

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN JUNE 2007

U.S. natural soda ash production in June was 926,000 metric tons (t), 2.6% lower than the previous month's production of 950,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 158,000 t, 34.7% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in June was 1.3 million metric tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in May was 487,000 t, 8.1% lower than in May 2006, and ending stocks were 18.6% higher.

Exports and imports of soda ash in May 2007 were 431,000 t and 1,200 t, respectively.

The trends in annual cumulative soda ash statistics through May 2007, compared with those through May 2006, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were 5.9% higher; exports, 6.6% higher; and apparent consumption, 2.6% lower.

All percentages in this report were computed using unrounded data.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Ending stocks	
2006:			
January-June	5,390	XX	7,730
June	910	231	1,340
July	952	258	1,430
August	926	230	1,500
September	859	212	1,480
October	955	203	1,560
November	930	226	1,480
December	946	290	1,490
January-December	11,000	XX	16,700
2007:			
January	864	260	1,420
February	880	227	1,400
March	962	238	1,590
April	880	208	1,450
May	950	242	1,460
June	926	158	1,310
January-June	5,460	XX	8,650

XX Not applicable.

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

<sup>2</sup>Production 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 MAY 2007<sup>1,2</sup>

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	72,200	\$10,700	\$149
Canada	31,600	4,430	140
Venezuela	28,000	4,320	154
Netherlands	28,000	4,380	156
Japan	26,800	3,480	130
Chile	25,600	3,780	147
Australia	22,100	3,270	148
Indonesia	20,000	2,880	144
Argentina	16,000	2,280	143
Brazil	13,300	1,810	137
Other	147,000	20,300	138
Total or average	431,000	61,700	143

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

<sup>2</sup>June 2007 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Free alongside ship value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2007<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	Total	% of total
Argentina	15,600	10	2	7,300	16,000	38,900	2
Aruba	6	--	--	--	--	6	(3)
Australia	--	12,200	14,000	--	22,100	48,300	2
Belgium	26	32,800	--	29,000	17,500	79,400	4
Botswana	3	--	--	--	--	3	(3)
Brazil	51,000	54,800	31,400	69,500	13,300	220,000	10
Cameroon	--	57	--	39	20	116	(3)
Canada	39,600	37,500	44,300	34,600	31,600	188,000	9
Chile	10,300	25,900	37,700	10,200	25,600	110,000	5
China	--	17,900	3	10,300	--	28,300	1
Colombia	--	19,700	--	24,000	--	43,700	2
Costa Rica	--	6,300	5	2,000	--	8,310	(3)
Ecuador	--	3,000	--	--	--	3,000	(3)
Finland	--	17	--	--	--	17	(3)
France	--	15,000	--	198	15,000	30,300	1
Germany	--	20	105	95	40	260	(3)
Guatemala	--	5,590	2,500	--	--	8,090	(3)
Iceland	--	--	--	18	144	162	(3)
Indonesia	54,700	113	55,200	27,500	20,000	157,000	7
Ireland	--	4	--	--	--	4	(3)
Italy	--	--	33	33	108	174	(3)
Jamaica	--	--	7	--	6	13	(3)
Japan	16,800	15,100	17,000	37,900	26,800	113,000	5
Korea, Republic of	9,430	15,500	13,000	10,600	12,500	61,100	3
Lithuania	--	--	--	--	16,100	16,100	1
Malaysia	15,300	--	10,000	--	19,000	44,300	2
Mexico	69,100	59,200	73,000	62,200	72,200	336,000	16
Netherlands	11,000	12,600	10,100	9,890	28,000	71,500	3
Netherlands Antilles	--	--	--	--	5	5	(3)
New Zealand	--	--	5,970	--	4	5,980	(3)
Nicaragua	--	78	--	--	--	78	(3)
Panama	--	2,000	--	1,500	--	3,500	(3)
Peru	--	8,100	--	--	8,530	16,600	(3)
Philippines	--	--	10,500	7,500	8,100	26,100	1
Portugal	--	--	9,350	8,570	--	17,900	1
Russia	--	7	--	--	--	7	(3)
Saudi Arabia	--	10,700	18,000	5,060	--	33,800	2
South Africa	6,510	6,550	6,990	--	10,700	30,800	1
Spain	14,700	20,000	--	--	17,700	52,400	2
Suriname	--	--	--	--	30	30	(3)
Sweden	1	--	--	--	--	1	(3)
Taiwan	21,300	33,400	18,800	20,100	14,600	108,000	5
Thailand	10,500	--	27,800	23,200	7,000	68,500	3
United Arab Emirates	--	6,270	--	6,940	--	13,200	1
Venezuela	35,000	24,600	24,800	11,500	28,000	124,000	6
Vietnam	--	--	3,500	--	--	3,500	(3)
Total	381,000	445,000	434,000	420,000	431,000	2,110,000	100

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>June 2007 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH<sup>1,2</sup>

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)
2006:		
January-May	3,150	\$1,040
June	259	102
July	359	161
August	297	102
September	487	192
October	757	187
November	478	167
December	1,060	332
January-December	6,850	2,290
2007:		
January	477	184
February	501	148
March	763	215
April	394	140
May	1,200	418
January-May	3,330	1,110

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

<sup>2</sup>June 2007 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Cost, insurance, and freight value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption <sup>2</sup>
				Increase	Decrease	
2006:						
January-May	4,480,000	3,150	1,980,000	--	38,600	2,540,000
May	909,000	896	435,000	--	55,100	530,000
June	910,000	259	407,000	26,600	--	477,000
July	952,000	359	382,000	26,800	--	544,000
August	926,000	297	391,000	--	27,400	563,000
September	859,000	487	364,000	--	18,700	514,000
October	955,000	757	483,000	--	8,470	482,000
November	930,000	478	366,000	23,400	--	541,000
December	946,000	1,060	452,000	63,100	--	432,000
January-December	11,000,000	6,850	4,820,000	46,900	--	6,100,000
2007:						
January	864,000	477	381,000	--	29,500	513,000
February	880,000	501	445,000	--	33,000	468,000
March	962,000	763	434,000	11,200	--	517,000
April	880,000	394	420,000	--	30,400	491,000
May	950,000	1,200	431,000	33,900	--	487,000
June	926,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-May	4,540,000	3,330	2,110,000	--	47,700	2,480,000

NA Not available. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.