

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 DECEMBER 2007

U.S. natural soda ash production in December was 936,000 metric tons (t), 3.5% higher than the previous month's production of 903,000 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). Ending inventories were 206,000 t, 30% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in December was 1.51 Mt. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in November was 436,000 t, 19% lower than in November 2006, and ending stocks were 30% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in November 2007 were 513,000 t and 412 t, respectively.

The trends in annual cumulative soda ash statistics from January through November 2007, compared with those through November 2006, were as follows: production was 2% higher; imports were 50% higher; exports, 8.4% higher; and apparent consumption, 1.5% lower.

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:			
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	1,310
July	985	207	1,500
August	971	213	1,490
September	937	251	1,470
October	920	203	1,470
November	903 ^r	158	1,450
December	936	206	1,510
January-December ^p	11,100	XX	17,500

^pPreliminary. ^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 NOVEMBER 2007^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	83,200	\$12,400	\$149
Brazil	56,400	7,660	136
Canada	36,500	5,130	140
Chile	36,500	5,170	142
Saudi Arabia	35,000	4,430	127
Venezuela	30,800	4,780	155
Thailand	30,000	3,240	108
Spain	23,500	3,680	157
Taiwan	20,100	3,040	152
United Arab Emirates	18,100	2,540	140
Lithuania	17,000	1,980	116
Belgium	17,000	2,060	121
Other	109,000	15,300	140
Total or average	513,000	71,400	139

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

²December 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	July	August	September	October	November	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	107,000	2
Bahrain	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	468	--	468	(3)
Belgium	26	32,800	--	29,000	17,500	25,900	9,850	15,000	18,500	--	17,000	166,000	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	485,000	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	406,000	9
Chile	10,300	25,900	37,700	10,200	25,600	28,300	37,100	--	26,600	41,500	36,500	280,000	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	117,000	2
Costa Rica	--	6,300	5	2,000	--	6,010	--	--	4,000	--	3,030	21,300	(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	586	(3)
Grenada	--	--	--	--	--	--	10	--	--	--	--	10	(3)
Guatemala	--	5,590	2,500	--	--	9,100	--	--	10,600	--	10,100	37,900	1
Iceland	--	--	--	18	144	--	--	180	--	--	--	342	(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	242,000	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	150,000	3
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	2
Mexico	69,100	59,200	73,000	62,200	72,200	76,100	80,700	83,800	75,800	66,000	83,200	801,000	17
Netherlands	11,000	12,600	10,100	9,890	28,000	62	10,900	23	5,760	19,900	115	108,000	2
Netherlands Antilles	--	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	(3)
New Zealand	--	--	5,970	--	4	--	6,000	4,000	--	--	4,700	20,700	(3)
Nicaragua	--	78	--	--	--	--	--	80	--	--	--	158	(3)
Oman	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	12	117	132	(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	--	32,900	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	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7	(3)
Saudi Arabia	--	10,700	18,000	5,060	--	--	21,000	--	32,500	--	35,000	122,000	3
Sierra Leone	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	33	--	--	--	33	(3)
South Africa	6,510	6,550	6,990	--	10,700	--	--	18,700	17,200	--	--	66,700	1
Spain	14,700	20,000	--	--	17,700	8,190	32,900	7,230	--	27,000	23,500	151,000	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	20,100	215,000	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	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	513,000	4,740,000	100

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

²December 2007 data were not available at time of publication.

³Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH^{1,2}

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2006:		
January-November	5,790	\$1,950
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
November	412	152
January-November	8,680	2,580

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

²December 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-November	10,000,000	5,790	4,370,000	--	16,300	5,660,000
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	903,000 ^r	412	513,000	--	45,100	436,000
December	936,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-November	10,200,000	8,680	4,740,000	--	131,000	5,580,000

^rRevised. 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.