

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JULY 2007

U.S. natural soda ash production in July was 985,000 metric tons (t), 6.4% higher than the previous month's production of 926,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 207,000 t, 4.6% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in July was 1.5 million metric tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in June was 592,000 t, 24.2% higher than in June 2006, and ending stocks were 14.3% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in June 2007 were 378,000 t and 405 t, respectively.

The trends in annual cumulative soda ash statistics through June 2007, compared with those through June 2006, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were 9.7% higher; exports, 4.3% higher; and apparent consumption, 1.6% higher.

All percentages in this report were computed using unrounded data.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2006:			
January-July	6,340	XX	9,160
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
April	880	208	1,450
May	950	242	1,460
June	926	198 ^r	1,310
July	985	207	1,500
January-July	6,450	XX	10,200

^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 2007^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	76,100	\$11,200	\$147
Brazil	64,500	8,590	133
Canada	36,800	4,950	135
Chile	28,300	4,080	144
Indonesia	27,000	3,920	145
Colombia	26,700	3,800	143
Belgium	25,900	4,370	169
Korea, Republic of	17,400	2,670	153
Venezuela	17,100	2,240	131
Japan	14,100	1,950	138
Other	43,900	7,690	175
Total or average	378,000	55,400	147

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

²July 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	March	April	May	June	Total	% of total
Argentina	15,600	10	2	7,300	16,000	9	38,900	2
Aruba	6	--	--	--	--	--	6	(3)
Australia	--	12,200	14,000	--	22,100	9,060	57,400	2
Belgium	26	32,800	--	29,000	17,500	25,900	105,000	4
Botswana	3	--	--	--	--	--	3	(3)
Brazil	51,000	54,800	31,400	69,500	13,300	64,500	284,000	11
Cameroon	--	57	--	39	20	--	116	(3)
Canada	39,600	37,500	44,300	34,600	31,600	36,800	224,000	9
Chile	10,300	25,900	37,700	10,200	25,600	28,300	138,000	6
China	--	17,900	3	10,300	--	37	28,300	1
Colombia	--	19,700	--	24,000	--	26,700	70,400	3
Costa Rica	--	6,300	5	2,000	--	6,010	14,300	(3)
Ecuador	--	3,000	--	--	--	207	3,210	(3)
El Salvador	--	--	--	--	--	9,000	9,000	(3)
Finland	--	17	--	--	--	--	17	(3)
France	--	15,000	--	198	15,000	45	30,300	1
Germany	--	20	105	95	40	158	418	(3)
Guatemala	--	5,590	2,500	--	--	9,100	17,200	(3)
Iceland	--	--	--	18	144	--	162	(3)
Indonesia	54,700	113	55,200	27,500	20,000	27,000	184,000	7
Ireland	--	4	--	--	--	--	4	(3)
Italy	--	--	33	33	108	49	223	(3)
Jamaica	--	--	7	--	6	27	40	(3)
Japan	16,800	15,100	17,000	37,900	26,800	14,100	128,000	5
Korea, Republic of	9,430	15,500	13,000	10,600	12,500	17,400	78,500	3
Lithuania	--	--	--	--	16,100	--	16,100	1
Malaysia	15,300	--	10,000	--	19,000	--	44,300	2
Mexico	69,100	59,200	73,000	62,200	72,200	76,100	412,000	17
Netherlands	11,000	12,600	10,100	9,890	28,000	62	71,600	3
Netherlands Antilles	--	--	--	--	5	--	5	(3)
New Zealand	--	--	5,970	--	4	--	5,980	(3)
Nicaragua	--	78	--	--	--	--	78	(3)
Panama	--	2,000	--	1,500	--	2,000	5,500	(3)
Peru	--	8,100	--	--	8,530	--	16,600	(3)
Philippines	--	--	10,500	7,500	8,100	--	26,100	1
Portugal	--	--	9,350	8,570	--	--	17,900	1
Russia	--	7	--	--	--	--	7	(3)
Saudi Arabia	--	10,700	18,000	5,060	--	--	33,800	1
South Africa	6,510	6,550	6,990	--	10,700	--	30,800	1
Spain	14,700	20,000	--	--	17,700	8,190	60,600	2
Suriname	--	--	--	--	30	--	30	(3)
Sweden	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	(3)
Taiwan	21,300	33,400	18,800	20,100	14,600	--	108,000	4
Thailand	10,500	--	27,800	23,200	7,000	--	68,500	3
United Arab Emirates	--	6,270	--	6,940	--	--	13,200	1
Venezuela	35,000	24,600	24,800	11,500	28,000	17,100	141,000	6
Vietnam	--	--	3,500	--	--	--	3,500	(3)
Total	381,000	445,000	434,000	420,000	431,000	378,000	2,490,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²July 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-June	3,410	\$1,140
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
March	763	215
April	394	140
May	1,200	418
June	405	118
January-June	3,740	1,220

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

²July 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-June	5,390,000	3,410	2,390,000	--	12,000	3,020,000
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	763	434,000	11,200	--	517,000
April	880,000	394	420,000	--	30,400	491,000
May	950,000	1,200	431,000	33,900	--	487,000
June	926,000	405	378,000	--	43,600	592,000
July	985,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-June	5,460,000	3,740	2,490,000	--	91,300	3,070,000

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.