

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JUNE 2004

Natural soda ash production in June was 894,000 metric tons (t), 4% lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 252,000 t, 16% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in June was 1.24 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 529,000 t, 1% higher than the May 2003 level of 523,000 t. Exports and

imports of soda ash in May 2004 were 387,000 t and 448 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through May 2004, compared with those of May 2003, were as follows: production was 3% higher, imports 26% lower, exports 12% higher, ending stocks slightly higher, and apparent consumption unchanged.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2003:			
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
October	913	291	1,390
November	860	309	1,250
December	925	330	1,450
Total (January-June)	5,260	XX	7,890
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
Total	5,390	XX	8,160

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 MAY 2004^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	57,400	\$6,970	\$121
Indonesia	45,300	4,480	99
Belgium	32,400	3,810	118
Chile	29,900	3,780	126
Japan	27,600	2,820	102
Canada	27,400	2,130	78
China	17,400	1,250	72
Saudi Arabia	17,000	1,410	83
Taiwan	16,400	1,710	104
Korea, Republic of	14,900	1,370	92
Other	102,000	12,200	120
Total or average	387,000	42,000	108

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

²June 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	Total	% of total
Argentina	20,500	19,600	31,500	--	13,500	85,100	4
Australia	--	15,500	7,500	15,500	--	38,500	2
Belgium	21,200	10,000	38,400	9,670	32,400	112,000	6
Brazil	15,000	28,200	8,550	39,600	10,000	101,000	5
Canada	28,100	28,800	37,500	30,700	27,400	153,000	8
Chile	409	30,700	11,200	30,600	29,900	103,000	5
China	23,000	31,400	22,900	5,000	17,400	99,700	5
Colombia	9,340	11,000	20,200	11,100	9,250	60,800	3
Costa Rica	--	2,000	--	2,000	--	4,000	(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	45,500	2
Germany	347	--	578	--	--	925	(3)
Guatemala	--	5	--	2,500	3,000	5,510	(3)
Indonesia	42,300	--	38,800	22,600	45,300	149,000	7
Ireland	--	40	--	--	--	40	(3)
Italy	31	--	--	--	--	31	(3)
Japan	37,900	56,900	8,500	45,900	27,600	177,000	9
Korea, Republic of	18,100	16,900	19,000	20,900	14,900	89,800	4
Malaysia	--	8,000	16,500	8,000	--	32,500	2
Mexico	36,800	46,800	46,900	54,400	57,400	242,000	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
Peru	1,580	3,900	--	2,500	2,000	9,980	(3)
Philippines	7,500	--	12,000	--	8,000	27,500	1
Portugal	--	--	9,500	--	--	9,500	(3)
Russia	3	--	158	--	--	161	(3)
Saudi Arabia	--	20,000	16,000	--	17,000	53,000	3
South Africa	6,500	--	--	9,500	--	16,000	1
Spain	49	14,700	5,090	15,100	13,000	47,900	2
Taiwan	11,000	45,800	--	29,300	16,400	102,000	5
Thailand	19,000	16,200	14,900	10,000	--	60,100	3
United Arab Emirates	--	8,000	8,000	--	6,000	22,000	1
United Kingdom	--	--	24	7,700	--	7,720	(3)
Venezuela	366	16,700	31,300	24,100	12,800	85,300	4
Total	324,000	467,000	423,000	403,000	387,000	2,000,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²June 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:		
May	662	\$165
June	138	78
July	380	134
August	263	78
September	266	104
October	331	103
November	435	126
December	543	144
Total (January-May)	2,976	743
Year total	5,332	1,510
2004:		
January	511	155
February	470	123
March	438	141
April	332	137
May	448	174
Total	2,199	729

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

²June 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:						
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	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-May)	4,380,000	2,980	1,790,000	76,600	--	2,520,000
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	NA	NA	--	47,000	NA
January-May	4,490,000	2,200	2,000,000	--	30,800	2,520,000

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.