

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN AUGUST 2010

U.S. natural soda ash production in August was 923,000 metric tons (t), 8% higher than the previous month's production of 853,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for August 2010 were 182,000 t, 3% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in August was 1,380,000 t.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in July 2010 was 458,000 t, 7% lower than that of July 2009, and ending stocks were 20% lower. These decreases were because export sales had increased.

Exports and imports of soda ash in July 2010 were 407,000 t and 10,600 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for July 2010, compared with those of July 2009, were as follows: production was 7% higher; imports were 33 times higher; exports were 23% higher; and apparent consumption, 7% lower. Imports increased dramatically because a sodium chromate producer in North Carolina began importing natural soda ash from Turkey beginning in July 2010.

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-August ^f	6,010	XX	9,750
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
July	853	176	1,270
August	923	182	1,380
January-August	6,810	XX	10,600

^fRevised. 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	June	July			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	--	--	--	22,000	1	3,230
Australia	5,850	11,600	--	5,850	11,600	5,850	--	--	--	40,700	1	7,860
Bahrain	--	--	--	1,280	--	72 ^r	--	--	--	1,350	(5)	168
Belgium	18,000	--	28,400	25,100	25,000	--	--	--	--	96,500	3	12,700
Brazil	72,000	80,800	29,800	44,500	66,500	56,900	48,800	8,100	\$166	399,000	13	64,500
Canada	21,000	19,100	25,400	23,400	18,100	18,100	17,900	3,780	212	143,000	5	30,000
Chile	7,690	31,400	16,100	43,400	--	3,000	34,500	5,760	167	136,000	4	22,600
Colombia	12,500	11,600	8,000	13,900	--	20,500	24,000	3,390	141	90,500	3	13,500
Costa Rica	--	--	4,900	--	--	--	4,500	881	196	9,400	(5)	1,820
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,000	169	169	1,040	(5)	173
Ecuador	--	9,940	806	--	6,420	--	--	--	--	17,200	1	2,660
Egypt	5,680	--	--	--	6,030	--	6,980	691	99	18,700	(5)	1,990
El Salvador	--	--	--	--	--	5,000	--	--	--	5,000	(5)	809
Equatorial Guinea	--	3	--	7	177	--	--	--	--	187	(5)	32
France	--	39	6,320	--	6,000	--	--	--	--	12,400	(5)	2,120
Guatemala	--	--	6,700	--	--	9,600	18	6	333	16,300	1	2,830
Indonesia	46,600	43,700	45,500	43,000	51,400	54,500	23,000	2,420	105	308,000	10	41,000
Japan	3,500	26,300	--	15,200	38,300	22,000	16,900	2,220	132	122,000	4	17,200
Korea, Republic of	27,100	28,400	11,100	28,900	6,500	22,200	20,000	3,200	160	144,000	5	21,900
Lithuania	--	30,600	--	--	15,700	27,100	--	--	--	73,400	2	10,200
Malaysia	8,000	8,000	--	6,000	--	16,000	--	--	--	38,000	1	6,580
Mexico	68,200	60,000	76,200	65,300	69,100	66,600	88,700	19,200	216	494,000	16	106,000
Netherlands	27,600	--	18,200	113	18,700	10,800	18,400	2,760	150	93,800	3	13,200
New Zealand	--	--	5,850	--	80	5,700	5,850	1,040	177	17,500	(5)	2,940
Nicaragua	170	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	170	(5)	19
Panama	1,990	--	--	2,000	2	--	2,000	358	179	5,990	(5)	1,070
Peru	--	4,600	--	13,100	--	--	3,500	462	132	21,200	1	3,370
Philippines	9,020	--	12,000	--	--	10,100	9,400	1,310	139	40,500	1	5,780
Portugal	--	12,000	--	--	6,500	20,000	--	--	--	38,500	1	4,910
Saudi Arabia	--	17,000	--	--	19,400	--	18,900	2,450	129	55,300	2	7,400
South Africa	6,000	12,300	13,600	4,940	11,700	14,700	5,500	391	71	68,800	2	7,240
Spain	11,900	--	--	7,160	10,000	5,930	--	--	--	35,000	1	4,510
Taiwan	22,800	12,900	20,800	19,100	19,200	32,500	21,000	2,190	104	148,000	5	22,000
Thailand	16,500	22,000	15,300	--	23,000	--	18,300	2,770	151	95,100	3	11,600
Tunisia	10,600	14,400	10,500	9,340	14,900	9,930	10,100	1,130	112	79,700	3	8,690
United Arab Emirates	--	10,000	--	--	7,600	--	7,600	984	129	25,200	1	5,450
Venezuela	24,200	14,800	24,600	--	21,800	46,700	--	--	--	132,000	4	28,900
Vietnam	8,000	--	--	8,000	--	8,000	--	--	--	24,000	1	3,240
Other	42	64	63	29	117	108 ^r	16	9	563	399	(5)	171
Total	435,000	481,000	380,000	380,000	496,000	492,000	407,000	65,700	161	3,070,000	100	501,000

^rRevised -- Zero.

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

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

³Includes revisions.

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

⁵Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2009:		
January-July	2,830	\$1,260
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
June	1,490	588
July	10,600	2,110
January-July	15,000	3,880

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

²August 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-July	5,180,000	2,830	2,290,000	--	40,700	2,930,000
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	1,490	492,000	--	58,600	368,000
July	853,000	10,600	407,000	--	1,460	458,000
August	923,000	NA	NA	6,460	--	NA
January-July	5,880,000	15,000	3,070,000	--	40,800	2,870,000

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.