

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JANUARY 2010

U.S. natural soda ash production in January was 857,000 metric tons (t), slightly higher than the previous month's production of 854,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The adjusted preliminary production total for 2009 was 9,310,000 t. This represents a decrease of 17.6% from that of 2008.

Ending inventories for January 2010 were 243,000 t, 12% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in January was 1,530,000 t.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in December 2009 was 409,000 t, 12% lower than that of December 2008, and ending stocks were 16% higher.

Exports and imports of soda ash in December 2009 were 439,000 t and 1,060 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for 2009, compared with those of 2008, were as follows: production was 16% lower; imports were 64% lower; exports were 18% lower; and apparent consumption, 16% lower. U.S. soda ash production and trade have declined in 2009 because the domestic glass container and flatglass sectors and export markets were flat, generally as the result of the sluggish global economy. The average unit value for soda ash in 2009 was \$129.88 per short ton.

The soda ash end use data for 2009 are shown in table 5. Domestic soda ash consumption decreased about 13% in 2009 compared with that of 2008.

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	805	258	1,160
February	670	273	2,020
March	739 ^r	285 ^r	983
April	670 ^r	246 ^r	1,080
May	767 ^r	260 ^r	1,180
June	734	249	1,140
July	794	219	971
August	827	216	1,220
September	814	204	1,250
October	812 ^r	212	1,360
November	826	210	1,340
December	854	217	1,380
January-December	9,310	XX	15,100
2010, January	857	243	1,530

^rRevised. 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 2009^{1, 2}

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December			Year to date		
												Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit Value	Quantity (metric tons)	% of total	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	17,800	--	--	13,000	--	--	--	--	45,000	14,600	14,500	\$2,700	\$186	116,000	3	\$24,500
Australia	7,000	7,000	10,600	--	7,030	7,000	--	7,000	17,900	5,020	11,700	11,700	2,670	230	91,800	2	20,200
Belgium	47,600	32,400	9,200	23,000	10,800	35,200	--	6,000	30,000	12,000	11,100	16,200	1,950	120	234,000	5	36,500
Brazil	50,200	28,200	35,000	41,200	40,000	29,200	46,000	48,100	21,700	18,000	63,300	85,100	16,600	195	506,000	11	104,000
Canada	21,800	21,100	25,800	17,700	19,600	21,100	24,400	23,600	27,200	24,600	18,800	25,800	5,630	218	272,000	6	56,700
Chile	19,800	10,000	14,300	15,800	8,100	15,200	13,500	--	42,600	33,500	4,380	35,100	6,220	177	212,000	5	41,600
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	5,920	746	126	67,800	2	13,800
Costa Rica	4,500	4,920	--	--	4,500	--	3,150	--	4,500	--	--	5,300	1,280	241	26,900	1	7,010
Ecuador	--	5,770	--	--	--	5,070	--	--	--	--	12,600	--	--	--	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	--	3,800	614	162	19,100	(4)	4,150
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	24,600	3,500	143	282,000	6	41,800
Japan	6,000	20,500	19,500	--	38,400	--	4,000	31,600	31,600	6,500	24,100	30,600	4,640	152	213,000	5	41,200
Korea, Republic of	16,000	13,100	100	20,100	100	19,500	15,000	11,100	14,700	5,000	22,900	100	25	250	138,000	3	25,100
Lithuania	--	--	--	--	36,400	--	--	--	35,900	--	--	--	--	--	72,300	2	10,200
Malaysia	--	--	4,000	--	8,000	--	--	--	13,000	--	--	6,000	1,070	179	31,000	1	5,990
Mexico	57,000	56,300	67,000	63,000	60,200	57,800	70,800	59,700	64,200	66,200	62,300	73,200	16,700	228	758,000	17	171,000
Netherlands	23,800	11,100	20,200	17,500	--	10,700	19,900	17,000	11,000	15,500	8,370	11,000	1,720	156	166,000	4	28,600
New Zealand	--	7,000	6,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,980	--	5,850	1,080	185	24,800	1	5,010
Panama	2,110	--	--	2,540	--	--	--	--	7	1,990	--	2,000	358	179	8,650	(4)	2,100
Peru	8,550	--	--	4,500	5,770	--	7,500	--	8,000	--	--	8,350	1,590	190	42,700	1	9,110
Philippines	5,000	--	14,100	--	5,000	--	--	5,000	7,000	--	7,350	--	--	--	43,400	1	6,250
Portugal	13,500	6,000	--	11,000	--	--	12,000	--	--	--	9,930	10,000	1,050	105	52,500	1	7,560
Saudi Arabia	17,500	--	13,700	15,000	--	--	10,500	20,500	--	19,000	--	20,900	2,890	138	117,000	3	20,300
Singapore	--	185	--	--	--	--	128	149	--	--	1,450	--	--	--	1,920	(4)	211
South Africa	22,500	6,460	--	--	--	16,600	--	--	11,900	--	11,000	13,300	1,770	132	81,900	2	13,300
Spain	28,200	--	28,700	5,500	--	13,600	--	6,150	15,000	4,900	10,500	3,000	621	207	116,000	3	17,300
Taiwan	14,500	--	12,500	8,550	10,500	--	16,600	20,000	17,000	20,600	39,600	--	--	--	160,000	4	25,200
Thailand	--	17,500	--	--	20,600	21,000	--	24,500	12,800	31,000	20,500	--	--	--	148,000	3	24,200
United Arab Emirates	7,520	--	11,500	3,500	--	--	14,500	7,500	--	7,000	--	6,000	926	154	57,600	1	11,400
Venezuela	4,000	12,400	6,000	30,900	--	3,500	31,300	16,600	--	32,300	21,200	--	--	--	158,000	4	38,900
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	6,000	--	24	24	--	--	--	24	3	125	6,050	(4)	823
Other (15 countries)	1,980	2,030	113	--	17	844	5,000	10	56	9,830	16,100	20,500	2,620	128	65,600	1	8,510
Total	423,000	287,000	329,000	295,000	336,000	292,000	331,000	377,000	446,000	424,000	419,000	439,000	78,900	180	4,410,000	99	838,000

