

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN JUNE 2009

U.S. natural soda ash production in June was 732,000 metric tons (t), 6% lower than the previous month's production of 780,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for June 2009 were 249,000 t, 8% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in June was 1,140,000 t. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in May 2009 was 413,000 t, 26% lower than that of May 2008, and ending stocks were 29% higher.

Exports and imports of soda ash in May 2009 were 336,000 t and 482 t, respectively.

The trends in soda ash statistics for May 2009, compared with those of May 2008, were as follows: production was 21% lower; imports were 47% lower; exports were 12% lower; and apparent consumption, 26% lower. Global economic problems have reduced world soda ash consumption, which in turn has reduced U.S. soda ash exports. To avoid an oversupply of soda ash inventories, domestic soda ash production has been cut back intentionally.

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-June	5,570	XX	8,880
May	987	210	1,490
June	935	211	1,480
July	912	169	1,200
August	976	222	1,630
September	935	265	1,490
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	732	249	1,140
January-June	4,380	XX	7,550

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			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	\$3,770	\$290	30,800	2	\$8,490
Australia	7,000	7,000	10,600	--	7,030	1,630	232	31,600	2	7,530
Belgium	47,600	32,400	9,200	23,000	10,800	1,660	154	123,000	7	21,000
Brazil	50,200	28,200	35,000	41,200	40,000	8,200	205	195,000	12	40,900
Cameroon	--	--	60	--	--	--	--	60	(4)	20
Canada	21,800	21,100	25,800	17,700	19,600	4,010	204	106,000	6	21,100
Chile	19,800	10,000	14,300	15,800	8,100	1,730	213	68,000	4	14,500
China	--	--	--	--	10,000	378	38	10,000	1	378
Colombia	19,500	6,770	8,100	--	--	--	--	34,400	2	7,320
Costa Rica	4,500	4,920	--	--	4,500	1,380	307	13,900	1	3,880
Dominican Republic	1,980	2,000	--	--	--	--	--	3,980	(4)	1,160
Ecuador	--	5,770	--	--	--	--	--	5,770	(4)	1,710
France	15,000	--	--	14,900	--	--	--	29,900	2	4,930
Germany	--	--	39	--	--	--	--	39	(4)	21
Guatemala	--	--	2,500	--	--	--	--	2,500	(4)	728
India	--	--	--	--	620	132	213	620	(4)	132
Indonesia	9,600	--	20,500	--	31,100	5,360	172	61,200	4	11,200
Japan	6,000	20,500	19,500	--	38,400	4,260	111	84,400	5	9,980
Korea, Republic of	16,000	13,100	100	20,100	100	25	250	49,400	3	10,200
Lithuania	--	--	--	--	36,400	5,180	142	36,400	2	5,180
Malaysia	--	--	4,000	--	8,000	1,640	206	12,000	(4)	2,600
Mexico	57,000	56,300	67,000	63,000	60,200	13,800	229	304,000	18	66,200
Netherlands	23,800	11,100	20,200	17,500	--	--	--	72,600	4	13,900
New Zealand	--	7,000	6,000	--	--	--	--	13,000	1	2,870
Panama	2,110	--	--	2,540	--	--	--	4,650	(4)	1,350
Peru	8,550	--	--	4,500	5,770	1,430	247	18,800	1	4,430
Philippines	5,000	--	14,100	--	5,000	770	154	24,100	1	3,720
Portugal	13,500	6,000	--	11,000	--	--	--	30,500	2	3,990
Saudi Arabia	17,500	--	13,700	15,000	--	--	--	46,200	3	9,750
Singapore	--	185	--	--	--	--	--	185	(4)	20
South Africa	22,500	6,460	--	--	--	--	--	28,900	2	6,480
Spain	28,200	--	28,700	5,500	--	--	--	62,500	4	10,300
Taiwan	14,500	--	12,500	8,550	10,500	1,300	124	46,100	3	6,520
Thailand	--	17,500	--	--	20,600	4,880	237	38,100	2	8,450
Turkey	--	25	--	--	--	--	--	25	(4)	17
United Arab Emirates	7,520	--	11,500	3,500	--	--	--	22,600	1	5,600
Venezuela	4,000	12,400	6,000	30,900	--	--	--	53,300	3	13,500
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	6,000	818	136	6,000	(4)	818
Other	--	--	14	--	17	11	647	31	(4)	25
Total	423,000	287,000	329,000	295,000	336,000	62,400	186	1,670,000	100	331,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>June 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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)
2008:		
January-May	5,650	\$1,260
May	906	308
June	1,130	360
July	632	214
August	1,070	407
September	658	282
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
January-May	2,330	970

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

<sup>2</sup>June 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-May	4,630,000	5,650	2,140,000	3,510	--	2,490,000
May	987,000	906	383,000	45,600	--	559,000
June	935,000	1,130	531,000	1,550	--	405,000
July	912,000	632	417,000	--	41,900	538,000
August	976,000	1,070	414,000	52,600	--	511,000
September	935,000	658	417,000	43,200	--	475,000
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	732,000	NA	NA	--	22,300	NA
January-May	3,650,000	2,330	1,670,000	11,800	--	1,970,000

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.