

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JULY 2004

Natural soda ash production in July was 963,000 metric tons (t), 8% higher than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were estimated to be 317,000 t, 26% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in July was 1.40 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in June was 530,000 t, 3% lower than the June 2003 level of 547,000 t. Exports and

imports of soda ash in June 2004 were 412,000 t and 517 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through June 2004, compared with those of June 2003, were as follows: production was 2% higher, imports 13% lower, exports 12% higher, ending stocks slightly lower, and apparent consumption slightly lower.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2003:			
June	878	255	1,110
July	923	297	1,110
August	888	323	1,110
September	869	286	1,300
October	913	291	1,390
November	860	309	1,250
December	925	330	1,450
Total (January-July)	6,180	XX	8,990
Year total	10,600	XX	15,500
2004:			
January	857	331	1,310
February	852	291	1,330
March	937	264	1,500
April	913	281	1,430
May	935	299	1,340
June	894	252	1,240
July	963	317 ^e	1,400
Total	6,350	XX	9,560

^eEstimated. 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 JUNE 2004^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	39,100	\$5,010	\$128
Brazil	33,200	4,290	129
Chile	32,500	4,200	129
Indonesia	31,300	3,080	98
Japan	30,800	2,930	95
Canada	30,400	2,390	79
Venezuela	25,800	3,200	124
Korea, Republic of	23,600	2,260	96
Saudi Arabia	23,000	1,880	82
Thailand	21,200	2,080	98
Other	121,000	13,200	109
Total or average	412,000	44,500	108

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

²July 2004 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 2004^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total	% of total
Argentina	20,500	19,600	31,500	--	13,500	4,000	89,100	4
Australia	--	15,500	7,500	15,500	--	--	38,500	2
Belgium	21,200	10,000	38,400	9,670	32,400	8,920	121,000	5
Brazil	15,000	28,200	8,550	39,600	10,000	33,200	134,000	6
Canada	28,100	28,800	37,500	30,700	27,400	30,400	183,000	8
Chile	409	30,700	11,200	30,600	29,900	32,500	135,000	6
China	23,000	31,400	22,900	5,000	17,400	6	99,700	4
Colombia	9,340	11,000	20,200	11,100	9,250	9,000	69,800	3
Costa Rica	--	2,000	--	2,000	--	2,000	6,000	(3)
Dominican Republic	--	--	27	36	--	--	63	(3)
Ecuador	5,310	--	--	--	--	--	5,310	(3)
Finland	--	--	--	34	--	--	34	(3)
France	6,940	21,000	7,540	--	10,000	17,400	62,900	3
Germany	347	--	578	--	--	--	925	(3)
Guatemala	--	5	--	2,500	3,000	3,500	9,010	(3)
Indonesia	42,300	--	38,800	22,600	45,300	31,300	180,000	7
Ireland	--	40	--	--	--	--	40	(3)
Italy	31	--	--	--	--	--	31	(3)
Japan	37,900	56,900	8,500	45,900	27,600	30,800	208,000	9
Korea, Republic of	18,100	16,900	19,000	20,900	14,900	23,600	113,000	5
Malaysia	--	8,000	16,500	8,000	--	17,700	50,200	2
Mexico	36,800	46,800	46,900	54,400	57,400	39,100	281,000	12
Netherlands	6,020	9,470	10,100	--	14,000	--	39,600	2
Netherlands Antilles	--	--	--	--	20	--	20	(3)
New Zealand	6,600	5,000	--	6,000	--	--	17,600	1
Pakistan	--	--	--	--	--	5,000	5,000	(3)
Panama	--	--	--	--	--	2,000	2,000	(3)
Peru	1,580	3,900	--	2,500	2,000	7,500	17,500	1
Philippines	7,500	--	12,000	--	8,000	8,000	35,500	1
Portugal	--	--	9,500	--	--	--	9,500	(3)
Russia	3	--	158	--	--	--	161	(3)
Saudi Arabia	--	20,000	16,000	--	17,000	23,000	76,000	3
South Africa	6,500	--	--	9,500	--	--	16,000	1
Spain	49	14,700	5,090	15,100	13,000	10,700	58,700	2
Taiwan	11,000	45,800	--	29,300	16,400	15,000	117,000	5
Thailand	19,000	16,200	14,900	10,000	--	21,200	81,300	3
United Arab Emirates	--	8,000	8,000	--	6,000	--	22,000	1
United Kingdom	--	--	24	7,700	--	2	7,730	(3)
Venezuela	366	16,700	31,300	24,100	12,800	25,800	111,000	5
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	10,000	10,000	(3)
Total	324,000	467,000	423,000	403,000	387,000	412,000	2,410,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²July 2004 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)
2003:		
June	138	\$78
July	380	134
August	263	78
September	266	104
October	331	103
November	435	126
December	543	144
Total (January-June)	3,110	821
Year total	5,330	1,510
2004:		
January	511	155
February	470	123
March	438	141
April	332	137
May	448	174
June	517	193
Total	2,720	922

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

²July 2004 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	
2003:						
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	266	385,000	--	36,800	522,000
October	913,000	331	295,000	4,910	--	613,000
November	860,000	435	404,000	18,000	--	439,000
December	925,000	543	426,000	21,300	--	478,000
Total (January-June)	5,260,000	3,110	2,160,000	33,300	--	3,070,000
Year total	10,600,000	5,330	4,450,000	108,000	--	6,090,000
2004:						
January	857,000	511	324,000	660	--	533,000
February	852,000	470	467,000	--	40,200	426,000
March	937,000	438	423,000	--	26,900	541,000
April	913,000	332	403,000	16,800	--	494,000
May	935,000	448	387,000	18,700	--	529,000
June	894,000	517	412,000	--	47,000	530,000
July	963,000	NA	NA	64,600 ^e	--	NA
January-June	5,390,000	2,720	2,410,000	--	77,800	3,050,000

^eEstimated. 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.