

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JULY 2006

Natural soda ash production in July was 952,000 metric tons (t), 5% higher than the previous month's revised production of 910,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 259,000 t, 12% higher than the preceding month's revised inventories. Wyoming trona production in July was 1.43 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in June was 477,000 t, 8% lower than June 2005.

Exports and imports of soda ash in June 2006 were 407,000 t and 259 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through June 2006, compared with those of June 2005, were as follows: production was 1% lower, imports 30% lower, exports slightly higher, ending stocks 13% lower, and apparent consumption 4% lower.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2005:			
June	932	266	1,550
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-July)	6,420	XX	10,200
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 ^r	231 ^r	1,330
July	952	259	1,430
Total	6,340	XX	9,160

^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 JUNE 2006^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	78,300	\$10,900	\$139
Canada	55,100	6,560	119
China	39,200	3,810	97
Belgium	32,000	4,050	126
Chile	24,800	4,140	167
Malaysia	22,100	4,260	193
Indonesia	19,700	3,660	185
Saudi Arabia	18,100	3,350	185
Taiwan	17,500	3,300	189
Thailand	16,600	3,220	194
Other	83,400	12,900	155
Total or average	407,000	60,100	148

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

²July 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	Total	% of total
Argentina	--	--	--	14,600	25,000	--	39,700	2
Aruba	--	--	--	--	--	10	10	(3)
Australia	2,450	7,010	--	--	4,810	11,800	26,100	1
Bahrain	--	--	204	138	234	78	654	(3)
Belgium	38,300	12,200	498	29,200	14,600	32,000	127,000	5
Brazil	51,900	15,700	24,900	31,800	81,200	--	206,000	9
Cameroon	--	--	59	56	--	--	115	(3)
Canada	35,000	27,600	35,200	38,500	40,000	55,100	231,000	10
Chile	31,800	35,100	--	29,800	--	24,800	121,000	5
China	--	--	--	--	--	39,200	39,200	2
Colombia	15,600	--	13,900	11,000	19,900	--	60,400	3
Costa Rica	--	--	--	7,500	4,500	--	12,000	1
Dominican Republic	--	--	6,050	--	--	--	6,050	(3)
Ecuador	--	--	8,000	4,050	--	--	12,100	1
El Salvador	--	--	10,000	--	--	--	10,000	(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)
Indonesia	40,200	--	30,100	22,000	20,500	19,700	133,000	6
Italy	--	--	--	18	--	--	18	(3)
Japan	4,400	49,000	12,300	15,200	27,800	10,100	119,000	5
Korea, Republic of	--	25,300	19,300	12,400	19,000	--	76,000	3
Malaysia	--	--	12,000	8,020	--	22,100	42,100	2
Mexico	54,600	72,700	52,100	63,100	90,700	78,300	411,000	17
Netherlands	15,100	42	39	12,100	11,400	20	38,700	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	--	--	15,200	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	86,200	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	82,800	3
Sweden	--	1	--	--	--	--	1	(3)
Taiwan	22,300	15,100	20,500	--	16,600	17,500	91,900	4
Thailand	21,100	--	27,100	22,800	6,700	16,600	94,300	4
United Arab Emirates	17,000	6,000	--	6,000	--	7,060	36,100	2
Venezuela	17,300	6,880	38,000	--	16,300	8,500	87,000	4
Total	445,000	322,000	367,000	410,000	435,000	407,000	2,390,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²July 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:		
June	668	\$183
July	602	208
August	685	227
September	270	116
October	441	172
November	768	238
December	596	243
Total (January-June)	4,840	1,260
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
Total	3,410	1,140

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

²July 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:						
June	932,000	668	377,000	40,000	--	516,000
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-June)	5,470,000	4,840	2,380,000	--	38,300	3,130,000
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 ^r	259	407,000	26,600 ^r	--	477,000
July	952,000	NA	NA	35,700	--	NA
January-June	5,390,000	3,410	2,390,000	--	12,000	3,020,000

^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.