

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Dennis S. Kostick, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 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 OCTOBER 2009

U.S. natural soda ash production in October was 811,000 metric tons (t), about the same as the previous month's production of 814,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for October 2009 were 212,000 t, 4% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in October was 1,360,000 t. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in September 2009 was 380,000 t, 20% lower than that of September 2008, and ending stocks were 23% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in September 2009 were 446,000 t and 638 t, respectively.

The trends in soda ash statistics for September 2009, compared with those of September 2008, were as follows: production was 13% lower; imports were 3% lower; exports were 7% higher; and apparent consumption, 20% 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 but should begin to increase because the export market is forecast to improve in November through December.

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	
2008:			
January-October	9,390 ^r	XX	14,800 ^r
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	731	249	1,140
July	794	219	971
August	827	216	1,220
September	814	204	1,250
October	811	212	1,360
January-October	7,630	XX	12,400

^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 2009^{1,2}

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September			Year to date		
									Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit Value	Quantity (metric tons)	% of total	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	17,800	--	--	13,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	42,300	1	\$11,200
Australia	7,000	7,000	10,600	--	7,030	7,000	--	7,000	17,900	\$3,850	\$216	63,400	2	14,300
Belgium	47,600	32,400	9,200	23,000	10,800	35,200	--	6,000	30,000	4,140	138	194,000	6	31,400
Brazil	50,200	28,200	35,000	41,200	40,000	29,200	46,000	48,100	21,700	4,560	211	340,000	11	71,400
Canada	21,800	21,100	25,800	17,700	19,600	21,100	24,400	23,600	27,200	5,890	216	202,000	6	41,800
Chile	19,800	10,000	14,300	15,800	8,100	15,200	13,500	--	42,600	8,300	195	139,000	4	28,800
China	--	--	--	--	10,000	11,500	10,000	--	--	--	--	31,500	1	2,070
Colombia	19,500	6,770	8,100	--	--	--	--	11,500	--	--	--	45,900	1	10,200
Costa Rica	4,500	4,920	--	--	4,500	--	3,150	--	4,500	1,090	242	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	1,160	105	55,900	2	7,920
Guatemala	--	--	2,500	--	--	--	2,850	--	5,300	1,180	222	10,700	(4)	2,560
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	4,190	95	191,000	6	29,700
Japan	6,000	20,500	19,500	--	38,400	--	4,000	31,600	31,600	4,180	132	152,000	5	316
Korea, Republic of	16,000	13,100	100	20,100	100	19,500	15,000	11,100	14,700	2,330	159	110,000	4	20,800
Lithuania	--	--	--	--	36,400	--	--	--	35,900	5,060	141	72,300	2	10,200
Malaysia	--	--	4,000	--	8,000	--	--	--	13,000	2,310	178	25,000	(4)	4,910
Mexico	57,000	56,300	67,000	63,000	60,200	57,800	70,800	59,700	64,200	14,600	228	556,000	18	124,000
Netherlands	23,800	11,100	20,200	17,500	--	10,700	19,900	17,000	11,000	1,610	146	131,000	4	22,900
New Zealand	--	7,000	6,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13,000	(4)	2,870
Panama	2,110	--	--	2,540	--	--	--	--	7	5	714	4,660	(4)	1,350
Peru	8,550	--	--	4,500	5,770	--	7,500	--	8,000	1,550	194	34,300	1	7,530
Philippines	5,000	--	14,100	--	5,000	--	--	5,000	7,000	852	122	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	--	--	--	77,200	2	14,600
Singapore	--	185	--	--	--	--	128	149	--	--	--	462	(4)	51
South Africa	22,500	6,460	--	--	--	16,600	--	--	11,900	1,260	106	57,500	2	10,200
Spain	28,200	--	28,700	5,500	--	13,600	--	6,150	15,000	1,580	105	97,300	3	14,700
Taiwan	14,500	--	12,500	8,550	10,500	--	16,600	20,000	17,000	2,820	166	99,600	3	15,800
Thailand	--	17,500	--	--	20,600	21,000	--	24,500	12,800	1,700	133	96,300	3	18,500
United Arab Emirates	7,520	--	11,500	3,500	--	--	14,500	7,500	--	--	--	44,600	1	9,350
Venezuela	4,000	12,400	6,000	30,900	--	3,500	31,300	16,600	--	--	--	105,000	3	25,400
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	6,000	--	24	24	--	--	--	6,020	(4)	821
Other (9 countries)	1,980	2,030	113	--	17	844	5,000	10	56	21	375	10,100	(4)	33,600
Total	423,000	287,000	329,000	295,000	336,000	292,000	331,000	377,000	446,000	74,300	166	3,130,000	99	610,000

-- Zero.

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

²October 2009 data were not available at time of publication.

³Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH^{1,2}

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2008:		
January-September	9,140	\$2,530
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
June	200	129
July	309	156
August	307	182
September	638	268
January-September	3,780	1,710

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

²October 2009 data were not available at time of publication.

³Cost, insurance, and freight value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2008:						
January-September	9,390,000 [†]	9,140	3,920,000	59,000	--	4,420,000 [†]
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	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	NA	NA	8,270	--	NA
January-September	6,820,000	3,780	3,130,000	--	55,400	3,750,000

[†]Revised. 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.