

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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**For information, contact:**

Dennis S. Kostick, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
983 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192  
Telephone: (703) 648-7715, Fax: (703) 648-7757  
E-mail: [dkostick@usgs.gov](mailto:dkostick@usgs.gov)

Martha L. Jackson (Data)  
Telephone: (703) 648-7944  
Fax: (703) 648-7975  
E-mail: [mjackson@usgs.gov](mailto:mjackson@usgs.gov)

**Internet:** <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

## SODA ASH IN FEBRUARY 2007

Natural soda ash production in February was 880,000 metric tons (t), 2% higher than the previous month's production of 864,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 227,000 t, 13% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in February was 1.4 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in January was 513,000 t, 9% lower than in January 2006.

Exports and imports of soda ash in January 2007 were 381,000 t and 477 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through January 2007, compared with those of January 2006, were as follows: production was 9% lower; imports, 29% lower; exports, 14% lower; and apparent consumption, 9% lower.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Ending stocks	
2006:			
January-February	1,750	XX	2,450
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
2007:			
January	864	260	1,420
February	880	227	1,400
January-February	1,740	XX	2,820

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 JANUARY 2007<sup>1,2</sup>

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	69,100	\$9,720	\$141
Indonesia	54,700	7,870	144
Brazil	51,000	7,710	151
Canada	39,600	5,690	144
Venezuela	35,000	4,880	139
Taiwan	21,300	3,380	159
Japan	16,800	2,360	141
Argentina	15,600	2,210	141
Malaysia	15,300	2,370	155
Spain	14,700	2,050	144
Other	47,700	7,430	156
Total or average	381,000	55,700	146

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

<sup>2</sup>February 2007 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 2007<sup>1, 2</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	January	% of total
Argentina	15,600	4
Aruba	6	(3)
Belgium	26	(3)
Botswan	3	(3)
Brazil	51,000	13
Canada	39,600	10
Chile	10,300	3
Indonesia	54,700	14
Japan	16,800	4
Korea, Republic of	9,430	2
Malaysia	15,300	4
Mexico	69,100	18
Netherlands	11,000	3
South Africa	6,510	2
Spain	14,700	4
Sweden	1	(3)
Taiwan	21,300	6
Thailand	10,500	3
Venezuela	35,000	9
Total	381,000	100

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

<sup>2</sup>February 2007 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)
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
December	1,060	332
January-December	6,850	2,290
2007, January	477	184

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

<sup>2</sup>February 2007 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	
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	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	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

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.