

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN APRIL 2007

Natural soda ash production in April was 880,000 metric tons (t), 8.5% lower than the previous month's production of 962,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 208,000 t, 12.6% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in April 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 March was 517,000 t, 3.2% lower than in March 2006, and ending stocks were 4.4% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in March 2007 were 434,000 t and 763 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through March 2007, compared with those of March 2006, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were slightly higher; exports, 11% higher; and apparent consumption, 3.9% 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-April	3,570 ^r	XX	5,210 ^r
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
April	880	208	1,450
January-April	3,590	XX	5,870

^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 MARCH 2007^{1, 2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	73,000	\$10,800	\$148
Indonesia	55,200	7,760	141
Canada	44,300	6,000	135
Chile	37,700	5,280	140
Brazil	31,400	4,300	137
Tailand	27,800	4,050	146
Venezuela	24,800	3,630	146
Taiwan	18,800	2,960	157
Saudi Arabia	18,000	2,450	136
Japan	17,000	1,960	115
Netherlands	10,100	1,440	142
Other	76,000	10,900	143
Total or average	434,000	61,500	142

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

²April 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	Total	% of total
Argentina	15,600	10	2	15,700	1
Aruba	6	--	--	6	(3)
Australia	--	12,200	14,000	26,200	2
Belgium	26	32,800	--	32,900	3
Botswana	3	--	--	3	(3)
Brazil	51,000	54,800	31,400	137,000	11
Cameroon	--	57	--	57	(3)
Canada	39,600	37,500	44,300	121,000	10
Chile	10,300	25,900	37,700	73,800	6
China	--	17,900	3	17,900	1
Colombia	--	19,700	--	19,700	2
Costa Rica	--	6,300	5	6,310	(3)
Ecuador	--	3,000	--	3,000	(3)
Finland	--	17	--	17	(3)
France	--	15,000	--	15,000	1
Germany	--	20	105	125	(3)
Guatemala	--	5,590	2,500	8,090	1
Indonesia	54,700	113	55,200	110,000	9
Ireland	--	4	--	4	(3)
Italy	--	--	33	33	(3)
Jamaica	--	--	7	7	(3)
Japan	16,800	15,100	17,000	48,800	4
Korea, Republic of	9,430	15,500	13,000	38,000	3
Malaysia	15,300	--	10,000	25,300	2
Mexico	69,100	59,200	73,000	201,000	16
Netherlands	11,000	12,600	10,100	33,600	3
New Zealand	--	--	5,970	5,970	(3)
Nicaragua	--	78	--	78	(3)
Panama	--	2,000	--	2,000	(3)
Peru	--	8,100	--	8,100	1
Philippines	--	--	10,500	10,500	1
Portugal	--	--	9,350	9,350	1
Russia	--	7	--	7	(3)
Saudi Arabia	--	10,700	18,000	28,800	2
South Africa	6,510	6,550	6,990	20,000	2
Spain	14,700	20,000	--	34,700	3
Sweden	1	--	--	1	(3)
Taiwan	21,300	33,400	18,800	73,400	6
Thailand	10,500	--	27,800	38,300	3
United Arab Emirates	--	6,270	--	6,270	(3)
Venezuela	35,000	24,600	24,800	84,400	7
Vietnam	--	--	3,500	3,500	(3)
Total	381,000	445,000	434,000	1,260,000	100

-- Zero.

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

²April 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-March	1,750	\$599
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
March	763	215
January-March	1,740	547

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

²April 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-March	2,700,000	1,750	1,130,000	6,210	--	1,560,000
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	763	434,000	11,200	--	517,000
April	880,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-March	2,710,000	1,740	1,260,000	--	51,200	1,500,000

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.