	12,500	2,190	175	199,000	4	34,900
Indonesia	88,100	21,300	90,800	19,400	105,000	73,000	46,700	59,800	13,100	219	504,000	11	113,000
Japan	3,000	34,400	15,100	21,500	--	55,300	3,040	20,400	4,110	201	153,000	3	31,900
Korea, Republic of	11,500	18,000	15,700	34,200	26	41,600	23,600	22,100	4,700	212	167,000	4	35,800
Malaysia	46,100	62,800	52,500	39,300	43,200	39,500	52,100	12,000	2,780	231	347,000	7	77,700
Mexico	144,000	106,000	112,000	114,000	111,000	92,100	112,000	120,000	28,200	235	910,000	19	213,000
Nigeria	--	10,000	--	--	8,500	--	9,000	--	--	--	27,500	1	8,700
Peru	17,000	--	16,300	1,280	10,800	75	--	9,720	2,180	225	55,100	1	12,400
Philippines	7,500	--	--	9,000	14,600	--	13,500	--	--	--	44,600	1	9,720
Saudi Arabia	98	10,300	39	15,100	536	8,500	60	15,900	3,260	205	50,600	1	9,600
South Africa	--	10,100	--	4,790	--	14,400	--	12,000	2,000	167	41,300	1	7,460
Taiwan	16,500	9,500	15,200	38,800	8,000	17,900	10,200	20,600	4,620	224	137,000	3	31,400
Thailand	35,100	26,600	35,600	7,500	10,000	46,100	38,300	12,400	2,960	239	212,000	4	49,300
Tunisia	--	20,000	--	--	15,000	--	20,000	--	--	--	55,000	1	13,300
United Arab Emirates	--	15,500	--	6,000	--	11,000	--	10,500	2,130	203	43,000	1	8,270
Vietnam	31,000	15,000	18,500	31,500	35,500	30,000	17,500	36,000	8,340	232	215,000	5	49,000
Other	476	11,600	462	6,540	28,300	324	5,190	5,560	1,160	209	58,500	1	13,500
Total	587,000	621,000	508,000	562,000	641,000	614,000	557,000	618,000	134,000	217	4,710,000	100	1,050,000

-- Zero.

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

²Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY, IN 2019¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Quantity	August		January–August		
									Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Bulgaria	288	612	432	882	648	810	648	560	\$226	403	4,880	6	\$1,770
China	77	72	180	41	56	99	257	120	74	618	901	1	556
France	44	91	41	91	64	50	99	13	28	2,070	493	1	700
Mexico	304	97	252	150	244	57	19	258	104	404	1,380	2	539
Romania	95	172	38	38	--	--	76	76	35	457	495	)³(	222
Turkey	--	--	32,000	--	--	35,000	--	--	--	--	67,000	88	13,400
United Kingdom	146	197	91	73	143	183	75	108	71	658	1,010	1	695
Other	24	9	3	10	)³(	1	12	39	67	1,700	98	)³(	330
Total	978	1,250	33,000	1,280	1,150	36,200	1,190	1,180	605	515	76,300	100	18,200

-- Zero.

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

²Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau adjusted by U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 4
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Exports	Imports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2018:						
January–December	11,900,000	6,960,000	51,300	3,910	--	4,980,000
January–August	7,840,000 [†]	4,560,000	10,500	-- [†]	435 [†]	3,290,000 [†]
August	930,000	542,000	1,020	10,600	--	378,000
September	988,000	529,000	36,500	--	24,700	520,000
October	1,010,000	670,000	1,940	--	31,800	376,000
November	997,000	506,000	1,720	72,500	--	420,000
December	1,060,000	698,000	627	--	11,700	374,000
2019:						
January–August	7,700,000	4,710,000	76,300	--	65,500	3,130,000
January	1,000,000	587,000	978	2,640	--	415,000
February	920,000	621,000	1,250	--	30,500	331,000
March	941,000	508,000	33,000	6,870	--	459,000
April	999,000	562,000	1,280	60,300	--	378,000
May	994,000	641,000	1,150	--	61,600	416,000
June	946,000	614,000	36,200	12,100	--	356,000
July	972,000	557,000	1,190	--	37,500	453,000
August	926,000	618,000	1,180	--	17,900	327,000

[†]Revised. -- 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.