

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN OCTOBER 2006

Natural soda ash production in October was 955,000 metric tons (t), 11% higher than the previous month's production of 859,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 203,000 t, 4% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in October was 1.56 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in September was 514,000 t, 5.7% lower than in September 2005.

Exports and imports of soda ash in September 2006 were 363,000 t and 487 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through September 2006, compared with those of September 2005, were as follows: production was 1.3% lower, imports 29% lower, exports unchanged, ending stocks 28% lower, and apparent consumption 3% lower.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2005:			
September	923	296	1,480
October	898	307	1,320
November	895	292	1,310
December	922	243	1,360
Total (January-October)	9,140	XX	14,300
Year	11,000	XX	17,000
2006:			
January	946	181	1,190
February	801	198	1,270
March	952	249	1,470 ^r
April	874	259	1,290
May	909	204	1,190
June	910	231	1,340 ^r
July	952	258 ^r	1,430
August	926	230 ^r	1,500
September	859	212 ^r	1,480
October	955	203	1,560
Total	9,080	XX	13,700

^rRevised. 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 SEPTEMBER 2006^{1, 2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	82,500	\$11,200	\$135
Japan	33,400	5,240	157
Canada	32,400	4,850	150
Chile	31,000	5,210	168
China	25,900	3,600	139
Brazil	18,000	3,010	167
Venezuela	17,500	3,180	182
Taiwan	16,900	3,220	190
Malaysia	15,600	3,070	197
Korea, Republic of	14,000	2,600	186
Other	76,700	13,100	171
Total or average	364,000	58,300	160

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

²October 2006 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 2006^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	Total	% of total
Argentina	--	--	--	14,600	25,000	--	17,600	10,600	--	67,800	2
Aruba	--	--	--	--	--	10	--	--	--	10	(3)
Australia	2,450	7,010	--	--	4,810	11,800	7,000	7,030	12,400	52,500	1
Bahrain	--	--	204	138	234	78	234	--	--	888	(3)
Belgium	38,300	12,200	498	29,200	14,600	32,000	12,000	--	--	139,000	4
Brazil	51,900	15,700	24,900	31,800	81,200	--	83,200	21,000	18,000	328,000	9
Cameroon	--	--	59	56	--	--	--	--	--	114	(3)
Canada	35,000	27,600	35,200	38,500	40,000	55,100	47,400	47,000	32,400	358,000	10
Chile	31,800	35,100	--	29,800	--	24,800	--	37,600	31,000	190,000	5
China	--	--	--	--	--	39,200	--	31,800	25,900	96,900	3
Colombia	15,600	--	13,900	11,000	19,900	--	--	28,900	11,500	101,000	3
Costa Rica	--	--	--	7,500	4,500	--	--	3,000	3,930	18,900	1
Dominican Republic	--	--	6,050	--	--	--	--	--	--	6,050	(3)
Ecuador	--	--	8,000	4,050	--	--	--	--	--	12,100	(3)
El Salvador	--	--	10,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	10,000	(3)
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	17	17	--	34	(3)
France	22	--	58	15,200	22	14,700	--	44	88	30,200	1
Germany	--	--	44	68	--	42	--	39	--	193	(3)
Grenada	--	--	5	5	--	--	--	--	--	9	(3)
Guatemala	5,950	--	--	6,610	--	7,070	--	6,080	--	25,700	1
Hong Kong	--	--	--	8	22	--	--	--	--	30	(3)
India	--	--	--	--	--	--	49	--	--	49	(3)
Indonesia	40,200	--	30,100	22,000	20,500	19,700	18,900	12,400	--	164,000	5
Italy	--	--	--	18	--	--	--	--	117	135	(3)
Japan	4,400	49,000	12,300	15,200	27,800	10,100	22,100	10,600	33,400	185,000	5
Korea, Republic of	--	25,300	19,300	12,400	19,000	--	25,000	18,800	14,000	134,000	4
Lithuania	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	17,900	--	17,900	1
Malaysia	--	--	12,000	8,020	--	22,100	--	--	15,600	57,700	2
Mexico	54,600	72,700	52,100	63,100	90,700	78,300	73,000	37,800	82,500	605,000	17
Netherlands	15,100	42	39	12,100	11,400	20	10,100	160	9,950	58,900	2
New Zealand	15,000	--	--	6,020	--	--	--	6,000	--	27,100	1
Nigeria	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6,990	--	6,990	(3)
Palau	--	--	--	--	--	17	--	--	--	17	(3)
Panama	2,000	--	--	2,000	--	--	--	2,000	--	6,000	(3)
Peru	--	10,700	--	13,300	--	--	--	--	10,500	34,500	1
Philippines	--	--	10,200	5,000	--	--	8,170	--	--	23,400	1
Portugal	10,500	5,000	--	--	--	10,000	--	--	10,000	35,600	1
Russia	600	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	600	(3)
Saudi Arabia	37,400	21,000	--	9,700	--	18,100	11,500	--	--	97,800	3
South Africa	6,640	13,300	16,000	6,520	7,610	6,450	--	--	6,580	63,100	2
Spain	35	33	30,300	17,200	27,700	7,550	22,800	9,890	--	115,000	3
Sweden	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	(3)
Taiwan	22,300	15,100	20,500	--	16,600	17,500	17,200	18,400	16,900	144,000	4
Thailand	21,100	--	27,100	22,800	6,700	16,600	--	18,400	11,500	124,000	4
United Arab Emirates	17,000	6,000	--	6,000	--	7,060	5,510	--	--	41,600	1
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	--	13	--	97	110	(3)
Venezuela	17,300	6,880	38,000	--	16,300	8,500	--	38,100	17,500	143,000	4
Total	445,000	322,000	367,000	410,000	435,000	407,000	382,000	391,000	364,000	3,520,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²October 2006 data were not available at time of publication.

³Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH¹

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2005:		
September	270	\$116
October	441	172
November	768	238
December	596	243
Total (January-October)	6,840	1,690
Year	8,210	2,460
2006:		
January	673	221
February	456	179
March	619	199
April	505	184
May	896	259
June	259	102
July	359	161
August	297	102
September	487	192
Total	4,550	1,600

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

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	
2005:						
September	923,000	270	328,000	49,600	--	545,000
October	898,000	441	356,000	11,300	--	530,000
November	895,000	768	408,000	--	14,800	503,000
December	922,000	596	409,000	--	49,600	563,000
Total (January-September)	8,240,000	6,400	3,500,000	--	41,900	4,780,000
Year	11,000,000	8,210	4,680,000	--	95,000	6,380,000
2006:						
January	946,000	673	445,000	--	61,800	563,000
February	801,000	456	322,000	17,200	--	462,000
March	952,000	619	367,000	50,800	--	535,000
April	874,000	505	410,000	10,300	--	454,000
May	909,000	896	435,000	--	55,100	530,000
June	910,000	259	407,000	26,600	--	477,000
July	952,000	359	382,000	26,800 ^r	--	544,000
August	926,000	297	391,000	--	27,400 ^r	563,000 ^r
September	859,000	487	364,000	--	18,700 ^r	514,000
October	955,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-September	8,130,000	4,550	3,520,000	--	31,200	4,640,000

^rRevised. 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.