

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN NOVEMBER 2007

U.S. natural soda ash production in November was 954,000 metric tons (t), 3.7% higher than the previous month's production of 920,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 158,000 t, 22% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in November was 1.44 million metric tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in October was 545,000 t, 13% higher than in October 2006, and ending stocks were unchanged.

Exports and imports of soda ash in October 2007 were 425,000 t and 1,910 t, respectively.

The trends in annual cumulative soda ash statistics from January through October 2007, compared with those through October 2006, were as follows: production was 2.2% higher; imports were 55.7% higher; exports, 5.8% higher; and apparent consumption, slightly higher.

All percentages in this report were computed using unrounded data.

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

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Ending stocks	
<b>2006:</b>			
January-November	10,000	XX	15,200
November	930	226	1,480
December	946	290	1,490
January-December	11,000	XX	16,700
<b>2007:</b>			
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	1,310
July	985	207	1,500
August	971	213	1,490
September	937	251	1,470
October	920	203	1,470
November	950 <sup>e</sup>	158	1,400
January-November	10,200	XX	16,000

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. 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 OCTOBER 2007<sup>1,2</sup>

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	66,000	\$9,690	\$147
Chile	41,500	5,830	140
Japan	38,500	3,740	97
Canada	37,300	5,320	143
Venezuela	28,500	4,390	154
Australia	28,200	3,890	138
Spain	27,000	3,200	119
Indonesia	26,600	4,050	152
Netherlands	19,900	2,660	134
Brazil	18,200	2,610	144
Argentina	17,000	2,440	144
Other	75,800	12,200	162
Total or average	425,000	60,000	141

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

<sup>2</sup>November 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	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Total	% of total
Argentina	15,600	10	2	7,300	16,000	9	19,100	9,020	2	17,000	84,100	2
Aruba	6	--	--	--	--	--	6	5	--	--	17	(3)
Australia	--	12,200	14,000	--	22,100	9,060	--	12,000	--	28,200	97,600	2
Bahrain	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	468	468	(3)
Belgium	26	32,800	--	29,000	17,500	25,900	9,850	15,000	18,500	--	149,000	4
Botswana	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	(3)
Brazil	51,000	54,800	31,400	69,500	13,300	64,500	69,000	21,600	35,000	18,200	428,000	10
Cameroon	--	57	--	39	20	--	--	--	--	--	116	(3)
Canada	39,600	37,500	44,300	34,600	31,600	36,800	36,300	36,700	34,500	37,300	369,000	9
Chile	10,300	25,900	37,700	10,200	25,600	28,300	37,100	--	26,600	41,500	243,000	6
China	--	17,900	3	10,300	--	37	11,300	--	--	1,790	41,400	1
Colombia	--	19,700	--	24,000	--	26,700	16,100	7,000	13,100	--	106,000	3
Costa Rica	--	6,300	5	2,000	--	6,010	--	--	4,000	--	18,300	(3)
Ecuador	--	3,000	--	--	--	207	9,270	--	--	--	12,500	(3)
El Salvador	--	--	--	--	--	9,000	--	--	--	--	9,000	(3)
Finland	--	17	--	--	--	--	34	--	--	--	51	(3)
France	--	15,000	--	198	15,000	45	7,500	45	7,500	15,000	60,400	1
Germany	--	20	105	95	40	158	22	--	62	--	502	(3)
Grenada	--	--	--	--	--	--	10	--	--	--	10	(3)
Guatemala	--	5,590	2,500	--	--	9,100	--	--	10,600	--	27,800	1
Iceland	--	--	--	18	144	--	--	180	--	--	342	(3)
Indonesia	54,700	113	55,200	27,500	20,000	27,000	--	44,500	26,800	26,600	282,000	7
Ireland	--	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	(3)
Italy	--	--	33	33	108	49	49	--	--	109	381	(3)
Jamaica	--	--	7	--	6	27	--	--	--	--	40	(3)
Japan	16,800	15,100	17,000	37,900	26,800	14,100	31,500	35,200	--	38,500	233,000	6
Korea, Republic of	9,430	15,500	13,000	10,600	12,500	17,400	18,200	23,600	10,300	9,000	140,000	3
Lithuania	--	--	--	--	16,100	--	--	17,200	--	--	33,200	1
Malaysia	15,300	--	10,000	--	19,000	--	39	--	12,000	13,500	69,800	2
Mexico	69,100	59,200	73,000	62,200	72,200	76,100	80,700	83,800	75,800	66,000	718,000	17
Netherlands	11,000	12,600	10,100	9,890	28,000	62	10,900	23	5,760	19,900	108,000	3
Netherlands Antilles	--	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	5	(3)
New Zealand	--	--	5,970	--	4	--	6,000	4,000	--	--	16,000	(3)
Nicaragua	--	78	--	--	--	--	--	80	--	--	158	(3)
Oman	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	12	15	(3)
Pakistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	(3)
Panama	--	2,000	--	1,500	--	2,000	--	--	--	--	5,500	(3)
Peru	--	8,100	--	--	8,530	--	9,100	--	--	7,150	32,900	1
Philippines	--	--	10,500	7,500	8,100	--	--	9,500	--	--	35,600	1
Portugal	--	--	9,350	8,570	--	--	--	--	9,310	--	27,200	1
Russia	--	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7	(3)
Saudi Arabia	--	10,700	18,000	5,060	--	--	21,000	--	32,500	--	87,400	2
Sierra Leone	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	33	--	--	33	(3)
South Africa	6,510	6,550	6,990	--	10,700	--	--	18,700	17,200	--	66,700	2
Spain	14,700	20,000	--	--	17,700	8,190	32,900	7,230	--	27,000	128,000	3
Suriname	--	--	--	--	30	--	--	--	--	--	30	(3)
Sweden	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	(3)
Taiwan	21,300	33,400	18,800	20,100	14,600	--	36,100	14,900	21,200	14,800	195,000	5
Thailand	10,500	--	27,800	23,200	7,000	--	20,600	--	15,200	14,000	118,000	3
United Arab Emirates	--	6,270	--	6,940	--	--	6,000	--	17,700	--	36,900	1
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	--	2	--	22	(3)
Venezuela	35,000	24,600	24,800	11,500	28,000	17,100	25,800	37,700	--	28,500	233,000	6
Vietnam	--	--	3,500	--	--	--	7,000	--	--	--	10,500	(3)
Total	381,000	445,000	434,000	420,000	431,000	378,000	521,000	398,000	394,000	425,000	4,230,000	100

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

<sup>2</sup>November 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-October	5,310	\$1,790
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
July	1,150	262
August	610	200
September	855	316
October	1,910	423
January-October	8,270	2,420

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

<sup>2</sup>November 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-October	9,080,000	5,310	4,000,000	--	39,700	5,120,000
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	1,150	521,000	9,030	--	456,000
August	971,000	610	398,000	6,160	--	568,000
September	937,000	855	394,000	37,700	--	506,000
October	920,000	1,910	425,000	--	47,700	545,000
November	950,000 <sup>e</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-October	9,280,000	8,270	4,230,000	--	86,100	5,140,000

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. 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.