

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN MARCH 2007

Natural soda ash production in March was 962,000 metric tons (t), 9% higher than the previous month's production of 880,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 238,000 t, 4.8% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in March was 1.6 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in February was 468,000 t, 1% higher than in February 2006, and ending stocks were 15% higher.

Exports and imports of soda ash in February 2007 were 445,000 t and 501 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through February 2007, compared with those of February 2006, were as follows: production was slightly lower; imports were 14% lower; exports; 8% higher; and apparent consumption; 5% lower.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2006:			
January-March	2,700	XX	3,920
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
2007:			
January	864	260	1,420
February	880	227	1,400
March	962	238	1,590
January-March	2,710	XX	4,420

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 FEBRUARY 2007^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	59,200	\$8,520	\$144
Brazil	54,800	7,000	128
Canada	37,500	5,230	139
Taiwan	33,400	5,200	156
Belgium	32,800	4,420	135
Chile	25,900	3,740	144
Venezuela	24,600	3,630	147
Spain	20,000	2,420	120
Japan	15,100	2,200	146
France	15,000	1,730	115
Netherlands	12,600	2,130	170
Other	114,000	16,400	144
Total or average	445,000	62,700	141

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

²March 2007 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 2007^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	Total	% of total
Argentina	15,600	10	15,700	2
Aruba	6	--	6	(3)
Australia	--	12,200	12,200	1
Belgium	26	32,800	32,900	4
Botswan	3	--	3	--
Brazil	51,000	54,800	106,000	13
Cameroon	--	57	57	(3)
Canada	39,600	37,500	77,100	9
Chile	10,300	25,900	36,100	4
China	--	17,900	17,900	2
Colombia	--	19,700	19,700	2
Costa Rica	--	6,300	6,300	--
Ecuador	--	3,000	3,000	(3)
Finland	--	17	17	(3)
France	--	15,000	15,000	2
Germany	--	20	20	(3)
Guatemala	--	5,590	5,590	1
Indonesia	54,700	113	54,800	7
Ireland	--	4	4	--
Japan	16,800	15,100	31,800	4
Korea, Republic of	9,430	15,500	25,000	3
Malaysia	15,300	--	15,300	2
Mexico	69,100	59,200	128,000	16
Netherlands	11,000	12,600	23,500	3
Nicaraga	--	78	78	--
Panama	--	2,000	2,000	(3)
Peru	--	8,100	8,100	1
Russia	--	7	7	(3)
Saudi Arabia	--	10,700	10,700	1
South Africa	6,510	6,550	13,100	2
Spain	14,700	20,000	34,700	4
Sweden	1	--	1	(3)
Taiwan	21,300	33,400	54,600	7
Thailand	10,500	--	10,500	1
United Arab Emirates	--	6,270	6,270	1
Venezuela	35,000	24,600	59,700	7
Total	381,000	445,000	826,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²March 2007 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)
2006:		
January-February	1,130	\$400
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
December	1,060	332
January-December	6,850	2,290
2007:		
January	477	184
February	501	148
January-February	978	332

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

²March 2007 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	
2006:						
January-February	1,750,000	1,130	768,000	--	44,600	1,030,000
February	801,000	456	323,000	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	1,060	452,000	63,100	--	432,000
January-December	11,000,000	6,850	4,820,000	46,900	--	6,100,000
2007:						
January	864,000	477	381,000	--	29,500	513,000
February	880,000	501	445,000	--	33,000	468,000
March	962,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-February	1,740,000	978	826,000	--	62,400	981,000

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.