

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JUNE 2010

U.S. natural soda ash production in June was 799,000 metric tons (t), 11% lower than the previous month's production of 896,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for June 2010 were 177,000 t, 25% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in June was 1,350,000 t.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in May 2010 was 331,000 t, 21% lower than that of May 2009, and ending stocks were 9% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in May 2010 were 496,000 t and 628 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for May 2010, compared with those of May 2009, were as follows: production was 17% higher; imports were 30% higher; exports were 48% higher; and apparent consumption, 21% lower.

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-June	4,390	XX	7,560
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	1,100
May	896	236	1,410
June	799	177	1,350
January-June	5,030	XX	7,940

XX Not applicable.

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

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			Year to date		
					Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity (metric tons)	% of total	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	--	--	--	22,000	3,220	\$147	22,000	1	3,220
Australia	5,850	11,600	--	5,850	11,600	1,950	169	34,800	2	6,710
Belgium	18,000	--	28,400	25,100	25,000	3,130	125	96,500	4	12,700
Brazil	72,000	80,800	29,800	44,500	66,500	10,800	163	294,000	14	47,400
Canada	21,000	19,100	25,400	23,400	18,100	3,620	200	107,000	5	22,500
Chile	7,690	31,400	16,100	43,400	--	--	--	98,600	5	16,300
Colombia	12,500	11,600	8,000	13,900	--	--	--	46,000	2	1,760
Costa Rica	--	--	4,900	--	--	--	--	4,900	(4)	939
Ecuador	--	9,940	806	--	6,420	982	153	17,200	1	2,660
Egypt	5,680	--	--	--	6,030	694	115	11,700	(4)	1,300
Equatorial Guinea ⁵	--	3	--	7	177	20	113	187	(4)	32
France	--	39	6,320	--	6,000	805	134	12,400	(4)	2,120
Guatemala	--	--	6,700	--	--	--	--	6,700	(4)	1,160
Indonesia	46,600	43,700	45,500	43,000	51,400	6,980	136	230,000	11	30,000
Japan	3,500	26,300	--	15,200	38,300	5,850	153	83,300	4	12,000
Korea, Republic of	27,100	28,400	11,100	28,900	6,500	1,030	159	102,000	5	15,300
Lithuania	--	30,600	--	--	15,700	2,590	165	46,300	2	6,410
Malaysia	8,000	8,000	--	6,000	--	--	--	22,000	1	3,890
Mexico	68,200	60,000	76,200	65,300	69,100	14,700	213	339,000	16	73,300
Netherlands	27,600	--	18,200	113	18,700	2,560	137	64,500	3	9,010
New Zealand	--	--	5,850	--	80	9	113	5,930	(4)	1,050
Nicaragua	170	--	--	--	--	--	--	170	(4)	19
Panama	1,990	--	--	2,000	2	3	1,500	3,990	(4)	713
Peru	--	4,600	--	13,100	--	--	--	17,700	1	2,910
Philippines	9,020	--	12,000	--	--	--	--	21,000	1	3,040
Portugal	--	12,000	--	--	6,500	1,160	178	18,500	1	2,600
Saudi Arabia	--	17,000	--	--	19,400	2,580	133	36,400	2	4,950
South Africa	6,000	12,300	13,600	4,940	11,700	1,330	113	48,600	2	5,030
Spain	11,900	--	--	7,160	10,000	1,260	126	29,000	1	3,590
Taiwan	22,800	12,900	20,800	19,100	19,200	3,030	158	94,600	4	14,600
Thailand	16,500	22,000	15,300	--	23,000	2,330	101	76,800	4	8,850
Tunisia	10,600	14,400	10,500	9,340	14,900	1,890	126	59,700	3	6,510
United Arab Emirates	--	10,000	--	--	7,600	1,060	139	17,600	1	4,460
Venezuela	24,200	14,800	24,600	--	21,800	4,710	216	85,600	4	18,400
Vietnam	8,000	--	--	8,000	--	--	--	16,000	1	2,080
Other	42	64 ⁴	63	1,310	117	42	359	1,590	(4)	5,670
Total	435,000	481,000	380,000	380,000	496,000	78,300	158	2,170,000	100	353,000

¹Revised.

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

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

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

⁴Less than ½ unit.

⁵Exports in February and April that were included in "Other" are shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2009:		
January-May	2,330	\$971
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
May	628	222
January-May	2,900	1,180

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

²June 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-May	3,650,000	2,330	1,670,000	412	--	1,980,000
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	486,000
May	896,000	628	496,000	70,100	--	331,000
June	799,000	NA	NA	--	58,600	NA
January-May	4,230,000	2,900	2,170,000	19,300	--	2,040,000

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.