

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JUNE 2006

Natural soda ash production in June was estimated to be 907,000 metric tons (t), slightly lower than the previous month's production of 909,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were estimated to be 216,000 t, 6% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in June was 1.33 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in May was 530,000 t, 5% lower than May 2005.

Exports and imports of soda ash in May 2006 were 435,000 t and 896 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through May 2006, compared with those of May 2005, were as follows: production was 1% lower, imports 25% lower, exports 1% lower, ending stocks 21% lower, and apparent consumption 3% lower.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2005:			
May	931	259	1,510
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-June)	5,470	XX	8,620
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	907 ^e	216 ^e	1,330
Total	5,390	XX	7,730

^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 MAY 2006^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	90,700	\$12,000	\$132
Brazil	81,200	13,500	166
Canada	40,000	5,490	137
Japan	27,800	4,860	175
Spain	27,700	3,220	116
Argentina	25,000	4,340	173
Indonesia	20,500	3,830	187
Colombia	19,900	3,510	177
Korea, Republic of	19,000	3,510	185
Taiwan	16,600	3,090	187
Other	66,300	11,500	174
Total or average	435,000	68,800	158

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

²June 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	Total	% of total
Argentina	--	--	--	14,600	25,000	39,700	2
Australia	2,450	7,010	--	--	4,810	14,300	1
Bahrain	--	--	204	138	234	576	(3)
Belgium	38,300	12,200	498	29,200	14,600	94,900	5
Brazil	51,900	15,700	24,900	31,800	81,200	206,000	10
Cameroon	--	--	59	56	--	115	(3)
Canada	35,000	27,600	35,200	38,500	40,000	176,000	9
Chile	31,800	35,100	--	29,800	--	96,600	5
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	1
France	22	--	58	15,200	22	15,300	1
Germany	--	--	44	68	--	112	(3)
Grenada	--	--	5	5	--	10	(3)
Guatemala	5,950	--	--	6,610	--	12,600	1
Hong Kong	--	--	--	8	22	30	(3)
Indonesia	40,200	--	30,100	22,000	20,500	113,000	6
Italy	--	--	--	18	--	18	(3)
Japan	4,400	49,000	12,300	15,200	27,800	109,000	5
Korea, Republic of	--	25,300	19,300	12,400	19,000	76,000	4
Malaysia	--	--	12,000	8,020	--	20,000	1
Mexico	54,600	72,700	52,100	63,100	90,700	333,000	17
Netherlands	15,100	42	39	12,100	11,400	38,700	2
New Zealand	15,000	--	--	6,020	--	21,100	1
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	--	--	--	15,500	1
Russia	600	--	--	--	--	600	(3)
Saudi Arabia	37,400	21,000	--	9,700	--	68,100	3
South Africa	6,640	13,300	16,000	6,520	7,610	50,100	3
Spain	35	33	30,300	17,200	27,700	75,200	4
Sweden	--	1	--	--	--	1	(3)
Taiwan	22,300	15,100	20,500	--	16,600	74,400	4
Thailand	21,100	--	27,100	22,800	6,700	77,700	4
United Arab Emirates	17,000	6,000	--	6,000	--	29,000	1
Venezuela	17,300	6,880	38,000	--	16,300	78,500	4
Total	445,000	322,000	367,000	410,000	435,000	1,980,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²June 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:		
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 (January-May)	4,180	1,070
Year total	8,210	2,460
2006:		
January	673	221
February	456	179
March	619	199
April	505	184
May	896	259
Total	3,150	1,040

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

²June 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:						
May	931,000	745	387,000	--	15,400	559,000
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-May)	4,540,000	4,180	2,000,000	--	78,200	2,620,000
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	907,000 ^e	NA	NA	12,000 ^e	--	NA
January-May	4,480,000	3,150	1,980,000	--	38,600	2,540,000

^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.