

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Dennis S. Kostick, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
983 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7715, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: dkostick@usgs.gov

Jeff Milanovich (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7982
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: jmilanov@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

SODA ASH IN JULY 2005

Natural soda ash production in July was estimated to be 945,000 metric tons (t), 1% higher than the previous month's production of 932,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were estimated to be 252,000 t, 5% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in July was estimated to be 1.54 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in June was 550,000 t, 4% higher than the June 2004 level of 530,000 t.

Exports and imports of soda ash in June 2005 were 343,000 t and 668 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through June 2005, compared with those of June 2004, were as follows: production was 1% higher, imports 78% higher, exports 3% lower, ending stocks 6% higher, 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:			
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-July)	6,350	XX	9,560
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	931	259	1,510
June	932	266	1,560
July ^c	945	252	1,540
Total	6,410	XX	10,200

^cEstimated. XX Not applicable.

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, IN JUNE 2005^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	65,600	\$8,630	\$132
Belgium	38,700	4,710	122
Brazil	34,600	5,110	148
Canada	33,500	4,040	121
Chile	28,100	3,640	129
Japan	27,600	3,790	137
Malaysia	27,300	4,170	153
Venezuela	22,400	3,380	151
Saudi Arabia	17,000	1,920	113
Spain	12,000	1,220	102
Other	36,400	5,210	143
Total or average	343,000	45,800	134

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

²July 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	May	June	Total	% of total
Argentina	1,400	14,700	8,500	25,200	--	--	49,800	2
Aruba	--	--	--	--	2,680	--	2,680	(3)
Australia	7,000	9,000	6,000	7,010	7,010	7,010	43,000	2
Belgium	--	20,000	--	12,800	--	38,700	71,500	3
Brazil	55,000	6,010	20,700	58,200	21,700	34,600	196,000	8
Canada	35,100	34,200	40,900	37,000	49,200	33,500	230,000	10
Chile	26,100	8,280	30,800	--	32,200	28,100	126,000	5
China	--	12,200	15,000	248	163	--	27,600	1
Colombia	13,300	8,500	10,000	9,250	10,900	750	52,700	2
Costa Rica	--	--	4,200	--	4,400	--	8,600	(3)
Ecuador	--	--	5,000	--	--	--	5,000	(3)
Finland	--	17	--	16	--	--	33	(3)
France	--	--	5,710	7,420	--	--	13,100	1
Guatemala	--	--	2,700	--	5,000	--	7,700	(3)
Indonesia	60,800	--	44,200	17,500	27,100	--	150,000	6
Italy	--	44	--	15	49	--	108	(3)
Japan	10,400	45,800	40,000	25,500	31,500	27,600	181,000	8
Korea, Republic of	13,000	20,300	13,900	15,600	15,500	--	78,300	3
Malaysia	10,500	--	--	30,500	--	27,300	68,300	3
Mexico	63,600	51,600	53,500	96,100	66,100	65,600	397,000	17
Netherlands	9,510	9,110	10,100	10,000	19	10,200	48,900	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	--	--	6,870	23,500	1
Philippines	--	14,000	--	5,700	9,000	--	28,700	1
Portugal	--	--	1,360	--	--	--	1,360	(3)
Russia	1,830	--	--	--	401	--	2,230	(3)
Saudi Arabia	13,000	--	14,000	12,000	--	17,000	56,000	2
South Africa	--	13,000	--	--	6,540	6,560	26,100	1
Spain	10,000	10,000	17,600	12,900	34,900	12,000	97,400	4
Taiwan	18,500	20,600	20,400	26,200	15,100	20	101,000	4
Thailand	16,500	598	19,900	36,800	24,500	--	98,300	4
United Arab Emirates	5,500	--	4,760	4,000	--	5,000	19,300	1
Venezuela	--	32,100	4,000	27,700	7,500	22,400	93,700	4
Vietnam	--	--	735	1,100	--	--	1,830	(3)
Total	388,000	330,000	409,000	485,000	371,000	343,000	2,330,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²July 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:		
June	517	\$193
July	600	189
August	504	163
September	627	137
October	573	149
November	659	177
December	626	140
Total (January-June)	2,720	923
Year total	6,310	1,880
2005:		
January	644	158
February	807	220
March	1,470	351
April	511	186
May	745	158
June	668	183
Total	4,840	1,260

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

²July 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:						
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-June)	5,390,000	2,720	2,410,000	--	77,800	3,050,000
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	931,000	745	371,000	--	15,400	575,000
June	932,000	668	343,000	40,000	--	550,000
July	945,000 ^e	NA	NA	--	47,900 ^e	NA
January-June	5,470,000	4,840	2,330,000	--	38,300	3,180,000

^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.