

# 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](mailto:dkostick@usgs.gov)

Martha L. Jackson (Data)  
Telephone: (703) 648-7944  
Fax: (703) 648-7975  
E-mail: [mjackson@usgs.gov](mailto:mjackson@usgs.gov)

**Internet:** <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

## SODA ASH IN SEPTEMBER 2010

U.S. natural soda ash production in September was 828,000 metric tons (t), 10% lower than the previous month's production of 923,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for September 2010 were 150,000 t, 18% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in September was 1,280,000 t.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in August 2010 was 409,000 t, 8% lower than that of August 2009, and ending stocks were 16% lower. These decreases were because export sales had increased.

Exports and imports of soda ash in August 2010 were 511,000 t and 2,420 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for August 2010, compared with those of August 2009, were as follows: production was 12% higher; imports were 7 times higher; exports were 32% higher; and apparent consumption, 8% lower. Imports increased dramatically because a sodium chromate producer in North Carolina began importing natural soda ash from Turkey beginning in July 2010.

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	
2009:			
January-September	6,820	XX	11,000
August	827	216	1,220
September	814	204	1,250
October	812	212	1,360
November	826	210	1,340
December	854	217	1,380
January-December	9,310	XX	15,100
2010:			
January	857	241	1,530
February	795	196	1,260
March	826	175	1,300
April	856	166	1,100
May	896	236	1,410
June	799	177	1,350
July	853	176	1,270
August	923	182	1,380
September	828	150	1,280
January-September	7,630	XX	11,900

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 2010<sup>1,2</sup>

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August			Year to date <sup>3</sup>		
								Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>4</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity (metric tons)	% of total	Value <sup>4</sup> (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	--	--	--	22,000	7	--	41,000	6,740	\$164	63,000	2	9,970
Australia	5,850	11,600	--	5,850	11,600	5,850	--	5,700	855	150	46,400	1	8,720
Bahrain	--	--	--	1,280	--	72	--	--	--	--	1,350	(5)	168
Belgium	18,000	--	28,400	25,100	25,000	--	--	23,100	2,690	--	120,000	3	15,400
Brazil	72,000	80,800	29,800	44,500	66,500	56,900	48,800	87,500	14,400	164	487,000	14	78,900
Canada	21,000	19,100	25,400	23,400	18,100	18,100	17,900	16,700	3,320	200	160,000	4	33,300
Chile	7,690	31,400	16,100	43,400	--	3,000	34,500	33,900	5,830	172	170,000	5	28,500
Colombia	12,500	11,600	8,000	13,900	--	20,500	24,000	114	13	114	90,600	3	13,500
Costa Rica	--	--	4,900	--	--	--	4,500	5,260	1,020	194	14,700	(5)	2,840
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,000	--	--	--	1,040	(5)	173
Ecuador	--	9,940	806	--	6,420	--	--	--	--	--	17,200	(5)	2,660
Egypt	5,680	--	--	--	6,030	--	6,980	6,000	696	116	24,700	1	2,690
El Salvador	--	--	--	--	--	5,000	--	--	--	--	5,000	(5)	809
Equatorial Guinea	--	3	--	7	177	--	--	--	--	--	187	(5)	32
France	--	39	6,320	--	6,000	--	--	11,000	1,480	134	23,400	1	3,590
Guatemala	--	--	6,700	--	--	9,600	18	10,500	1,850	176	26,800	1	4,690
Indonesia	46,600	43,700	45,500	43,000	51,400	54,500	23,000	12,100	1,780	147	320,000	9	42,800
Japan	3,500	26,300	--	15,200	38,300	22,000	16,900	8,420	1,270	151	131,000	4	18,400
Korea, Republic of	27,100	28,400	11,100	28,900	6,500	22,200	20,000	13,700	2,250	164	158,000	4	24,100
Lithuania	--	30,600	--	--	15,700	27,100	--	--	--	--	73,400	2	10,200
Malaysia	8,000	8,000	--	6,000	--	16,000	--	--	--	--	38,000	1	6,580
Mexico	68,200	60,000	76,200	65,300	69,100	66,600	88,700	67,600	14,200	210	562,000	16	120,000
Namibia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,500	263	175	1,500	(5)	263
Netherlands	27,600	--	18,200	113	18,700	10,800	18,400	32,000	4,140	129	126,000	4	17,300
New Zealand	--	--	5,850	--	80	5,700	5,850	--	--	--	17,500	(5)	2,940
Nicaragua	170	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	170	(5)	19
Panama	1,990	--	--	2,000	2	--	2,000	--	--	--	5,990	(5)	1,070
Peru	--	4,600	--	13,100	--	--	3,500	8,300	1,300	157	29,500	1	4,680
Philippines	9,020	--	12,000	--	--	10,100	9,400	--	--	--	40,500	1	5,780
Portugal	--	12,000	--	--	6,500	20,000	--	--	--	--	38,500	1	4,910
Saudi Arabia	--	17,000	--	--	19,400	--	18,900	17,500	2,270	129	72,800	2	9,660
South Africa	6,000	12,300	13,600	4,940	11,700	14,700	5,500	18,700	1,700	91	87,500	2	8,940
Spain	11,900	--	--	7,160	10,000	5,930	--	6,980	963	138	41,900	1	5,480
Taiwan	22,800	12,900	20,800	19,100	19,200	32,500	21,000	22,800	4,220	185	171,000	5	26,200
Thailand	16,500	22,000	15,300	--	23,000	--	18,300	--	--	--	95,100	3	11,600
Tunisia	10,600	14,400	10,500	9,340	14,900	9,930	10,100	14,000	1,700	121	93,700	3	10,400
United Arab Emirates	--	10,000	--	--	7,600	--	7,600	11,400	1,480	129	36,600	1	6,920
Venezuela	24,200	14,800	24,600	--	21,800	46,700	--	26,800	5,730	213	159,000	4	34,600
Vietnam	8,000	--	--	8,000	--	8,000	--	8,000	1,210	151	32,000	1	4,450
Other	42	64	63	29	117	108	16	20	11	550	419	(5)	176
Total	435,000	481,000	380,000	380,000	496,000	492,000	407,000	511,000	83,300	163	3,580,000	100	584,000

