

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN MAY 2010

U.S. natural soda ash production in May was 896,000 metric tons (t), 5% higher than the previous month's production of 856,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for May 2010 were 236,000 t, 42% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in May was 1,410,000 t.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in April 2010 was 486,000 t, 17% higher than that of April 2009, and ending stocks were 36% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in April 2010 were 380,000 t and 324 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for April 2010, compared with those of April 2009, were as follows: production was 28% higher; imports were 37% lower; exports were 29% higher; and apparent consumption, 17% higher.

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-May	3,650	XX	6,420
May	767	260	1,180
June	734	249	1,140
July	794	219	971
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 <sup>r</sup>	1,100
May	896	236	1,410
January-May	4,230	XX	6,600

<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

<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			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)
Australia	5,850	11,600	--	5,850	1,240	\$212	23,300	1	4,760
Belgium	18,000	--	28,400	25,100	3,500	139	71,500	4	9,570
Brazil	72,000	80,800	29,800	44,500	7,220	162	227,000	14	36,600
Canada	21,000	19,100	25,400	23,400	4,980	213	88,900	5	18,900
Chile	7,690	31,400	16,100	43,400	7,120	164	98,600	6	16,300
Colombia	12,500	11,600	8,000	13,900	2,100	151	46,000	3	1,760
Costa Rica	--	--	4,900	--	--	--	4,900	(4)	939
Ecuador	--	9,940	806	--	--	--	10,800	1	1,680
Egypt	5,680	--	--	--	--	--	5,680	(4)	605
France	--	39	6,320	--	--	--	6,360	(4)	1,310
Guatemala	--	--	6,700	--	--	--	6,700	(4)	1,160
Indonesia	46,600	43,700	45,500	43,000	6,510	151	179,000	11	23,100
Japan	3,500	26,300	--	15,200	1,880	--	44,900	3	6,110
Korea, Republic of	27,100	28,400	11,100	28,900	4,300	149	95,500	6	14,300
Lithuania	--	30,600	--	--	--	--	30,600	2	3,820
Malaysia	8,000	8,000	--	6,000	1,010	168	22,000	1	3,890
Mexico	68,200	60,000	76,200	65,300	13,800	212	270,000	16	58,600
Netherlands	27,600	--	18,200	113	28	248	45,900	3	6,450
New Zealand	--	--	5,850	--	--	--	5,850	(4)	1,040
Nicaragua	170	--	--	--	--	--	170	(4)	19
Panama	1,990	--	--	2,000	354	177	3,990	(4)	710
Peru	--	4,600	--	13,100	2,140	163	17,700	1	2,910
Philippines	9,020	--	12,000	--	--	--	21,000	1	3,040
Portugal	--	12,000	--	--	--	--	12,000	1	1,440
Saudi Arabia	--	17,000	--	--	--	--	17,000	1	2,370
South Africa	6,000	12,300	13,600	4,940	351	71	36,900	2	3,700
Spain	11,900	--	--	7,160	751	105	19,000	1	2,330
Taiwan	22,800	12,900	20,800	19,100	2,980	156	75,400	5	11,600
Thailand	16,500	22,000	15,300	--	--	--	53,800	3	6,520
Tunisia	10,600	14,400	10,500	9,340	929	99	44,800	3	4,620
United Arab Emirates	--	10,000	--	--	--	--	10,000	1	3,400
Venezuela	24,200	14,800	24,600	--	--	--	63,700	4	13,700
Vietnam	8,000	--	--	8,000	960	120	16,000	1	2,080
Other	42	67	63	1,310	153	117	1,480	(4)	5,640
Total	435,000	481,000	380,000	380,000	62,400	164	1,680,000	100	275,000

--Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>May 2010 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)
2009:		
January-April	1,840	\$801
April	513	214
May	482	170
June	200	129
July	309	156
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
January-April	2,270	955

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

<sup>2</sup>May 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-April	2,880,000	1,840	1,330,000	--	13,500	1,570,000
April	670,000	513	295,000	--	39,000	415,000
May	767,000	482	336,000	13,900	--	418,000
June	734,000	200	292,000	--	11,000	453,000
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	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 <sup>r</sup>	486,000
May	896,000	NA	NA	70,100	--	NA
January-April	3,330,000	2,270	1,680,000	--	50,900	1,710,000

<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.