

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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**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](mailto:dkostick@usgs.gov)

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

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

## SODA ASH IN AUGUST 2005

Natural soda ash production in August was 893,000 metric tons (t), 6% lower than the previous month's revised production of 955,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 246,000 t, 17% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in August was 1.38 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in July was 609,000 t, 6% higher than the July 2004 level of 576,000 t.

Exports and imports of soda ash in July 2005 were 350,000 t and 602 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through July 2005, compared with those of July 2004, were as follows: production was 1% higher, imports 64% higher, exports 2% lower, ending stocks 7% lower, and apparent consumption 4% higher.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Ending stocks	
2004:			
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-August)	7,280	XX	11,100
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 <sup>f</sup>	955	297	1,550
August	893	246	1,380
Total	7,320	XX	11,600

<sup>f</sup>Revised. 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 JULY 2005<sup>1,2</sup>

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	75,200	\$9,670	\$129
Korea, Republic of	38,300	5,560	145
Indonesia	37,800	5,640	149
Canada	37,300	4,230	113
Brazil	37,000	5,630	152
Japan	28,900	3,340	116
Taiwan	20,200	3,300	164
Thailand	19,500	3,110	159
Colombia	11,500	1,510	131
Netherlands	10,000	1,550	155
Other	33,800	5,150	152
Total or average	350,000	48,700	139

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

<sup>2</sup>August 2005 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 2005<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	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	7,060	50,100	2
Belgium	--	20,000	--	12,800	--	38,700	--	71,500	3
Belize	--	--	--	--	--	--	23	23	(3)
Brazil	55,000	6,010	20,700	58,200	21,700	34,600	37,000	233,000	9
Canada	35,100	34,200	40,900	37,000	49,200	33,500	37,300	267,000	10
Chile	26,100	8,280	30,800	--	32,200	28,100	--	126,000	5
China	--	12,200	15,000	248	163	--	7,000	34,600	1
Colombia	13,300	8,500	10,000	9,250	10,900	750	11,500	64,200	2
Costa Rica	--	--	4,200	--	4,400	--	3,500	12,100	(3)
Ecuador	--	--	5,000	--	--	--	--	5,000	(3)
Finland	--	17	--	16	--	--	--	33	(3)
France	--	--	5,710	7,420	--	--	49	13,200	(3)
Grenada	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	5	(3)
Guatemala	--	--	2,700	--	5,000	--	--	7,700	(3)
Indonesia	60,800	--	44,200	17,500	27,100	--	37,800	187,000	7
Italy	--	44	--	15	49	--	49	157	(3)
Japan	10,400	45,800	40,000	25,500	31,500	27,600	28,900	210,000	8
Korea, Republic of	13,000	20,300	13,900	15,600	15,500	--	38,300	117,000	4
Malaysia	10,500	--	--	30,500	--	27,300	--	68,300	3
Mexico	63,600	51,600	53,500	96,100	66,100	65,600	75,200	472,000	18
Netherlands	9,510	9,110	10,100	10,000	19	10,200	10,000	59,000	2
New Zealand	6,000	--	7,000	6,010	--	--	6,000	25,000	1
Pakistan	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	(3)
Panama	2,000	--	--	--	--	--	2,000	4,000	(3)
Peru	8,850	--	7,820	--	--	6,870	--	23,500	1
Philippines	--	14,000	--	5,700	9,000	--	8,000	36,700	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	16	97,400	4
Taiwan	18,500	20,600	20,400	26,200	15,100	20	20,200	121,000	5
Thailand	16,500	598	19,900	36,800	24,500	--	19,500	118,000	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	40	93,700	4
Vietnam	--	--	735	1,100	--	--	98	1,930	(3)
Total	388,000	330,000	409,000	485,000	371,000	343,000	350,000	2,680,000	100

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>August 2005 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Less than 1/2 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)
2004:		
July	600	\$189
August	504	163
September	627	137
October	573	149
November	659	177
December	626	140
Total (January-July)	3,320	1,110
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
July	602	208
Total	5,450	1,460

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

<sup>2</sup>August 2005 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	
2004:						
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-July)	6,350,000	3,320	2,740,000	--	12,300	3,630,000
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	955,000 <sup>r</sup>	602	350,000	--	2,790 <sup>r</sup>	609,000
August	893,000	NA	NA	--	50,500	NA
January-July	6,420,000	5,450	2,680,000	--	41,100	3,790,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised. 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.