

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN DECEMBER 2009

U.S. natural soda ash production in December was 854,000 metric tons (t), 3% higher than the previous month's production of 826,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The preliminary production total for 2009 was 9,310,000 t. This represents a decrease of 18% from production in 2008.

Ending inventories for December 2009 were 217,000 t, 3% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in December was 1,380,000 t. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in November 2009 was 410,000 t, 4% lower than November 2008, and ending stocks were 20% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in November 2009 were 419,000 t and 373 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for November 2009, compared with those of November 2008, were as follows: production was 14% lower; imports were 39% lower; exports were 20% lower; and apparent consumption, 4% lower. U.S. soda ash production and trade have declined since 2008 because the domestic glass container and flatglass sectors and export markets remain flat.

The first and second quarter end use data can be found in Table 5.

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:			
December	917	259	1,510
January-December	11,300	XX	17,800
2009:			
January	805 <sup>r</sup>	258	1,160
February	670	273	2,020
March	732	280	983
April	664	239	1,080
May	781 <sup>r</sup>	271	1,180
June	734 <sup>r</sup>	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
December	854	217	1,380
January-December	9,310	XX	15,100

<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	November			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	14,600	\$2,840	\$195	102,000	3	\$21,800
Australia	7,000	7,000	10,600	--	7,030	7,000	--	7,000	17,900	5,020	11,700	2,440	209	80,100	2	17,600
Belgium	47,600	32,400	9,200	23,000	10,800	35,200	--	6,000	30,000	12,000	11,100	1,660	150	217,000	5	34,500
Brazil	50,200	28,200	35,000	41,200	40,000	29,200	46,000	48,100	21,700	18,000	63,300	12,000	190	421,000	11	87,100
Canada	21,800	21,100	25,800	17,700	19,600	21,100	24,400	23,600	27,200	24,600	18,800	3,760	200	247,000	6	51,000
Chile	19,800	10,000	14,300	15,800	8,100	15,200	13,500	--	42,600	33,500	4,380	841	192	177,000	4	35,300
China	--	--	--	--	10,000	11,500	10,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	31,500	1	2,070
Colombia	19,500	6,770	8,100	--	--	--	--	11,500	--	12,000	4,000	632	158	61,900	2	13,100
Costa Rica	4,500	4,920	--	--	4,500	--	3,150	--	4,500	--	--	--	--	21,600	1	5,740
Ecuador	--	5,770	--	--	--	5,070	--	--	--	--	12,600	2,300	182	23,500	1	5,430
Egypt	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,680	--	--	--	--	--	5,680	(4)	605
France	15,000	--	--	14,900	--	--	10,000	5,000	11,100	--	--	--	--	55,900	1	7,920
Guatemala	--	--	2,500	--	--	--	2,850	--	5,300	4,600	--	--	--	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	23,500	3,240	138	257,000	6	38,300
Japan	6,000	20,500	19,500	--	38,400	--	4,000	31,600	31,600	6,500	24,100	3,930	164	182,000	5	36,500
Korea, Republic of	16,000	13,100	100	20,100	100	19,500	15,000	11,100	14,700	5,000	22,900	3,470	152	137,000	3	25,000
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	62,300	14,200	227	685,000	17	154,000
Netherlands	23,800	11,100	20,200	17,500	--	10,700	19,900	17,000	11,000	15,500	8,370	1,880	225	155,000	4	26,900
New Zealand	--	7,000	6,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,980	--	--	--	19,000	1	3,930
Panama	2,110	--	--	2,540	--	--	--	--	7	1,990	--	--	--	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	--	7,350	895	122	43,400	1	6,250
Portugal	13,500	6,000	--	11,000	--	--	12,000	--	--	--	9,930	1,270	127	52,500	1	6,510
Saudi Arabia	17,500	--	13,700	15,000	--	--	10,500	20,500	--	19,000	--	--	--	96,200	2	17,400
Singapore	--	185	--	--	--	--	128	149	--	--	1,450	160	110	1,920	(4)	211
South Africa	22,500	6,460	--	--	--	16,600	--	--	11,900	--	11,000	1,310	119	68,500	2	11,500
Spain	28,200	--	28,700	5,500	--	13,600	--	6,150	15,000	4,900	10,500	1,160	111	113,000	3	16,700
Taiwan	14,500	--	12,500	8,550	10,500	--	16,600	20,000	17,000	20,600	39,600	6,120	155	160,000	4	25,200
Thailand	--	17,500	--	--	20,600	21,000	--	24,500	12,800	31,000	20,500	2,720	133	148,000	4	24,200
United Arab Emirates	7,520	--	11,500	3,500	--	--	14,500	7,500	--	7,000	--	--	--	51,600	1	10,400
Venezuela	4,000	12,400	6,000	30,900	--	3,500	31,300	16,600	--	32,300	21,200	4,850	228	158,000	4	38,900
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	6,000	--	24	24	--	--	--	--	--	6,020	(4)	821
Other (15 countries)	1,980	2,030	113	--	17	844	5,000	10	56	9,830	16,100	1,830	114	35,100	1	5,890
Total	423,000	287,000	329,000	295,000	336,000	292,000	331,000	377,000	446,000	424,000	419,000	73,500	175	3,970,000	100	759,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>December 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-November	11,200	\$3,270
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
November	373	172
January-November	4,910	2,120

