

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JANUARY 2007

Natural soda ash production in January was 864,000 metric tons (t), 9.1% lower than the previous month's production of 946,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 260,000 t, 10.3% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in January was 1.42 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in December 2006 was 432,000 t, 23.3% lower than in December 2005, and ending stocks were 20.1% higher.

Exports and imports of soda ash in December 2006 were 452,000 t and 1,060 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through December 2006, compared with those of December 2005, were as follows: production stayed the same; imports were 16.6% lower; exports, 3% higher; and apparent consumption, 4.4% lower.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2005:			
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
2007, January	864	260	1,420

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 DECEMBER 2006^{1, 2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	66,200	\$9,130	\$138
Brazil	42,300	7,030	166
Canada	35,100	4,790	136
Thailand	35,400	5,510	156
Colombia	30,300	5,420	179
Spain	27,500	3,710	135
Chile	26,500	3,830	144
Indonesia	26,000	3,680	141
Australia	25,000	3,180	127
Belgium	18,000	2,880	160
Other	120,000	17,100	143
Total or average	452,000	66,300	147

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

²January 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 2006^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total	% of total
Argentina	--	--	--	14,600	25,000	--	17,600	10,600	--	10,900	17,700	--	96,400	2
Aruba	--	--	--	--	--	10	--	--	--	--	--	4	14	(3)
Australia	2,450	7,010	--	--	4,810	11,800	7,000	7,030	12,400	7,050	7,000	25,000	91,600	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	18,000	181,000	4
Brazil	51,900	15,700	24,900	31,800	81,200	--	83,200	21,000	18,000	73,200	45,600	42,300	489,000	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	35,100	469,000	10
Chile	31,800	35,100	--	29,800	--	24,800	--	37,600	31,000	32,000	27,600	26,500	276,000	6
China	--	--	--	--	--	39,200	--	31,800	25,900	14,100	--	--	111,000	2
Colombia	15,600	--	13,900	11,000	19,900	--	--	28,900	11,500	--	11,500	30,300	143,000	3
Costa Rica	--	--	--	7,500	4,500	--	--	3,000	3,930	--	2,260	--	21,200	--
Dominican Republic	--	--	6,050	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6,000	12,100	(3)
Ecuador	--	--	8,000	4,050	--	--	--	--	--	--	3,600	--	15,700	(3)
El Salvador	--	--	10,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	10,000	(3)
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	17	17	--	--	--	17	51	(3)
France	22	--	58	15,200	22	14,700	--	44	88	15,000	--	--	45,100	1
Germany	--	--	44	68	--	42	--	39	--	--	105	20	318	(3)
Grenada	--	--	5	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	10	(3)
Guatemala	5,950	--	--	6,610	--	7,070	--	6,080	--	3,950	--	9,120	38,800	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	26,000	240,000	5
Italy	--	--	--	18	--	--	--	--	117	181	--	--	316	(3)
Japan	4,400	49,000	12,300	15,200	27,800	10,100	22,100	10,600	33,400	37,800	--	41,200	264,000	5
Jamaica	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6	6	--
Korea, Republic of	--	25,300	19,300	12,400	19,000	--	25,000	18,800	14,000	12,800	--	21,200	168,000	3
Lithuania	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	17,900	--	--	--	--	17,900	--
Malaysia	--	--	12,000	8,020	--	22,100	--	--	15,600	14,100	--	14,100	85,800	2
Mexico	54,600	72,700	52,100	63,100	90,700	78,300	73,000	37,800	82,500	42,700	116,000	66,200	829,000	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	6,030	41,100	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	--	7,200	38,100	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	--	8,000	121,000	3
South Africa	6,640	13,300	16,000	6,520	7,610	6,450	--	--	6,580	6,440	--	--	69,500	1
Spain	35	33	30,300	17,200	27,700	7,550	22,800	9,890	--	12,600	7,500	27,500	163,000	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	--	35,400	172,000	4
United Arab Emirates	17,000	6,000	--	6,000	--	7,060	5,510	--	--	6,960	--	7,000	55,600	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	4
Total	445,000	322,000	367,000	410,000	435,000	407,000	382,000	391,000	364,000	483,000	366,000	452,000	4,820,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²January 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)
2005:		
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
December	1,060	332
January-December	6,850	2,380

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

²January 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	
2005, 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	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	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

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.