

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Wallace P. Bolen, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
Telephone: (703) 648-7727
Email: wbolen@usgs.gov

Taylor L. Nelson (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-4971
Email: tnelson@usgs.gov

Internet:

www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/mineral-industry-surveys

SODA ASH IN AUGUST 2023

In August, soda ash production was 869,000 metric tons (t), 8% less than the previous month's production, and an 8% decrease compared with that in August 2022 (tables 1, 4). For the first 8 months of 2023, soda ash production was 7.23 million metric tons (Mt), 3% less than the production for the first 8 months of 2022. Ending stocks in August were 312,000 t, 15% less than the ending stocks from the preceding month.

Wyoming trona production in August 2023 was 1.3 Mt, 15% less than the upwardly revised trona production in July 2023 and 16% less than the total in August 2022. For the first 8 months of 2023, trona production was 11.5 Mt, slightly less than the amount for the same period of 2022 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash decreased by 10% in August 2023 to 527,000 t, compared with those in July 2023 and were 4% less than those in August 2022 (tables 2, 4). For the first 8 months of 2023, exports were 4.39 Mt, slightly more than the amount for the same period of 2022 (table 1). Imports of soda ash in August 2023 were 731 t compared with the total of 836 t in July 2023. Soda ash import tonnages can differ significantly from month to

month, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages (tables 3, 4).

Apparent consumption for August 2023 was 399,000 t, 24% more than the total for July 2023 but 19% less than the estimated total for August 2022. For the first 8 months of 2023, apparent consumption was 2.90 Mt, 11% less than the revised estimated total for the same period of 2022. Apparent consumption can change significantly from month to month mostly owing to variation in the quantity of exports but usually stabilizes over the course of the year (table 4).

All percentages in this report were calculated using unrounded data.

List services and web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/minerals-information-publication-list-services>.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2022:			
January-August	7,450	237	11,700
August	947	237	1,540
September	805	236	1,260
October	1,030	298	1,530
November	1,010	346	1,440
December	968	364	1,520
January–December	11,300	364	17,500
2023:			
January	884	303	1,240
February	831	309	1,340
March	868	231	1,520
April	906	250	1,470
May	991	297	1,650
June	934	328	1,490
July	942	368	1,520 ^r
August	869	312	1,300
January-August	7,230	312	11,500

^rRevised.

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 2023¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	January–August		
												Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Argentina	17,000	17,500	16,500	30,100	24,500	77	37,000	2,040	979	\$480		145,000	3	59,400
Australia	28,000	--	35,000	9	35,000	27,000	27	35,000	10,100	289		160,000	4	58,900
Brazil	122,000	32,800	59,300	24,000	74,500	63,400	71,300	--	--	--		447,000	10	158,000
Canada	15,500	18,300	16,800	16,600	14,500	14,700	12,000	14,900	3,980	267		123,000	3	32,700
Chile	38,100	82,100	64,900	47,300	74,300	61,600	91,600	60,000	20,000	333		520,000	12	167,000
China	14	4,800	61,900	--	20,000	--	--	35,000	6,500	--		122,000	3	26,800
Colombia	18,300	40,300	11,900	500	8,000	20,300	8,000	13,500	3,510	260		121,000	3	36,900
India	31,100	3,050	1,920	5,110	43,200	22,600	21,100	20,300	3,440	170		148,000	3	38,800
Indonesia	22,500	53,200	13,700	55,200	47,900	63,500	72,200	35,000	7,880	225		363,000	8	116,000
Japan	15,500	22,700	10,100	4,800	34,400	20,200	20,900	22,200	8,560	385		151,000	3	57,200
Korea, Republic of	15,000	32,000	10,900	7,220	40,100	5,010	29,500	16,100	3,980	248		156,000	4	51,100
Malaysia	19,800	22,200	26,800	--	27,500	20,100	9,000	36,000	8,150	227		161,000	4	52,000
Mexico	133,000	121,000	153,000	142,000	117,000	114,000	112,000	95,000	26,300	277		986,000	22	269,000
Peru	7,500	11,000	5,250	17,300	300	391	406	8,700	2,340	269		50,900	1	17,100
Taiwan	13,000	15,000	14,000	221	42,500	11,500	--	25,000	7,130	285		121,000	3	42,400
Thailand	28,500	15,500	10,200	24,100	507	41,300	27,900	2,400	456	190		150,000	3	48,500
United Arab Emirates	12,000	676	27	676	--	--	--	26,300	9,000	343		39,600	1	12,100
Vietnam	14,800	69,200	2,500	59,900	2,000	15,300	28,900	32,300	7,090	220		225,000	5	68,500
Other	25,600	11,800	8,150	13,400	9,910	40,000	41,000	46,900	12,900	274		197,000	4	56,500
Total	577,000	573,000	523,000	448,000	616,000	541,000	583,000	527,000	142,000	270		4,390,000	100	1,370,000

-- 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 2023¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	January–August		
												Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Canada	173	175	239	167	171	163	190	248	26	\$104		1,530	27	212
France	20	241	139	100	20	--	113	39	65	--		671	12	1,110
Germany	80	51	2	(3)	2	22	2	6	41	6,750		165	3	503
India	56	30	6	26	1	1	4	29	49	1,690		152	3	252
Italy	72	72	60	72	36	72	90	36	32	897		510	9	466
Japan	5	1	20	2	22	2	2	18	84	4,690		72	1	388
Mexico	98	116	200	20	236	315	193	178	96	539		1,360	24	688
Turkey	--	70	--	70	70	--	--	--	--	--		211	4	74
United Kingdom	89	71	72	52	154	65	213	143	110	774		857	15	741
Other	10	20	48	29	45	5	30	35	189	5,320		221	4	461
Total	603	845	785	538	756	645	836	731	692	946		5,740	100	4,890

-- 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.

TABLE 4
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Exports	Imports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2022:						
January–December	11,300,000	6,490,000	61,500 ^e	85,900	--	4,740,000 ^e
January–August	7,450,000	4,310,000	59,100 ^{r, e}	--	40,500	3,240,000 ^{r, e}
August	947,000	547,000	20,100 ^e	--	70,900	490,000 ^e
September	805,000	496,000	458	--	1,200	311,000
October	1,030,000	569,000	686	62,200	--	402,000
November	1,010,000	541,000	624	48,300	--	416,000
December	968,000	577,000	608	17,100	--	374,000
2023:						
January–August	7,230,000	4,390,000	5,740	--	51,600	2,900,000
January	884,000	577,000	603	--	60,200	368,000
February	831,000	573,000	845	6,050	--	253,000
March	868,000	523,000	785	--	77,900	424,000
April	906,000	448,000	538	18,600	--	439,000
May	991,000	616,000	756	47,300	--	329,000
June	934,000	541,000	645	31,100	--	363,000
July	942,000	583,000	836	39,100	--	321,000
August	869,000	527,000	731	--	55,600	399,000

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. -- 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.