

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN NOVEMBER 2006

Natural soda ash production in November 2006 was 930,000 metric tons (t), 2.6% lower than the previous month's production of 955,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 226,000 t, 11% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in November 2006 was 1.48 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in October 2006 was 482,000 t, 9.1% lower than in October 2005, and ending stocks were 34% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in October 2006 were 483,000 t and 757 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through October 2006, compared with those of October 2005, were as follows: production remained the same; imports were 22% lower; exports, 7% higher; and apparent consumption, 3.6% lower.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2005:			
January-November	10,000	XX	15,700
October	898	307	1,320
November	895	292	1,310
December	922	243	1,360
January-December	11,000	XX	17,000
2006:			
January	946	181	1,190
February	801	198	1,270
March	952	249	1,470
April	874	259	1,290
May	909	204	1,190
June	910	231	1,340
July	952	258	1,430
August	926	230	1,500
September	859	212	1,480
October	955	203	1,560
November	930	226	1,480
January-November	10,000	XX	15,200

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 OCTOBER 2006^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Brazil	73,200	\$12,100	\$165
Mexico	42,700	6,620	155
Canada	38,100	5,150	135
Japan	37,800	5,900	156
Chile	31,000	4,870	157
Taiwan	28,300	5,300	187
Venezuela	27,600	4,700	170
China	14,100	1,940	138
Malaysia	14,100	2,840	202
Korea, Republic of	12,800	2,370	188
Other	163,000	25,900	159
Total or average	483,000	77,600	161

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

²November 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	October	Total	% of total
Argentina	--	--	--	14,600	25,000	--	17,600	10,600	--	10,900	78,700	2
Aruba	--	--	--	--	--	10	--	--	--	--	10	(3)
Australia	2,450	7,010	--	--	4,810	11,800	7,000	7,030	12,400	7,050	59,600	1
Bahrain	--	--	204	138	234	78	234	--	--	--	888	(3)
Belgium	38,300	12,200	498	29,200	14,600	32,000	12,000	--	--	24,100	163,000	4
Brazil	51,900	15,700	24,900	31,800	81,200	--	83,200	21,000	18,000	73,200	401,000	10
Cameroon	--	--	59	56	--	--	--	--	--	--	114	(3)
Canada	35,000	27,600	35,200	38,500	40,000	55,100	47,400	47,000	32,400	38,100	396,000	10
Chile	31,800	35,100	--	29,800	--	24,800	--	37,600	31,000	32,000	222,000	6
China	--	--	--	--	--	39,200	--	31,800	25,900	14,100	111,000	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	--
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	15,000	45,100	1
Germany	--	--	44	68	--	42	--	39	--	--	193	(3)
Grenada	--	--	5	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	9	(3)
Guatemala	5,950	--	--	6,610	--	7,070	--	6,080	--	3,950	29,700	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	--	19,300	183,000	5
Italy	--	--	--	18	--	--	--	--	117	18	153	(3)
Japan	4,400	49,000	12,300	15,200	27,800	10,100	22,100	10,600	33,400	37,800	223,000	6
Korea, Republic of	--	25,300	19,300	12,400	19,000	--	25,000	18,800	14,000	12,800	147,000	4
Lithuania	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	17,900	--	--	17,900	--
Malaysia	--	--	12,000	8,020	--	22,100	--	--	15,600	14,100	71,700	2
Mexico	54,600	72,700	52,100	63,100	90,700	78,300	73,000	37,800	82,500	42,700	647,000	16
Netherlands	15,100	42	39	12,100	11,400	20	10,100	160	9,950	15,100	74,000	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	--	--	7,500	30,900	1
Portugal	10,500	5,000	--	--	--	10,000	--	--	10,000	5,300	40,900	1
Russia	600	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7	607	(3)
Saudi Arabia	37,400	21,000	--	9,700	--	18,100	11,500	--	--	15,000	113,000	3
South Africa	6,640	13,300	16,000	6,520	7,610	6,450	--	--	6,580	6,440	69,500	2
Spain	35	33	30,300	17,200	27,700	7,550	22,800	9,890	--	12,600	128,000	3
Sweden	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	(3)
Taiwan	22,300	15,100	20,500	--	16,600	17,500	17,200	18,400	16,900	28,300	173,000	4
Thailand	21,100	--	27,100	22,800	6,700	16,600	--	18,400	11,500	12,800	137,000	3
United Arab Emirates	17,000	6,000	--	6,000	--	7,060	5,510	--	--	6,960	48,600	1
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	--	13	--	97	--	110	(3)
Venezuela	17,300	6,880	38,000	--	16,300	8,500	--	38,100	17,500	27,600	170,000	4
Total	445,000	322,000	367,000	410,000	435,000	407,000	382,000	391,000	364,000	483,000	4,000,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²November 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 ASH^{1,2}

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2005:		
January-October	6,840	1,690
October	441	\$172
November	768	238
December	596	243
January-December	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
October	757	187
January-October	5,310	1,790

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

²November 2006 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	
2005:						
January-October	9,140,000	6,840	3,860,000	--	30,600 ^r	5,310,000 ^r
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
January-December	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	--	544,000
August	926,000	297	391,000	--	27,400	563,000
September	859,000	487	364,000	--	18,700	514,000
October	955,000	757	483,000	--	8,470	482,000
November	930,000	NA	NA	--	NA	NA
January-October	9,080,000	5,310	4,000,000	--	39,700	5,120,000

^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.