

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN DECEMBER 2006

Natural soda ash production in December 2006 was 946,000 metric tons (t), 1.7% higher than the previous month's production of 930,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 290,000 t, 28% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in December 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 November 2006 was 541,000 t, 7.5% higher than in November 2005, and ending stocks were 22.6% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in November 2006 were 366,000 t and 478 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through November 2006, compared with those of November 2005, were as follows: production was 3.9% higher; imports, 37.7% lower; exports, 10% lower; and apparent consumption, 2.7% lower.

Note: The final annual average soda ash value for 2006 was \$96.64 per short ton.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Ending stocks	
2005:			
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
December	946	290	1,490
January-December	11,000	XX	16,700

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 NOVEMBER 2006<sup>1, 2</sup>

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	116,000	\$14,500	\$125
Brazil	45,600	7,590	166
Canada	37,400	5,540	148
Chile	27,600	3,850	140
Colombia	11,500	2,060	179
Other	128,000	20,700	161
Total or average	366,000	54,300	148

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

<sup>2</sup>December 2006 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 2006<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	Total	% of total
Argentina	--	--	--	14,600	25,000	--	17,600	10,600	--	10,900	17,700	96,400	2
Aruba	--	--	--	--	--	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	(3)
Australia	2,450	7,010	--	--	4,810	11,800	7,000	7,030	12,400	7,050	7,000	66,600	2
Bahrain	--	--	204	138	234	78	234	--	--	--	--	888	(3)
Belgium	38,300	12,200	498	29,200	14,600	32,000	12,000	--	--	24,100	220	163,000	4
Brazil	51,900	15,700	24,900	31,800	81,200	--	83,200	21,000	18,000	73,200	45,600	447,000	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	37,400	434,000	10
Chile	31,800	35,100	--	29,800	--	24,800	--	37,600	31,000	32,000	27,600	250,000	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	--	11,500	112,000	3
Costa Rica	--	--	--	7,500	4,500	--	--	3,000	3,930	--	2,260	21,200	--
Dominican Republic	--	--	6,050	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6,050	(3)
Ecuador	--	--	8,000	4,050	--	--	--	--	--	--	3,600	15,700	(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	--	--	105	298	(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	30,500	214,000	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	5
Korea, Republic of	--	25,300	19,300	12,400	19,000	--	25,000	18,800	14,000	12,800	--	147,000	3
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	116,000	763,000	17
Netherlands	15,100	42	39	12,100	11,400	20	10,100	160	9,950	15,100	9,870	83,900	2
New Zealand	15,000	--	--	6,020	--	--	--	6,000	--	--	8,030	35,100	1
Nigeria	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6,990	--	--	--	6,990	(3)
Palau	--	--	--	--	--	17	--	--	--	--	--	17	(3)
Panama	2,000	--	--	2,000	--	--	--	2,000	--	--	2,000	8,000	(3)
Peru	--	10,700	--	13,300	--	--	--	--	10,500	--	6,620	41,100	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	7,500	136,000	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	33,000	203,000	5
Total	445,000	322,000	367,000	410,000	435,000	407,000	382,000	391,000	364,000	483,000	366,000	4,370,000	100

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>December 2006 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ 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)
2005:		
January-November	7,610	\$2,220
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
November	478	167
January-November <sup>1</sup>	5,790	1,950

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

<sup>2</sup>December 2006 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	
2005:						
January-November	10,000,000	7,610	4,270,000	--	45,400	5,820,000
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	478	366,000	23,400	--	541,000
December	946,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-November	11,000,000	5,790	4,370,000	--	16,300	5,660,000

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.

TABLE 6  
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTERS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

SIC code	End use	2005	2006				Total
			First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	
32	Glass:						
3221	Container	1,460	364	374	367	372	1,480
3211	Flat	1,130	272	272	282	291	1,120
3296	Fiber	284	65	67	66	65	263
3229	Other	179	42	45	43	47	177
	Total	3,050	744	758	759	775	3,040
281	Chemicals	1,680	464	453	454	415	1,790
284	Soaps and detergents	624	125	127	134	128	514
26	Pulp and paper	90	23	22	21	21	87
2899	Water treatment <sup>2</sup>	78	24	18	26	21	89
	Flue gas desulfurization	141	33	25	37	33	128
	Distributors	290	74	67	63	56	260
	Other	241	50	49	61	47	207
	Grand total domestic consumption <sup>3</sup>	6,200	1,540	1,520	1,560	1,500	6,110
	Exports <sup>4</sup>	4,870	1,190	1,180	1,240	1,300	4,910
	Canada	393	94	120	113	104	431
	Total industry sales <sup>5</sup>	11,100	2,720	2,700	2,790	2,800	11,000
	Total sales from plants	11,200	2,690	2,760	2,720	2,780	10,900
	Total production	11,000	2,700	2,690	2,740	2,830	11,000

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors and purge liquors sold to powerplant for water treatment. Sales of mine water are excluded.

<sup>3</sup>Imports reported by the producer/importer have been distributed into appropriate end-use categories listed above.

<sup>4</sup>As reported by producers. Includes Canada. Data may not necessarily agree with that reported by the U.S. Census Bureau for the same periods.

<sup>5</sup>Represents soda ash from domestic origin (production and inventory changes) and imports and for exports. Includes soda ash sold by coproducers and distributed by purchasers into appropriate end-use categories.