

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN SEPTEMBER 2003

Natural soda ash production in September was 869,000 metric tons (t), 2% lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 286,000 t, 11% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in September was 1.30 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in August was 440,000 t, 26% lower than the August 2002 level of 592,000 t. Exports

and imports of soda ash in August 2003 were 422,000 t and 263 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through August 2003, compared with those of 2002, were as follows: production was 2% higher, imports 39% lower, exports 9% higher, ending stocks 43% higher, and apparent consumption 4% lower.

The 2003 first, second, and third quarter end-use data are included in table 6 of this report.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2002:			
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-September)	7,750	XX	11,200
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
September	869	286	1,300
Total	7,930	XX	11,400

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 AUGUST 2003^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	74,200	\$8,660	\$117
Belgium	61,400	7,290	119
Japan	32,000	3,540	110
Venezuela	28,000	3,850	138
Brazil	27,400	4,090	149
Canada	24,700	1,950	79
Netherlands	24,000	2,880	120
Spain	20,000	2,200	110
China	16,300	1,230	75
New Zealand	15,000	1,650	110
Other	99,200	11,600	117
Total or average	422,000	48,900	116

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

²September 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	August	Total	% of total
Argentina	11,000	--	26,000	11,300	15,000	1,900	34,200	11,900	111,000	4
Australia	27,400	6,600	38	17,000	6,000	14,500	7,560	10,400	89,500	3
Bahamas, The	--	--	9	--	--	--	9	--	18	(3)
Belgium	16,300	15,500	4,850	35,900	10,200	10,500	34,700	61,400	189,000	6
Belize	--	--	--	18	--	--	--	--	18	(3)
Brazil	32,000	--	28,200	26,400	26,000	--	35,100	27,400	175,000	6
Canada	38,100	29,800	38,500	33,700	28,900	32,800	33,500	24,700	260,000	9
Chile	10	36,400	--	32,600	--	27,200	22,500	--	119,000	4
China	37,900	18,300	38,300	--	35,100	28,700	19,500	16,300	194,000	7
Colombia	12,400	11,500	10,600	--	23,100	--	11,000	9,310	77,900	3
Costa Rica	--	3,000	2,990	49	--	10	--	3,010	9,060	(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	5
Italy	--	--	--	16	56	17	48	15	152	(3)
Japan	41,700	26,200	35,300	18,500	24,300	46,200	15,200	32,000	239,000	8
Korea, Republic of	13,800	15,500	20,000	23,000	3,300	38,600	14,600	14,500	143,000	5
Malaysia	--	16,500	10,000	5,000	19,000	8,500	4,000	--	63,000	2
Mexico	53,500	52,100	34,300	52,500	23,000	45,600	43,900	74,200	379,000	13
Netherlands	10,000	--	10,200	--	110	--	9,940	24,000	54,200	2
Netherlands Antilles	11	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11	(3)
New Zealand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15,000	15,000	1
Nigeria	--	--	3,430	--	--	--	--	--	3,430	(3)
Panama	--	1,500	--	--	4,010	--	--	--	5,510	(3)
Peru	--	3,000	--	4,800	--	4,800	--	--	12,600	(3)
Philippines	8,500	8,000	--	8,000	10,600	5,000	--	8,500	48,600	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	--	14,000	78,000	3
South Africa	650	8,900	6,520	--	6,430	--	6,500	6,500	35,500	1
Spain	15,000	25,000	--	10,900	14,500	--	--	20,000	85,400	3
Taiwan	9,790	13,300	15,000	17,500	--	28,600	15,000	13,100	112,000	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	--	8,000	23,000	1
United Kingdom	6,250	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	6,250	(3)
Venezuela	--	--	16,000	26,600	--	--	21,800	28,000	92,400	3
Vietnam	150	8,100	--	--	--	5,750	--	--	14,000	(3)
Total	398,000	327,000	375,000	350,000	340,000	374,000	356,000	422,000	2,940,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²September 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:		
August	538	\$152
September	837	202
October	1,020	220
November	666	134
December	384	116
Total (January-August)	6,120	1,320
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
August	263	78
Total	3,760	1,030

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

²September 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:						
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-August)	6,900,000	6,120	2,700,000	--	663	4,200,000
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	263	422,000	26,000	--	440,000
September	869,000	NA	NA	--	36,800	NA
January-August	7,070,000	3,760	2,940,000	101,000	--	4,030,000

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.

TABLE 6
 REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTERS¹

(Metric tons)

End use	2002				2003			Total
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Third quarter total	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	
Glass:								
Container	356,000	424,000	402,000	1,180,000	391,000	410,000	398,000	1,200,000
Flat	262,000	286,000	267,000	815,000	262,000	265,000	275,000	802,000
Fiber	62,800	67,800	69,900	200,000	66,600	64,200	66,600	197,000
Other	52,400	64,500	54,500	171,000	52,800	49,300	44,500	147,000
Total	733,000	843,000	793,000	2,370,000	773,000	789,000	784,000	2,340,000
Chemicals	415,000	415,000	413,000	1,240,000	425,000	446,000	428,000	1,300,000
Soaps and detergents	181,000	205,000	179,000	565,000	180,000	153,000	175,000	508,000
Pulp and paper	30,900	26,200	24,900	82,000	27,500	29,900	30,200	87,600
Water treatment ²	24,100	22,000	23,700	69,800	17,000	20,600	17,200	54,800
Flue gas desulfurization	31,500	28,200	33,200	92,900	31,700	30,600	33,000	95,300
Distributors	73,000	91,000	78,400	242,000	69,600	67,600	70,900	208,000
Other	51,300	52,000	69,100	172,000	52,500	40,000	40,300	133,000
Total domestic consumption ³	1,540,000	1,680,000	1,610,000	4,840,000	1,580,000	1,580,000	1,580,000	4,730,000
Exports ⁴	846,000	899,000	975,000	2,720,000	1,050,000	1,100,000	1,040,000	3,190,000
Canada	92,900	87,900	91,200	272,000	90,100	81,400	73,500	245,000
Total industry sales ⁵	2,390,000	2,580,000	2,590,000	7,560,000	2,620,000	2,680,000	2,620,000	7,920,000
Total sales from plants	2,560,000	2,620,000	2,720,000	7,890,000	2,620,000	2,710,000	2,650,000	7,980,000
Total production	2,520,000	2,590,000	2,650,000	7,750,000	2,580,000	2,670,000	2,680,000	7,940,000

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

²Includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors and purge liquors sold to powerplant for water treatment. Sales of mine water are excluded.

³Imports reported by the producer/importer have been distributed into appropriate end-use categories listed above.

⁴As reported by producers. Includes Canada. Data may not necessarily agree with that reported by the U.S. Census Bureau for the same periods.

⁵Represents soda ash from domestic origin (production and inventory changes) and imports and for exports. Includes soda ash sold by coproducers and distributed by purchasers into appropriate end-use categories.