

1. Overview of the soda industry

Overview of the electrolytic soda industry

Fiscal year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of companies	28	28	27	27	27	27	27	26	25	25
Number of production sites	38	37	35	34	34	33	33	31	30	30
Caustic soda production quantity (in 1,000 tons;at97%)	4,196	4,445	4,430	4,214	4,349	4,379	4,540	4,512	4,469	4,487
Production capacity (as end of the fiscal year; at 100%)	4,345	4,491	4,446	4,408	4,406	4,443	4,543	4,510	4,411	4,389
Average operation rate (%)	93.7	96.0	96.7	92.7	95.8	95.6	97.0	97.0	98.3	99.1
Caustic soda production value (in million yen)	182,326	186,818	185,152	170,107	174,318	159,516	170,729	171,726	166,785	163,294

Overview of the soda ash industry

Fiscal year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of companies	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Number of production sites	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Caustic soda production value	711,678	722,364	627,938	423,126	434,034	427,761	443,623	435,600	436,358	428,826

Overview of the entire soda industry

Fiscal year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total production value (in million yen)	401,346	411,272	401,004	368,159	370,358	355,028	360,112	358,725	363,054	364,110
Total number of employees	2,777	2,747	2,677	2,501	2,464	2,354	2,001	1,836	1,843	1,862

Note) The production value was calculated though the production quantity for each product based on the average selling price per unit for each product announced by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry