

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN AUGUST 2006

Natural soda ash production in August was estimated to be 924,000 metric tons (t), 3% lower than the previous month's production of 952,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were estimated at 270,000 t, 4% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in August was 1.50 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in July was 543,000 t, 8% lower than in July 2005.

Exports and imports of soda ash in July 2006 were 382,000 t and 359 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through July 2006, compared with those of July 2005, were as follows: production was 1% lower, imports 31% lower, exports slightly higher, ending stocks 13% lower, and apparent consumption 5% lower.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2005:			
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 (January-August)	7,320	XX	11,600
Year total	11,000	XX	17,000
2006:			
January	946	181	1,190
February	801	198	1,270
March	952	249	1,460
April	874	259	1,290
May	909	204	1,190
June	910	231	1,330
July	952	259	1,430
August	924 ^e	270 ^e	1,500
Total	7,270	XX	10,700

^eEstimated. 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 JULY 2006^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Brazil	83,200	\$13,800	\$166
Mexico	73,000	10,100	138
Canada	47,400	5,930	125
Korea, Republic of	25,000	3,810	152
Spain	22,800	3,230	142
Japan	22,100	3,250	147
Indonesia	18,900	3,490	184
Argentina	17,600	2,990	170
Taiwan	17,200	3,220	187
Belgium	12,000	1,450	121
Other	42,600	7,680	180
Total or average	382,000	58,900	154

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

²August 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	Total	% of total
Argentina	--	--	--	14,600	25,000	--	17,600	57,200	2
Aruba	--	--	--	--	--	10	--	10	(3)
Australia	2,450	7,010	--	--	4,810	11,800	7,000	33,100	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	5
Brazil	51,900	15,700	24,900	31,800	81,200	--	83,200	289,000	10
Cameroon	--	--	59	56	--	--	--	115	(3)
Canada	35,000	27,600	35,200	38,500	40,000	55,100	47,400	279,000	10
Chile	31,800	35,100	--	29,800	--	24,800	--	121,000	4
China	--	--	--	--	--	39,200	--	39,200	1
Colombia	15,600	--	13,900	11,000	19,900	--	--	60,400	2
Costa Rica	--	--	--	7,500	4,500	--	--	12,000	(3)
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	(3)
France	22	--	58	15,200	22	14,700	--	30,000	1
Germany	--	--	44	68	--	42	--	154	(3)
Grenada	--	--	5	5	--	--	--	10	(3)
Guatemala	5,950	--	--	6,610	--	7,070	--	19,600	1
Hong Kong	--	--	--	8	22	--	--	30	(3)
India	--	--	--	--	--	--	49	49	(3)
Indonesia	40,200	--	30,100	22,000	20,500	19,700	18,900	151,000	5
Italy	--	--	--	18	--	--	--	18	(3)
Japan	4,400	49,000	12,300	15,200	27,800	10,100	22,100	141,000	5
Korea, Republic of	--	25,300	19,300	12,400	19,000	--	25,000	101,000	4
Malaysia	--	--	12,000	8,020	--	22,100	--	42,100	2
Mexico	54,600	72,700	52,100	63,100	90,700	78,300	73,000	484,000	17
Netherlands	15,100	42	39	12,100	11,400	20	10,100	48,800	2
New Zealand	15,000	--	--	6,020	--	--	--	21,100	1
Palau	--	--	--	--	--	17	--	17	(3)
Panama	2,000	--	--	2,000	--	--	--	4,000	(3)
Peru	--	10,700	--	13,300	--	--	--	24,000	1
Philippines	--	--	10,200	5,000	--	--	8,170	23,400	1
Portugal	10,500	5,000	--	--	--	10,000	--	25,500	1
Russia	600	--	--	--	--	--	--	600	(3)
Saudi Arabia	37,400	21,000	--	9,700	--	18,100	11,500	97,800	4
South Africa	6,640	13,300	16,000	6,520	7,610	6,450	--	56,500	2
Spain	35	33	30,300	17,200	27,700	7,550	22,800	106,000	4
Sweden	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	(3)
Taiwan	22,300	15,100	20,500	--	16,600	17,500	17,200	109,000	4
Thailand	21,100	--	27,100	22,800	6,700	16,600	--	94,300	3
United Arab Emirates	17,000	6,000	--	6,000	--	7,060	5,510	41,600	2
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	--	13	13	(3)
Venezuela	17,300	6,880	38,000	--	16,300	8,500	--	87,000	3
Total	445,000	322,000	367,000	410,000	435,000	407,000	382,000	2,770,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²August 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:		
July	602	\$208
August	685	227
September	270	116
October	441	172
November	768	238
December	596	243
Total (January-July)	5,450	1,460
Year total	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
Total	3,770	1,310

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

²August 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:						
July	955,000	602	368,000	--	2,790	591,000
August	893,000	685	432,000	--	50,500	513,000
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-July)	6,420,000	5,450	2,740,000	--	41,100	3,730,000
Total	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	28,000 ^r	--	543,000
August	924,000	NA	NA	11,300	--	NA
January-July	6,340,000	3,770	2,770,000	16,000	--	3,560,000

^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.