

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN NOVEMBER 2010

U.S. natural soda ash production in November was 898,000 metric tons (t), which is slightly lower than the previous month's production of 904,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for November 2010 were 201,000 t, 13% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in November was 1,330,000 t.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in October 2010 was 457,000 t, 20% higher than that of October 2009, and ending

stocks were 16% lower. Stocks decreased because export sales had increased.

Exports and imports of soda ash in October 2010 were 419,000 t and 771 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for October 2010, compared with those of October 2009, were as follows: production was 11% higher; imports were slightly higher; exports were slightly lower; and apparent consumption, 20% higher.

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 | |
| 2009: | | | |
| January-November | 8,460 | XX | 13,700 |
| 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 |
| October | 904 | 178 | 1,330 |
| November | 898 | 201 | 1,330 |
| January-November | 9,440 | XX | 14,500 |

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 2010^{1, 2}

| Country | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | | | Year to date ³ | | |
|----------------------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|------------------------------|---|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | Quantity (metric tons) | Value ⁴ (thousand dollars) | Unit value | Quantity (metric tons) | % of total | Value ⁴ (thousand dollars) |
| Argentina | -- | -- | -- | -- | 22,000 | 7 | -- | 41,000 | -- | 18,700 | 3,140 | \$168 | 81,600 | 2 | 13,100 |
| Australia | 5,850 | 11,600 | -- | 5,850 | 11,600 | 5,850 | -- | 5,700 | 11,600 | 17,300 | 2,870 | 166 | 75,200 | 2 | 13,600 |
| Belgium | 18,000 | -- | 28,400 | 25,100 | 25,000 | -- | -- | 23,100 | 17,400 | -- | -- | -- | 137,000 | 3 | 17,400 |
| Brazil | 72,000 | 80,800 | 29,800 | 44,500 | 66,500 | 56,900 | 48,800 | 87,500 | 42,500 | 32,200 | 4,590 | 143 | 562,000 | 13 | 90,700 |
| Canada | 21,000 | 19,100 | 25,400 | 23,400 | 18,100 | 18,100 | 17,900 | 16,700 | 24,000 | 23,500 | 4,820 | 205 | 207,000 | 5 | 43,100 |
| Chile | 7,690 | 31,400 | 16,100 | 43,400 | -- | 3,000 | 34,500 | 33,900 | 14,000 | 38,400 | 6,290 | 164 | 222,000 | 5 | 37,000 |
| Colombia | 12,500 | 11,600 | 8,000 | 13,900 | -- | 20,500 | 24,000 | 114 | 14,800 | 6,000 | 985 | 164 | 111,000 | 3 | 16,700 |
| Ecuador | -- | 9,940 | 806 | -- | 6,420 | -- | -- | -- | 5,200 | -- | -- | -- | 22,400 | 1 | 3,450 |
| Egypt | 5,680 | -- | -- | -- | 6,030 | -- | 6,980 | 6,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 24,700 | 1 | 2,690 |
| France | -- | 39 | 6,320 | -- | 6,000 | -- | -- | 11,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 23,400 | 1 | 3,590 |
| Guatemala | -- | -- | 6,700 | -- | -- | 9,600 | 18 | 10,500 | -- | 5,900 | 1,060 | 180 | 32,700 | 1 | 5,750 |
| Indonesia | 46,600 | 43,700 | 45,500 | 43,000 | 51,400 | 54,500 | 23,000 | 12,100 | 54,600 | 19,100 | 2,780 | 146 | 393,000 | 9 | 54,100 |
| Japan | 3,500 | 26,300 | -- | 15,200 | 38,300 | 22,000 | 16,900 | 8,420 | 16,300 | 28,800 | 4,020 | 140 | 176,000 | 4 | 24,600 |
| Korea, Republic of | 27,100 | 28,400 | 11,100 | 28,900 | 6,500 | 22,200 | 20,000 | 13,700 | 15,100 | 4,000 | 670 | 168 | 177,000 | 4 | 27,300 |
