

Mineral Industry Surveys

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

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

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

SODA ASH IN MAY 2007

Natural soda ash production in May was 950,000 metric tons (t), 9.3% higher than the previous month's production of 880,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 242,000 t, 16.3% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in May 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 April was 491,000 t, 8.1% higher than in April 2006, and ending stocks were 19.7% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in April 2007 were 420,000 t and 394 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through April 2007, compared with those of April 2006, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were 5.2% lower; exports, 8.7% higher; and apparent consumption, slightly lower. All percentages in this report were computed using the unrounded data.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

| Period | Soda ash | | Wyoming trona production |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Production ² | Ending stocks | |
| 2006: | | | |
| January-May | 4,480 | XX | 6,400 |
| 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 |
| April | 880 | 208 | 1,450 |
| May | 950 | 242 | 1,460 |
| January-May | 4,540 | XX | 7,330 |

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 APRIL 2007^{1,2}

| Country | Quantity (metric tons) | Value ³ (thousands) | Unit value |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Brazil | 69,500 | \$9,110 | \$131 |
| Mexico | 62,200 | 8,920 | 143 |
| Japan | 37,900 | 4,920 | 130 |
| Canada | 34,600 | 4,930 | 142 |
| Belgium | 29,000 | 7,150 | 247 |
| Indonesia | 27,500 | 3,950 | 143 |
| Colombia | 24,000 | 3,390 | 141 |
| Thailand | 23,200 | 3,380 | 145 |
| Taiwan | 20,100 | 3,180 | 158 |
| Venezuela | 11,500 | 1,420 | 123 |
| Chile | 10,200 | 1,400 | 138 |
| Other | 70,100 | 10,300 | 147 |
| Total or average | 420,000 | 62,000 | 148 |

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

²May 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 | Total | % of total |
|----------------------|---------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|------------|
| Argentina | 15,600 | 10 | 2 | 7,300 | 23,000 | 1 |
| Aruba | 6 | -- | -- | -- | 6 | (3) |
| Australia | -- | 12,200 | 14,000 | -- | 26,200 | 2 |
| Belgium | 26 | 32,800 | -- | 29,000 | 61,900 | 4 |
| Botswana | 3 | -- | -- | -- | 3 | (3) |
| Brazil | 51,000 | 54,800 | 31,400 | 69,500 | 207,000 | 12 |
| Cameroon | -- | 57 | -- | 39 | 96 | (3) |
| Canada | 39,600 | 37,500 | 44,300 | 34,600 | 156,000 | 9 |
| Chile | 10,300 | 25,900 | 37,700 | 10,200 | 84,000 | 5 |
| China | -- | 17,900 | 3 | 10,300 | 28,300 | 2 |
| Colombia | -- | 19,700 | -- | 24,000 | 43,700 | 3 |
| Costa Rica | -- | 6,300 | 5 | 2,000 | 8,310 | (3) |
| Ecuador | -- | 3,000 | -- | -- | 3,000 | (3) |
| Finland | -- | 17 | -- | -- | 17 | (3) |
| France | -- | 15,000 | -- | 198 | 15,200 | 1 |
| Germany | -- | 20 | 105 | 95 | 220 | (3) |
| Guatemala | -- | 5,590 | 2,500 | -- | 8,090 | (3) |
| Iceland | -- | -- | -- | 18 | 18 | (3) |
| Indonesia | 54,700 | 113 | 55,200 | 27,500 | 137,000 | 8 |
| Ireland | -- | 4 | -- | -- | 4 | (3) |
| Italy | -- | -- | 33 | 33 | 66 | (3) |
| Jamaica | -- | -- | 7 | -- | 7 | (3) |
| Japan | 16,800 | 15,100 | 17,000 | 37,900 | 86,700 | 5 |
| Korea, Republic of | 9,430 | 15,500 | 13,000 | 10,600 | 48,600 | 3 |
| Malaysia | 15,300 | -- | 10,000 | -- | 25,300 | 2 |
| Mexico | 69,100 | 59,200 | 73,000 | 62,200 | 263,000 | 16 |
| Netherlands | 11,000 | 12,600 | 10,100 | 9,890 | 43,500 | 3 |
| New Zealand | -- | -- | 5,970 | -- | 5,970 | (3) |
| Nicaragua | -- | 78 | -- | -- | 78 | (3) |
| Panama | -- | 2,000 | -- | 1,500 | 3,500 | (3) |
| Peru | -- | 8,100 | -- | -- | 8,100 | (3) |
| Philippines | -- | -- | 10,500 | 7,500 | 18,000 | 1 |
| Portugal | -- | -- | 9,350 | 8,570 | 17,900 | 1 |
| Russia | -- | 7 | -- | -- | 7 | (3) |
| Saudi Arabia | -- | 10,700 | 18,000 | 5,060 | 33,800 | 2 |
| South Africa | 6,510 | 6,550 | 6,990 | -- | 20,000 | 1 |
| Spain | 14,700 | 20,000 | -- | -- | 34,700 | 2 |
| Sweden | 1 | -- | -- | -- | 1 | (3) |
| Taiwan | 21,300 | 33,400 | 18,800 | 20,100 | 93,600 | 6 |
| Thailand | 10,500 | -- | 27,800 | 23,200 | 61,500 | 4 |
| United Arab Emirates | -- | 6,270 | -- | 6,940 | 13,200 | 1 |
| Venezuela | 35,000 | 24,600 | 24,800 | 11,500 | 96,000 | 6 |
| Vietnam | -- | -- | 3,500 | -- | 3,500 | (3) |
| Total | 381,000 | 445,000 | 434,000 | 420,000 | 1,680,000 | 100 |

-- Zero.

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

²May 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-April | 2,250 | \$783 |
| 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 |
| March | 763 | 215 |
| April | 394 | 140 |
| January-April | 2,140 | 687 |

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

²May 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-April | 3,570,000 | 2,250 | 1,540,000 | 16,500 | -- | 2,010,000 |
| 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 | 763 | 434,000 | 11,200 | -- | 517,000 |
| April | 880,000 | 394 | 420,000 | -- | 30,400 | 491,000 |
| May | 950,000 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| January-April | 3,590,000 | 2,140 | 1,680,000 | -- | 81,600 | 1,990,000 |

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.