

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN DECEMBER 2010

U.S. natural soda ash production in December was 915,000 metric tons (t), which is slightly higher than the previous month's production of 898,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The preliminary total of soda ash production in 2010 was 10.4 million tons.

Ending inventories for December 2010 were 220,000 t, 9% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in December was 1,420,000 t.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in November 2010 was 412,000 t, which was slightly higher than that of November

2009, and ending stocks were 4% lower. Stocks decreased because export sales had increased.

Exports and imports of soda ash in November 2010 were 464,000 t and 649 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for November 2010, compared with those of November 2009, were as follows: production was 9% higher; imports were 74% higher; exports were 11% higher; and apparent consumption, slightly 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:			
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
December	915	220	1,420
January-December	10,400	XX	15,900

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	November			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	39	14	\$359	81,600	2	13,100
Belgium	18,000	--	28,400	25,100	25,000	--	--	23,100	17,400	--	15,500	2,240	145	152,000	3	19,600
Brazil	72,000	80,800	29,800	44,500	66,500	56,900	48,800	87,500	42,500	32,200	59,000	9,750	165	621,000	13	100,000
Canada	21,000	19,100	25,400	23,400	18,100	18,100	17,900	16,700	24,000	23,500	24,100	4,840	201	231,000	5	47,900
Chile	7,690	31,400	16,100	43,400	--	3,000	34,500	33,900	14,000	38,400	34,700	5,670	163	257,000	5	42,700
Colombia	12,500	11,600	8,000	13,900	--	20,500	24,000	114	14,800	6,000	13,100	1,880	144	124,000	3	18,500
Egypt	5,680	--	--	--	6,030	--	6,980	6,000	--	--	--	--	--	24,700	1	2,690
Guatemala	--	--	6,700	--	--	9,600	18	10,500	--	5,900	--	--	--	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	25,500	4,200	165	419,000	9	58,300
Japan	3,500	26,300	--	15,200	38,300	22,000	16,900	8,420	16,300	28,800	30,600	4,570	150	206,000	4	29,200
Korea, Republic of	27,100	28,400	11,100	28,900	6,500	22,200	20,000	13,700	15,100	4,000	32,000	5,280	165	209,000	4	32,500
Lithuania	--	30,600	--	--	15,700	27,100	--	--	--	26,300	--	--	--	99,700	2	13,800
Malaysia	8,000	8,000	--	6,000	--	16,000	--	--	--	6,300	--	--	--	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	68,400	14,000	204	752,000	15	160,000
Netherlands	27,600	--	18,200	113	18,700	10,800	18,400	32,000	33	11,000	--	--	--	137,000	3	18,700
Peru	--	4,600	--	13,100	--	--	3,500	8,300	2,000	9,800	15,300	2,420	158	56,600	1	9,010
Philippines	9,020	--	12,000	--	--	10,100	9,400	--	15,000	6,200	--	--	--	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	15,000	1,940	129	101,000	2	13,300
South Africa	6,000	12,300	13,600	4,940	11,700	14,700	5,500	18,700	27,800	12,700	25,100	3,000	120	163,000	3	17,200
Spain	11,900	--	--	7,160	10,000	5,930	--	6,980	32	16,400	--	--	--	58,400	1	7,890
Taiwan	22,800	12,900	20,800	19,100	19,200	32,500	21,000	22,800	32,800	--	30,300	5,020	166	234,000	5	36,600
Thailand	16,500	22,000	15,300	--	23,000	--	18,300	--	18,500	--	18,500	2,980	161	132,000	3	17,400
Tunisia	10,600	14,400	10,500	9,340	14,900	9,930	10,100	14,000	9,920	13,900	--	--	--	118,000	2	13,800
United Arab Emirates	--	10,000	--	--	7,600	--	7,600	11,400	--	12,200	11,800	1,530	129	60,600	1	9,970
Venezuela	24,200	14,800	24,600	--	21,800	46,700	--	26,800	37,400	23,300	24,700	5,280	214	245,000	5	53,800
Vietnam	8,000	--	--	8,000	--	8,000	--	8,000	--	--	--	--	--	32,000	1	4,450
Other	8,050 ^r	21,600 ^r	17,900 ^r	9,160 ^r	24,400 ^r	16,700 ^r	13,400	23,500 ^r	25,100 ^r	26,600 ^r	20,000	3,730	186	196,000	4	36,300
Total	435,000	481,000	380,000	380,000	496,000	492,000	407,000	511,000	434,000	419,000	464,000	78,300	169	4,900,000	100	806,000

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²December 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-November	4,910	\$2,120
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
November	649	198
January-November	19,200	5,600

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

²December 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 ASH ¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2009:						
January-November	8,460,000	4,910	3,970,000	--	49,800	4,540,000
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	649	464,000	23,100	--	412,000
December	915,000	NA	NA	19,200	--	NA
January-November	9,430,000	19,200	4,900,000	--	15,700	4,570,000

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.