-- Zero.

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

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

³Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

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

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2008:		
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
December	1,060	227
January-December	5,970	2,350

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

²January 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	
2008:						
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	169	423,000	--	1,160	383,000
February	670,000	495	287,000	14,900	--	369,000
March	739,000 ^r	666	329,000	11,800 ^r	--	399,000 ^r
April	670,000 ^r	513	295,000	--	39,000 ^r	415,000 ^r
May	767,000 ^r	482	336,000	13,900 ^r	--	418,000 ^r
June	734,000	200	292,000	--	11,000 ^r	453,000 ^r
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 ^r	754	424,000	8,270	--	381,000 ^r
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	NA	NA	26,400	--	NA

^rRevised. 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.

TABLE 5
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTER¹

(Thousand metric tons)

NAICS ² code	End use	2008	2009				Total
			First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	
3272	Glass:						
327213	Container	1,410	310	336	331	294	1,270
327211	Flat	1,020	178	180	197	203	759
327993	Fiber	186	34	30	37	37	139
327212	Other	137	24	27	39	38	129
	Total	2,750	546	574	605	572	2,300
32518	Chemicals	1,680	335	365	386	378	1,460
325611	Soaps and detergents	545	113	105	129	135	482
322	Pulp and paper	92	30	26	23	22	101
221310	Water treatment ³	88	12	13	14	15	54
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	131	34	28	35	40	138
422	Distributors	253	83	93	66	59	300
	Other	192	36	40	36	53	164
	Total domestic consumption ⁴	5,730	1,190	1,240	1,300	1,270	5,000
	Exports ⁵	5,220	930	939	1,170	1,330	4,370
	Canada	330	62	56	70	64	252
	Total industry sales ⁶	10,900	2,120	2,180	2,460	2,610	9,370
	Total sales from plants	11,200	2,200	2,190	2,510	2,550	9,450
	Total production	11,300	2,210	2,170	2,440	2,490	9,310

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

²North American Industry Classification System.

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

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

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

⁶Represents 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.