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

<sup>2</sup>December 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-November	10,400,000 <sup>r</sup>	11,200	4,910,000	56,000 <sup>r</sup>	--	5,400,000 <sup>r</sup>
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	805,000 <sup>r</sup>	169	423,000	--	1,160	383,000 <sup>r</sup>
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	781,000 <sup>r</sup>	482	336,000	31,700	--	414,000 <sup>r</sup>
June	734,000 <sup>r</sup>	200	292,000	--	22,300	464,000 <sup>r</sup>
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	8,270	--	380,000
November	826,000	373	419,000	--	2,660	410,000
December	854,000	NA	NA	7,200	--	NA
January-November	8,460,000	4,910	3,970,000	--	49,800	4,540,000

<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.

TABLE 5  
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTER<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

NAICS <sup>2</sup> code	End use	2008			2009		
		First quarter	Second quarter	Total	First quarter	Second quarter	Total
3272	Glass:						
327213	Container	360	378	738	310	336	646
327211	Flat	253	250	503	178	180	359
327993	Fiber	49	45	94	34	30	64
327212	Other	40	33	73	24	27	51
	Total	702	705	1,410	546	574	1,120
32518	Chemicals	417	406	823	335	365	700
325611	Soaps and detergents	139	118	257	113	105	218
322	Pulp and paper	24	21	45	30	26	55
221310	Water treatment <sup>3</sup>	21	23	44	12	13	25
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	30	30	60	34	28	63
422	Distributors	59	64	123	83	93	175
	Other	47	53	100	36	40	76
	Total domestic consumption <sup>4</sup>	1,440	1,420	2,860	1,190	1,240	2,430
	Exports <sup>5</sup>	1,250	1,280	2,530	930	939	1,870
	Canada	94	85	179	62	56	118
	Total industry sales <sup>6</sup>	2,690	2,700	5,390	2,120	2,180	4,300
	Total sales from plants	2,770	2,800	5,580	2,120	2,130	4,250
	Total production	2,760	2,810	5,570	2,210	2,180	4,390

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

<sup>2</sup>North American Industry Classification System.

<sup>3</sup>Includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors and purge liquors sold to powerplant for water treatment. Sales of mine water are excluded.

<sup>4</sup>Imports reported by the producer/importer have been distributed into appropriate end-use categories listed above.

<sup>5</sup>As reported by producers; includes Canada. Data may not necessarily agree with those reported by the U.S. Census Bureau for the same periods.

<sup>6</sup>Represents soda ash from domestic origin (production and inventory changes) and imports and exports. Includes soda ash sold by coproducers and distributed by purchasers into appropriate end-use categories.