

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JUNE 2008

U.S. natural soda ash production in June was 935,000 metric tons (t), 5.2% lower than the previous month's production of 987,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for June 2008 were 211,000 t, slightly higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in June 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 May 2008 was 559,000 t, 15% higher than in May 2007, and ending stocks were 13% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in May 2008 were 383,000 t and 906 t, respectively.

Cumulative soda ash statistics from January through May 2008, compared with those of January through May 2007, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were 70% higher; exports, were slightly higher; and apparent consumption, slightly 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	
2007:			
January-June	5,460	XX	8,650
June	926	198	1,310
July	985	207	1,500
August	971	213	1,490
September	890	251	1,110
October	920	203	1,450
November	903	158	1,450
December	936	206	1,510
January-December	11,100	XX	17,200
2008:			
January	922	221	1,510
February	878	190	1,370
March	955	194	1,510
April	890	164	1,530
May	987	210	1,490
June	935	211	1,480
January-June	5,570	XX	8,880

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 MAY 2008^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	79,300	\$13,500	\$170
Brazil	49,800	9,220	185
Indonesia	40,300	7,140	177
Chile	35,900	6,040	168
Venezuela	35,800	6,640	186
Canada	30,900	4,660	151
Thailand	18,800	3,000	159
Argentina	17,400	3,350	193
Saudi Arabia	13,700	2,380	174
Belgium	11,000	1,770	161
Colombia	10,300	1,790	174
Other	40,000	7,960	199
Total or average	383,000	67,400	176

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

²June 2008 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 2008^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	Total	% of total
Angola	--	6	--	--	177	183	(3)
Argentina	14,000	--	17,000	58	17,400	48,400	2
Aruba	--	8	--	--	--	8	(3)
Australia	9,000	4,970	28,500	--	--	42,500	2
Bahrain	--	195	--	--	159	354	(3)
Belgium	17,600	10,600	19,900	38,600	11,000	97,700	5
Belize	--	2	--	--	--	2	(3)
Brazil	53,200	61,800	35,000	50,200	49,800	250,000	12
Cameroon	--	20	20	--	--	40	(3)
Canada	39,900	38,600	41,400	33,400	30,900	184,000	9
Chile	14,000	32,400	28,400	13,500	35,900	124,000	6
China	--	--	--	38	--	38	(3)
Colombia	8,500	5,500	23,800	--	10,300	48,100	2
Costa Rica	--	5,980	196	--	7,330	13,500	1
Dominican Republic	--	--	53	--	--	53	(3)
Ecuador	--	4,740	--	--	--	4,740	(3)
Finland	--	--	--	17	--	17	(3)
France	--	154	15,000	--	--	15,200	1
Germany	--	--	147	--	--	147	(3)
Guatemala	8,500	--	--	9,000	--	17,500	1
Indonesia	53,400	36,100	17,000	16,200	40,300	163,000	8
Italy	--	--	--	--	19	19	(3)
Ireland	--	223	--	614	--	837	(3)
Jamaica	7	--	--	18	--	25	(3)
Japan	--	24,700	--	35,500	--	60,200	3
Korea, Republic of	--	27,600	--	24,100	--	51,700	2
Lithuania	--	17,000	--	17,400	--	34,400	2
Malaysia	--	18,200	--	--	8,500	26,700	1
Mexico	84,600	71,500	81,500	88,500	79,300	405,000	19
Netherlands	--	176	21,100	176	--	21,500	1
New Zealand	5,250	--	4,820	6,000	99	16,200	1
Oman	--	--	--	100	439	539	(3)
Pakistan	--	--	1	--	1	2	(3)
Panama	--	7,490	1,540	--	--	9,030	(3)
Peru	--	8,080	--	--	5,700	13,800	1
Philippines	--	13,100	--	11,000	--	24,100	1
Portugal	--	9,090	10,000	--	--	19,100	1
Saudi Arabia	15,200	--	18,000	13,000	13,700	59,900	3
Sierra Leone	--	--	--	--	35	35	(3)
Slovakia	--	--	--	18	39	57	(3)
South Africa	6,580	21,400	6,480	10,500	7,840	52,700	2
Spain	--	15,400	9,800	10,000	--	35,200	2
Taiwan	--	34,300	9,950	21,000	--	65,300	3
Thailand	13,000	19,000	--	16,000	18,800	66,800	3
United Arab Emirates	11,800	--	16,000	10,000	9,660	47,500	2
Venezuela	32,400	17,900	23,200	5,000	35,800	114,000	5
Vietnam	--	7,000	--	--	--	7,000	(3)
Total	387,000	513,000	429,000	430,000	383,000	2,140,000	100

--Zero.

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

²June 2008 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)
2007:		
January-May	3,330	1,110
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
2008:		
January	1,870	326
February	774	203
March	1,210	222
April	895	204
May	906	308
January-May	5,650	1,260

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

²June 2008 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	
2007:						
January-May	4,540,000	3,330	2,110,000	--	47,700	2,480,000
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	890,000	855	394,000	37,700	--	459,000
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	6,030,000
2008:						
January	922,000	1,870	387,000	14,500	--	523,000
February	878,000	774	513,000	--	30,100	396,000
March	955,000	1,210	429,000	3,820	--	524,000
April	890,000	895 ^r	430,000	--	30,300	492,000 ^r
May	987,000	906	383,000	45,600	--	559,000
June	935,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-May	4,630,000	5,650	2,140,000	3,510	--	2,490,000

^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.