| Lithuania | -- | 30,600 | -- | -- | 15,700 | 27,100 | -- | -- | -- | 26,300 | 3,550 | 135 | 99,700 | 2 | 13,800 |
| Malaysia | 8,000 | 8,000 | -- | 6,000 | -- | 16,000 | -- | -- | -- | 6,300 | 1,090 | 173 | 44,300 | 1 | 7,670 |
| Mexico | 68,200 | 60,000 | 76,200 | 65,300 | 69,100 | 66,600 | 88,700 | 67,600 | 57,400 | 65,000 | 13,600 | 210 | 684,000 | 15 | 146,000 |
| Netherlands | 27,600 | -- | 18,200 | 113 | 18,700 | 10,800 | 18,400 | 32,000 | 33 | 11,000 | 1,310 | 120 | 137,000 | 3 | 18,700 |
| Peru | -- | 4,600 | -- | 13,100 | -- | -- | 3,500 | 8,300 | 2,000 | 9,800 | 1,650 | 168 | 41,300 | 1 | 6,590 |
| Philippines | 9,020 | -- | 12,000 | -- | -- | 10,100 | 9,400 | -- | 15,000 | 6,200 | 915 | 148 | 61,700 | 1 | 9,070 |
| Portugal | -- | 12,000 | -- | -- | 6,500 | 20,000 | -- | -- | 10,000 | -- | -- | -- | 48,500 | 1 | 5,960 |
| Saudi Arabia | -- | 17,000 | -- | -- | 19,400 | -- | 18,900 | 17,500 | -- | 13,300 | 1,660 | 125 | 86,100 | 2 | 11,300 |
| South Africa | 6,000 | 12,300 | 13,600 | 4,940 | 11,700 | 14,700 | 5,500 | 18,700 | 27,800 | 12,700 | 1,420 | 112 | 128,000 | 3 | 14,100 |
| Spain | 11,900 | -- | -- | 7,160 | 10,000 | 5,930 | -- | 6,980 | 32 | 16,400 | 2,410 | 147 | 58,400 | 1 | 7,890 |
| Taiwan | 22,800 | 12,900 | 20,800 | 19,100 | 19,200 | 32,500 | 21,000 | 22,800 | 32,800 | -- | -- | -- | 204,000 | 5 | 31,600 |
| Thailand | 16,500 | 22,000 | 15,300 | -- | 23,000 | -- | 18,300 | -- | 18,500 | -- | -- | -- | 114,000 | 3 | 14,400 |
| Tunisia | 10,600 | 14,400 | 10,500 | 9,340 | 14,900 | 9,930 | 10,100 | 14,000 | 9,920 | 13,900 | 2,300 | 165 | 118,000 | 3 | 13,800 |
| United Arab Emirates | -- | 10,000 | -- | -- | 7,600 | -- | 7,600 | 11,400 | -- | 12,200 | 1,530 | 125 | 48,800 | 1 | 8,850 |
| Venezuela | 24,200 | 14,800 | 24,600 | -- | 21,800 | 46,700 | -- | 26,800 | 37,400 | 23,300 | 5,130 | 220 | 220,000 | 5 | 48,600 |
| Vietnam | 8,000 | -- | -- | 8,000 | -- | 8,000 | -- | 8,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 32,000 | 1 | 4,450 |
| Other | 2,200 | 67 | 10,800 | 3,310 | 376 | 10,900 | 13,400 | 6,780 | 8,310 | 9,300 | 1,630 | 175 | 65,400 | 1 | 11,500 |
| Total | 435,000 | 481,000 | 380,000 | 380,000 | 496,000 | 492,000 | 407,000 | 511,000 | 434,000 | 419,000 | 69,500 | 166 | 4,430,000 | 100 | 727,000 |

-- Zero.

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

²November 2010 data were not available at time of publication.

³Includes revisions.

⁴Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

| Period | Quantity (metric tons) | Value ³ (thousands) |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2009: | | |
| January-October | 4,530 | \$1,950 |
| 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 |
| September | 343 | 208 |
| October | 771 | 255 |
| January-October | 18,600 | 5,400 |

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

²November 2010 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 | |
| 2009: | | | | | | |
| January-October | 7,630,000 | 4,530 | 3,550,000 | -- | 47,100 | 4,130,000 |
| 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 | 343 | 434,000 | -- | 32,400 | 427,000 |
| October | 904,000 | 771 | 419,000 | 27,900 | -- | 457,000 |
| November | 898,000 | NA | NA | 23,100 | -- | NA |
| January-October | 8,540,000 | 18,600 | 4,430,000 | -- | 38,800 | 4,160,000 |

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.