

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JANUARY 2006

Natural soda ash production in January was estimated to be 944,000 metric tons (t), 2% higher than the previous month's production of 922,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 204,000 t, 16% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in January was 1.15 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in December was 609,000 t, 23% higher than the December 2004 level of 496,000 t.

Exports and imports of soda ash in December 2005 were 364,000 t and 596 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through December 2005, compared with those of December 2004, were as follows: production was the same, imports 30% higher, exports 4% lower, ending stocks 28% lower, and apparent consumption 5% higher.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2004:			
December	936	338	1,210
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	1,550 ^r
July	955	297	1,550
August	893	246	1,380
September	923	296	1,480
October	898	307	1,320
November	895	292	1,310
December	922	243	1,360
Total	11,000	XX	17,000
2006:			
January	944 ^e	204 ^e	1,150

^eEstimated. ^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 DECEMBER 2005^{1, 2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	72,400	\$9,670	\$133
Brazil	44,500	7,090	159
Canada	32,500	3,730	115
Chile	27,100	3,690	136
Belgium	26,900	3,670	136
Japan	26,300	3,380	128
Indonesia	26,200	4,170	159
Spain	23,000	2,640	115
Taiwan	22,000	3,400	155
Australia	16,500	2,130	129
Other	46,300	6,530	141
Total or average	364,000	50,100	138

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

²January 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 2005^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total	% of total
Argentina	1,400	14,700	8,500	25,200	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	49,800	1
Aruba	--	--	--	--	2,680	--	--	294	--	--	--	--	2,970	(3)
Australia	7,000	9,000	6,000	7,010	7,010	7,010	7,060	--	10,800	9,950	12,500	16,500	99,900	2
Belgium	--	20,000	--	12,800	--	38,700	--	9,950	100	15,300	26,000	26,900	150,000	3
Belize	--	--	--	--	--	--	23	--	--	6	--	--	29	(3)
Brazil	55,000	6,010	20,700	58,200	21,700	34,600	37,000	47,300	74,100	36,000	14,700	44,500	450,000	10
Canada	35,100	34,200	40,900	37,000	49,200	33,500	37,300	31,700	36,000	37,500	35,500	32,500	441,000	10
Chile	26,100	8,280	30,800	--	32,200	28,100	--	27,500	30,500	23,900	5	27,100	234,000	5
China	--	12,200	15,000	248	163	--	7,000	--	6	--	60,800	--	95,400	2
Colombia	13,300	8,500	10,000	9,250	10,900	750	11,500	23,300	--	--	27,100	--	114,000	3
Costa Rica	--	--	4,200	--	4,400	--	3,500	4,400	--	--	--	--	16,500	(3)
Ecuador	--	--	5,000	--	--	--	--	4,500	--	--	--	--	9,500	(3)
Finland	--	17	--	16	--	--	--	17	--	--	--	17	67	(3)
France	--	--	5,710	7,420	--	--	49	7,010	--	--	--	12,200	32,400	1
Grenada	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	5	(3)
Guatemala	--	--	2,700	--	5,000	--	--	5,300	--	5,000	--	5	18,000	(3)
Indonesia	60,800	--	44,200	17,500	27,100	--	37,800	14,400	10,900	26,900	--	26,200	266,000	6
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	249	--	--	--	--	249	(3)
Italy	--	44	--	15	49	--	49	131	--	--	--	--	288	(3)
Japan	10,400	45,800	40,000	25,500	31,500	27,600	28,900	16,000	9,000	19,300	22,300	26,300	302,000	7
Korea, Republic of	13,000	20,300	13,900	15,600	15,500	--	38,300	9,900	22,500	12,500	11,800	14,600	188,000	4
Malaysia	10,500	--	--	30,500	--	27,300	--	13,000	--	--	33,000	--	114,000	3
Mexico	63,600	51,600	53,500	96,100	66,100	65,600	75,200	73,800	64,600	69,700	58,200	72,400	811,000	18
Netherlands	9,510	9,110	10,100	10,000	19	10,200	10,000	1,060	9,780	10,000	9,630	13,000	102,000	2
New Zealand	6,000	--	7,000	6,010	--	--	6,000	20	5,200	6,000	--	--	36,200	1
Pakistan	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	(3)
Panama	2,000	--	--	--	--	--	2,000	--	--	2,000	--	--	6,000	(3)
Peru	8,850	--	7,820	--	--	6,870	--	9,000	--	--	--	--	32,500	1
Philippines	--	14,000	--	5,700	9,000	--	8,000	--	7,000	--	7,430	--	51,100	1
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	17	--	223	--	--	240	(3)
Portugal	--	--	1,360	--	--	--	--	8,030	--	5,000	--	--	14,400	(3)
Russia	1,830	--	--	--	401	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2,230	(3)
Saudi Arabia	13,000	--	14,000	12,000	--	17,000	--	14,000	--	26,000	--	--	96,000	2
South Africa	--	13,000	--	--	6,540	6,560	--	6,530	--	--	17,100	--	49,800	1
Spain	10,000	10,000	17,600	12,900	34,900	12,000	16	17,500	--	17,000	3,190	23,000	158,000	4
Taiwan	18,500	20,600	20,400	26,200	15,100	20	20,200	17,800	22,100	--	12,000	22,000	195,000	4
Thailand	16,500	598	19,900	36,800	24,500	--	19,500	--	9,500	--	14,400	--	142,000	3
United Arab Emirates	5,500	--	4,760	4,000	--	5,000	--	4,000	--	6,000	--	--	29,300	1
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	1	(3)
Venezuela	--	32,100	4,000	27,700	7,500	22,400	40	26,700	--	28,000	11,600	6,500	166,000	4
Vietnam	--	--	735	1,100	--	--	98	1,000	--	--	--	--	2,930	(3)
Total	388,000	330,000	409,000	485,000	371,000	343,000	350,000	394,000	312,000	356,000	377,000	364,000	4,480,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²January 2006 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:		
December	626	\$140
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
August	685	227
September	270	116
October	441	172
November	768	238
December	596	243
Total	8,210	2,460

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

²January 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	
2004:						
December	936,000	626	397,000	43,200	--	496,000
Year 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	602	350,000	--	2,790	609,000
August	893,000	685	394,000	--	50,500	550,000
September	923,000	270	312,000	49,600	--	561,000
October	898,000	441	356,000	11,300	--	530,000
November	895,000	768	377,000	--	14,800	533,000
December	922,000	596	364,000	--	49,600	609,000
Total	11,000,000	8,210	4,480,000	--	95,000	6,580,000
2006:						
January	944,000 ^e	NA	NA	--	38,500 ^e	NA

^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.