

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN NOVEMBER 2009

U.S. natural soda ash production in November was 826,000 metric tons (t), slightly higher than the previous month's production of 811,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for November 2009 were 210,000 t, slightly lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in November was 1,340,000 t. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. Apparent consumption of soda ash in October 2009 was 380,000 t, the same as that of September 2008, and ending stocks were slightly lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in October 2009 were 424,000 t and 754 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for October 2009, compared with those of October 2008, were as follows: production was 19% lower; imports were 46% lower; exports were 10% lower; and apparent consumption, 31% lower. U.S. soda ash production and trade have declined since the previous year because the domestic glass container and flatglass sectors and export markets remain flat.

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	
2008:			
January-November	10,400 <sup>r</sup>	XX	16,300 <sup>r</sup>
October	996	247	1,560
November	965	262	1,530
December	917	259	1,510
January-December	11,300	XX	17,800
2009:			
January	806	258	1,160
February	670	273	2,020
March	732	280	983
April	664	239	1,080
May	780	271	1,180
June	731	249	1,140
July	794	219	971
August	827	216	1,220
September	814	204	1,250
October	811	212	1,360
November	826	210	1,340
January-November	8,460	XX	13,700

<sup>r</sup>Revised. 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 2009<sup>1,2</sup>

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October			Year to date		
										Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit Value	Quantity (metric tons)	% of total	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	17,800	--	--	13,000	--	--	--	--	45,000	\$7,790	\$173	87,200	2	\$19,000
Australia	7,000	7,000	10,600	--	7,030	7,000	--	7,000	17,900	5,020	853	170	68,400	2	15,100
Belgium	47,600	32,400	9,200	23,000	10,800	35,200	--	6,000	30,000	12,000	1,440	120	206,000	6	32,900
Brazil	50,200	28,200	35,000	41,200	40,000	29,200	46,000	48,100	21,700	18,000	3,650	203	358,000	10	75,100
Canada	21,800	21,100	25,800	17,700	19,600	21,100	24,400	23,600	27,200	24,600	5,490	224	228,000	6	47,300
Chile	19,800	10,000	14,300	15,800	8,100	15,200	13,500	--	42,600	33,500	5,710	170	173,000	5	34,500
China	--	--	--	--	10,000	11,500	10,000	--	--	--	--	--	31,500	1	2,070
Colombia	19,500	6,770	8,100	--	--	--	--	11,500	--	12,000	2,270	189	57,900	2	12,400
Costa Rica	4,500	4,920	--	--	4,500	--	3,150	--	4,500	--	--	--	21,600	1	5,740
Ecuador	--	5,770	--	--	--	5,070	--	--	--	--	--	--	10,800	(4)	3,130
Egypt	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,680	--	--	--	--	5,680	(4)	605
France	15,000	--	--	14,900	--	--	10,000	5,000	11,100	--	--	--	55,900	2	7,920
Guatemala	--	--	2,500	--	--	--	2,850	--	5,300	4,600	978	213	15,300	(4)	3,530
India	--	--	--	--	620	1,240	620	620	--	--	--	--	3,100	(4)	660
Indonesia	9,600	--	20,500	--	31,100	23,100	13,000	49,500	44,000	43,000	5,400	126	234,000	7	35,100
Japan	6,000	20,500	19,500	--	38,400	--	4,000	31,600	31,600	6,500	980	151	158,000	4	32,600
Korea, Republic of	16,000	13,100	100	20,100	100	19,500	15,000	11,100	14,700	5,000	790	158	115,000	3	21,600
Lithuania	--	--	--	--	36,400	--	--	--	35,900	--	--	--	72,300	2	10,200
Malaysia	--	--	4,000	--	8,000	--	--	--	13,000	--	--	--	25,000	1	4,910
Mexico	57,000	56,300	67,000	63,000	60,200	57,800	70,800	59,700	64,200	66,200	15,200	230	622,000	18	140,000
Netherlands	23,800	11,100	20,200	17,500	--	10,700	19,900	17,000	11,000	15,500	2,150	139	147,000	4	25,000
New Zealand	--	7,000	6,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,980	1,050	176	19,000	1	3,930
Panama	2,110	--	--	2,540	--	--	--	--	7	1,990	388	195	6,650	(4)	1,740
Peru	8,550	--	--	4,500	5,770	--	7,500	--	8,000	--	--	--	34,300	1	7,530
Philippines	5,000	--	14,100	--	5,000	--	--	5,000	7,000	--	--	--	36,100	1	5,360
Portugal	13,500	6,000	--	11,000	--	--	12,000	--	--	--	--	--	42,500	1	5,250
Saudi Arabia	17,500	--	13,700	15,000	--	--	10,500	20,500	--	19,000	2,800	147	96,200	3	17,400
Singapore	--	185	--	--	--	--	128	149	--	--	--	--	462	(4)	51
South Africa	22,500	6,460	--	--	--	16,600	--	--	11,900	--	--	--	57,500	2	10,200
Spain	28,200	--	28,700	5,500	--	13,600	--	6,150	15,000	4,900	854	174	102,000	3	15,500
Taiwan	14,500	--	12,500	8,550	10,500	--	16,600	20,000	17,000	20,600	3,310	161	120,000	3	19,100
Thailand	--	17,500	--	--	20,600	21,000	--	24,500	12,800	31,000	2,960	95	127,000	4	21,500
United Arab Emirates	7,520	--	11,500	3,500	--	--	14,500	7,500	--	7,000	1,080	154	51,600	1	10,400
Venezuela	4,000	12,400	6,000	30,900	--	3,500	31,300	16,600	--	32,300	8,630	267	137,000	4	34,100
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	6,000	--	24	24	--	--	--	--	6,020	(4)	821
Other (11 countries)	1,980	2,030	113	--	17	844	5,000	10	56	9,830	1,770	180	19,000	(4)	4,050
Total	423,000	287,000	329,000	295,000	336,000	292,000	331,000	377,000	446,000	424,000	75,600	178	3,550,000	100	686,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>November 2009 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH<sup>1, 2</sup>

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)
2008:		
January-October	10,600	\$3,060
October	1,410	530
November	615	211
December	1,730	553
January-December	12,900	3,820
2009:		
January	169	108
February	495	241
March	666	238
April	513	214
May	482	170
June	200	129
July	309	156
August	307	182
September	638	268
October	754	242
January-October	4,530	1,950

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

<sup>2</sup>November 2009 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 4  
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	
2008:						
January-October	9,390,000 <sup>r</sup>	10,600	4,390,000	40,900 <sup>r</sup>	--	4,970,000 <sup>r</sup>
October	996,000	1,410	468,000	--	18,000	547,000
November	965,000	615	525,000	15,000	--	426,000
December	917,000	1,730	455,000	--	2,750	466,000
January-December	11,300,000	12,900	5,370,000	53,200	--	5,860,000
2009:						
January	806,000	169	423,000	--	1,160	384,000
February	670,000	495	287,000	14,900	--	369,000
March	732,000	666	329,000	6,750	--	397,000
April	664,000	513	295,000	--	40,400	411,000
May	780,000	482	336,000	31,700	--	413,000
June	731,000	200	292,000	--	22,300	462,000
July	794,000	309	331,000	--	30,100	494,000
August	827,000	307	388,000	--	3,050	443,000
September	814,000	638	446,000	--	11,600	380,000
October	811,000	754	424,000	8,265 <sup>r</sup>	--	380,000
November	826,000	NA	NA	--	2,660	NA
January-October	7,630,000	4,530	3,550,000	--	47,100	4,130,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised. 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.