

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN JANUARY 2008

U.S. natural soda ash production in January was 905,000 metric tons (t), 3.4% lower than the previous month's production of 936,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Preliminary results for 2007 indicated that production for the entire year was 11.1 million metric tons (Mt). Final 2007 production data remain preliminary pending receipt of final annual production totals from certain respondents. Ending inventories for January 2008 were 221,000 t, 7.3% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in January was 1.52 Mt. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in December 2007 was 497,000 t, 15% higher than in December 2006, and ending stocks were 29% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in December 2007 were 392,000 t and 465 t, respectively.

The trends in annual cumulative soda ash statistics from January through December 2007, compared with those through December 2006, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were 34% higher; exports, 6.4% higher; and apparent consumption, slightly lower.

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	
2006:			
December	946	290	1,490
January-December	11,000	XX	16,700
2007: <sup>P</sup>			
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	903	158	1,450
December	936	206	1,510
January-December	11,100	XX	17,500
2008:			
January	905	221	1,520

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary. 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 DECEMBER 2007<sup>1,2</sup>

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	78,900	\$11,700	\$148
Canada	37,400	5,250	140
Japan	36,800	5,420	147
Korea, Republic of	33,700	5,110	\$152
Brazil	33,000	4,690	142
Netherlands	30,000	4,020	134
Chile	22,000	3,180	145
Belgium	20,600	2,920	142
Taiwan	22,700	3,500	155
Colombia	18,400	2,640	144
South Africa	17,000	2,080	123
Other	41,800	6,610	158
Total or average	392,000	57,100	146

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

<sup>2</sup>January 2008 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	November	December	Total	% of total
Argentina	15,600	10	2	7,300	16,000	9	19,100	9,020	2	17,000	14,000	--	98,100	2
Aruba	6	--	--	--	--	--	6	5	--	--	--	--	17	(3)
Australia	--	12,200	14,000	--	22,100	9,060	--	12,000	--	28,200	9,000	11,200	118,000	2
Bahrain	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	468	--	--	468	(3)
Belgium	26	32,800	--	29,000	17,500	25,900	9,850	15,000	18,500	--	17,000	20,600	186,000	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	56,400	33,000	518,000	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	36,500	37,400	443,000	9
Chile	10,300	25,900	37,700	10,200	25,600	28,300	37,100	--	26,600	41,500	36,500	22,000	302,000	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	--	11,000	18,400	136,000	3
Costa Rica	--	6,300	5	2,000	--	6,010	--	--	4,000	--	3,030	4,020	25,400	(3)
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2,500	--	2,500	(3)
Ecuador	--	3,000	--	--	--	207	9,270	--	--	--	3,960	--	16,400	(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	--	84	42	628	(3)
Grenada	--	--	--	--	--	--	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	(3)
Guatemala	--	5,590	2,500	--	--	9,100	--	--	10,600	--	10,100	--	37,900	1
Iceland	--	--	--	18	144	--	--	180	--	--	--	54	396	(3)
India	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	51	--	51	(3)
Indonesia	54,700	113	55,200	27,500	20,000	27,000	--	44,500	26,800	26,600	12,300	--	295,000	6
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	9,300	36,800	279,000	5
Korea, Republic of	9,430	15,500	13,000	10,600	12,500	17,400	18,200	23,600	10,300	9,000	10,500	33,700	184,000	4
Lithuania	--	--	--	--	16,100	--	--	17,200	--	--	17,000	--	50,300	1
Malaysia	15,300	--	10,000	--	19,000	--	39	--	12,000	13,500	6,000	--	75,800	1
Mexico	69,100	59,200	73,000	62,200	72,200	76,100	80,700	83,800	75,800	66,000	83,200	78,900	880,000	17
Netherlands	11,000	12,600	10,100	9,890	28,000	62	10,900	23	5,760	19,900	115	30,000	138,000	3
Netherlands Antilles	--	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	(3)
New Zealand	--	--	5,970	--	4	--	6,000	4,000	--	--	4,700	6,500	27,200	(3)
Nicaragua	--	78	--	--	--	--	--	80	--	--	--	--	158	(3)
Oman	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	12	117	357	489	(3)
Pakistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	(3)
Panama	--	2,000	--	1,500	--	2,000	--	--	--	--	4,030	--	9,530	(3)
Peru	--	8,100	--	--	8,530	--	9,100	--	--	7,150	--	10,800	43,600	1
Philippines	--	--	10,500	7,500	8,100	--	--	9,500	--	--	8,000	--	43,600	1
Portugal	--	--	9,350	8,570	--	--	--	--	9,310	--	--	--	27,200	1
Russia	--	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6	13	(3)
Saudi Arabia	--	10,700	18,000	5,060	--	--	21,000	--	32,500	--	35,000	--	122,000	2
Sierra Leone	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	33	--	--	--	--	33	(3)
South Africa	6,510	6,550	6,990	--	10,700	--	--	18,700	17,200	--	--	17,000	83,600	2
Spain	14,700	20,000	--	--	17,700	8,190	32,900	7,230	--	27,000	23,500	8,580	160,000	3
Suriname	--	--	--	--	30	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	30	(3)
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	298	298	(3)
Sweden	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	(3)
Taiwan	21,300	33,400	18,800	20,100	14,600	--	36,100	14,900	21,200	14,800	20,100	22,700	238,000	5
Thailand	10,500	--	27,800	23,200	7,000	--	20,600	--	15,200	14,000	30,000	--	148,000	3
United Arab Emirates	--	6,270	--	6,940	--	--	6,000	--	17,700	--	18,100	--	54,900	1
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	--	2	--	95	--	117	(3)
Venezuela	35,000	24,600	24,800	11,500	28,000	17,100	25,800	37,700	--	28,500	30,800	--	264,000	5
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	513,000	392,000	5,130,000	100

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

<sup>2</sup>January 2008 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH<sup>1,2</sup>

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)
2006:		
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
November	412	152
December	465	184
January-December	9,140	2,760

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

<sup>2</sup>January 2008 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-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	903,000	412	513,000	--	45,100	436,000
December	936,000	465	392,000	47,800	--	497,000
January-December	11,100,000	9,140	5,130,000	--	83,400	6,080,000
2008:						
January	905,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

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.