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>September 2010 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Includes revisions.

<sup>4</sup>Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

<sup>5</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)
2009:		
January-August	3,140	\$1,440
August	307	182
September	638	268
October	754	242
November	373	172
December	1,060	227
January-December	5,970	2,350
2010:		
January	568	279
February	887	262
March	488	249
April	324	165
May	628	222
June	1,490	588
July	10,600	2,110
August	2,420	1,060
January-August	17,400	4,940

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

<sup>2</sup>September 2010 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	
2009:						
January-August	6,010,000	3,140	2,680,000	--	43,700	3,370,000
August	827,000	307	388,000	--	3,050	443,000
September	814,000	638	446,000	--	11,600	380,000
October	812,000	754	424,000	8,270	--	381,000
November	826,000	373	419,000	--	2,660	410,000
December	854,000	1,060	439,000	7,200	--	409,000
January-December	9,310,000	5,970	4,410,000	--	42,600	4,950,000
2010:						
January	857,000	568	435,000	24,600	--	398,000
February	795,000	887	481,000	--	45,100	359,000
March	826,000	488	380,000	--	20,700	467,000
April	856,000	324	380,000	--	9,610	486,000
May	896,000	628	496,000	70,100	--	331,000
June	799,000	1,490	492,000	--	58,600	368,000
July	853,000	10,600	407,000	--	1,460	458,000
August	923,000	2,420	511,000	6,460	--	409,000
September	828,000	NA	NA	--	32,400	NA
January-August	6,810,000	17,400	3,580,000	--	34,300	3,280,000

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.