

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN MAY 2005

Natural soda ash production in May was estimated to be 927,000 metric tons (t), slight lower than the previous month's production of 928,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were estimated to be 253,000 t, 8% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in May was 1.51 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in April was 454,000 t, 8% lower than the April 2004 level of 494,000 t.

Exports and imports of soda ash in April 2005 were 485,000 t and 511 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through April 2005, compared with those of April 2004, were as follows: production was 1% higher, imports 96% higher, exports 1% lower, ending stocks 2% lower, and apparent consumption 4% higher.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2004:			
April	913	281	1,430
May	935	299	1,340
June	894	252	1,240
July	963	318	1,400
August	929	266	1,490
September	907	230	1,420
October	933	323	1,400
November	902	295	1,370
December	936	338	1,210
Total (January-May)	4,490	XX	6,920
Year total	11,000	XX	16,500
2005:			
January	925	332	1,440
February	858	360	1,350
March	894	285	1,410
April	928	275	1,360
May	927 ^e	253 ^e	1,510
Total	4,530	XX	7,070

^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 APRIL 2005^{1, 2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	96,100	\$11,900	\$124
Brazil	58,200	10,100	174
Canada	37,000	4,350	117
Thailand	36,800	5,700	155
Malaysia	30,500	4,430	145
Venezuela	27,700	4,590	166
Taiwan	26,200	3,700	141
Japan	25,500	3,040	119
Argentina	25,200	4,070	162
Indonesia	17,500	2,370	135
Other	104,000	13,900	134
Total or average	485,000	68,200	141

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

²May 2005 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 2005^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	Total	% of total
Argentina	1,400	14,700	8,500	25,200	49,800	3
Australia	7,000	9,000	6,000	7,010	29,000	2
Belgium	--	20,000	--	12,800	32,800	2
Brazil	55,000	6,010	20,700	58,200	140,000	9
Canada	35,100	34,200	40,900	37,000	147,000	9
Chile	26,100	8,280	30,800	--	65,200	4
China	--	12,200	15,000	248	27,400	2
Colombia	13,300	8,500	10,000	9,250	41,000	3
Costa Rica	--	--	4,200	--	4,200	(3)
Ecuador	--	--	5,000	--	5,000	(3)
Finland	--	17	--	16	33	(3)
France	--	--	5,710	7,420	13,100	1
Guatemala	--	--	2,700	--	2,700	(3)
Indonesia	60,800	--	44,200	17,500	123,000	8
Italy	--	44	--	15	59	(3)
Japan	10,400	45,800	40,000	25,500	122,000	8
Korea, Republic of	13,000	20,300	13,900	15,600	62,800	4
Malaysia	10,500	--	--	30,500	41,000	3
Mexico	63,600	51,600	53,500	96,100	265,000	16
Netherlands	9,510	9,110	10,100	10,000	38,700	2
New Zealand	6,000	--	7,000	6,010	19,000	1
Pakistan	4	--	--	--	4	(3)
Panama	2,000	--	--	--	2,000	(3)
Peru	8,850	--	7,820	--	16,700	1
Philippines	--	14,000	--	5,700	19,700	1
Portugal	--	--	1,360	--	1,360	(3)
Russia	1,830	--	--	--	1,830	(3)
Saudi Arabia	13,000	--	14,000	12,000	39,000	2
South Africa	--	13,000	--	--	13,000	1
Spain	10,000	10,000	17,600	12,900	50,500	3
Taiwan	18,500	20,600	20,400	26,200	85,700	5
Thailand	16,500	598	19,900	36,800	73,800	5
United Arab Emirates	5,500	--	4,760	4,000	14,300	1
Venezuela	--	32,100	4,000	27,700	63,800	4
Vietnam	--	--	735	1,100	1,830	(3)
Total	388,000	330,000	409,000	485,000	1,610,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²May 2005 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)
2004:		
April	332	\$137
May	448	174
June	517	193
July	600	189
August	504	163
September	627	137
October	573	149
November	659	177
December	626	140
Total (January-April)	1,750	556
Year total	6,310	1,880
2005:		
January	644	158
February	807	220
March	1,470	351
April	511	186
Total	3,430	915

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

²May 2005 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	
2004:						
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	600	322,000	65,600	--	576,000
August	929,000	504	403,000	--	51,300	578,000
September	907,000	627	339,000	--	36,600	605,000
October	933,000	573	367,000	93,200	--	474,000
November	902,000	659	426,000	--	28,500	505,000
December	936,000	626	397,000	43,200	--	496,000
Total (January-April)	3,560,000	1,750	1,620,000	--	49,500	1,990,000
Total	11,000,000	6,310	4,670,000	7,650	--	6,290,000
2005:						
January	925,000	644	388,000	--	6,180	544,000
February	858,000	807	330,000	28,400	--	501,000
March	894,000	1,470	409,000	--	74,600	561,000
April	928,000	511	485,000	--	10,500	454,000
May	927,000 ^e	NA	NA	--	21,300 ^e	NA
January-April	3,600,000	3,430	1,610,000	--	62,900	2,060,000

^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.