

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN APRIL 2010

U.S. natural soda ash production in April was 856,000 metric tons (t), 4% higher than the previous month's production of 826,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for April 2010 were 173,000 t, slightly lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in April was 1,100,000 t.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in March 2010 was 467,000 t, 17% higher than that of March 2009, and ending stocks were 39% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in March 2010 were 380,000 t and 488 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for March 2010, compared with those of March 2009, were as follows: production was 12% higher; imports were 27% lower; exports were 16% higher; and apparent consumption, 17% higher. Tables 5 and 6 show the revised soda ash end use data for 2008 and 2009, respectively. These data were revised because of updated data received from a survey respondent.

All percentages in this report were computed using unrounded data.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Ending stocks	
2009:			
January-April	2,880	XX	5,240
April	670	246	1,080
May	767	260	1,180
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	173	1,100
January-April	3,330	XX	5,190

XX Not applicable.

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

<sup>2</sup>Production 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<sup>1,2</sup>

Country	January	February	March			Year to date		
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity (metric tons)	% of total	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
Australia	5,850	11,600	--	--	--	17,400	1	3,510
Belgium	18,000	--	28,400	3,670	\$129	46,400	4	6,070
Brazil	72,000	80,800	29,800	5,090	171	183,000	14	29,300
Canada	21,000	19,100	25,400	5,340	210	65,500	5	13,900
Chile	7,690	31,400	16,100	2,600	162	55,100	4	9,140
Colombia	12,500	11,600	8,000	1,100	138	32,100	2	5,060
Costa Rica	--	--	4,900	939	192	4,900	(4)	939
Ecuador	--	9,940	806	89	110	10,800	1	1,680
Egypt	5,680	--	--	--	--	5,680	(4)	605
France	--	39 <sup>r</sup>	6,320	1,290	204	6,360	(4)	1,310
Guatemala	--	--	6,700	1,160	173	6,700	1	1,160
Indonesia	46,600	43,700	45,500	6,050	133	136,000	10	16,600
Japan	3,500	26,300	--	--	--	29,800	2	4,220
Korea, Republic of	27,100	28,400	11,100	1,620	146	66,600	5	10,000
Lithuania	--	30,600	--	--	--	30,600	2	3,820
Malaysia	8,000	8,000	--	--	--	16,000	1	2,880
Mexico	68,200	60,000	76,200	16,100	211	204,000	16	44,700
Netherlands	27,600	--	18,200	2,730	150	45,800	4	6,420
New Zealand	--	--	5,850	1,040	177	5,850	(4)	1,040
Nicaragua	170	--	--	--	--	170	(4)	19
Panama	1,990	--	--	--	--	1,990	(4)	356
Peru	--	4,600	--	--	--	4,600	(4)	769
Philippines	9,020	--	12,000	1,740	145	21,000	2	3,040
Portugal	--	12,000	--	--	--	12,000	1	1,440
Saudi Arabia	--	17,000	--	--	--	17,000	1	2,370
South Africa	6,000	12,300	13,600	1,470	108	31,900	2	3,350
Spain	11,900	--	--	--	--	11,900	1	1,580
Taiwan	22,800	12,900	20,800	3,170	153	56,400	4	8,630
Thailand	16,500	22,000	15,300	2,310	151	53,800	4	6,520
Tunisia	10,600	14,400	10,500	1,010	97	35,400	3	3,690
United Arab Emirates	--	10,000	--	--	--	10,000	1	3,400
Venezuela	24,200	14,800	24,600	5,500	223	63,700	5	13,700
Vietnam	8,000	--	--	--	--	8,000	1	1,120
Other	42	67 <sup>r</sup>	63	30	476	172	(4)	84
Total	435,000	481,000	380,000	64,100	169	1,300,000	100	212,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>April 2010 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

<sup>4</sup>Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH<sup>1, 2</sup>

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousands)
2009:		
January-March	1,330	\$587
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
2010:		
January	568	279
February	887	262
March	488	249
January-March	1,940	790

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

<sup>2</sup>April 2010 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Cost, insurance, and freight value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption <sup>2</sup>
				Increase	Decrease	
2009:						
January-March	2,210,000	1,330	1,040,000	25,500	--	1,150,000
March	739,000	666	329,000	11,800	--	399,000
April	670,000	513	295,000	--	39,000	415,000
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	NA	NA	--	2,380	NA
January-March	2,480,000	1,940	1,300,000	--	43,700	1,220,000

NA Not available. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.

TABLE 5  
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTER<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

NAICS <sup>2</sup> code	End use	2007	2008				Total
			First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	
3272	Glass:						
327213	Container	1,460	357 <sup>r</sup>	378	353	315	1,400 <sup>r</sup>
327211	Flat	1,080	250 <sup>r</sup>	248 <sup>r</sup>	252	264	1,020
327993	Fiber	210	49	45	47	46	186
327212	Other	154	43 <sup>r</sup>	33	39	25	140 <sup>r</sup>
	Total	2,900	699 <sup>r</sup>	704 <sup>r</sup>	692	649	2,740 <sup>r</sup>
32518	Chemicals	1,760	414 <sup>r</sup>	402 <sup>r</sup>	434 <sup>r</sup>	422 <sup>r</sup>	1,670 <sup>r</sup>
325611	Soaps and detergents	463	130 <sup>r</sup>	115 <sup>r</sup>	134 <sup>r</sup>	122 <sup>r</sup>	501 <sup>r</sup>
322	Pulp and paper	91	24 <sup>r</sup>	21	24 <sup>r</sup>	24	93 <sup>r</sup>
221310	Water treatment <sup>3</sup>	98	14 <sup>r</sup>	16 <sup>r</sup>	15 <sup>r</sup>	13 <sup>r</sup>	58 <sup>r</sup>
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	130	31 <sup>r</sup>	30	39	31 <sup>r</sup>	131
422	Distributors	297	74 <sup>r</sup>	80 <sup>r</sup>	81 <sup>r</sup>	82 <sup>r</sup>	317 <sup>r</sup>
	Other	202	46 <sup>r</sup>	49 <sup>r</sup>	48	43 <sup>r</sup>	187 <sup>r</sup>
	Total domestic consumption <sup>4</sup>	5,940	1,430 <sup>r</sup>	1,420	1,470 <sup>r</sup>	1,390 <sup>r</sup>	5,700 <sup>r</sup>
	Exports <sup>5</sup>	5,250	1,310 <sup>r</sup>	1,340 <sup>r</sup>	1,300 <sup>r</sup>	1,480 <sup>r</sup>	5,420 <sup>r</sup>
	Canada	406	94	85	82	65 <sup>r</sup>	326 <sup>r</sup>
	Total industry sales <sup>6</sup>	11,200	2,740 <sup>r</sup>	2,750 <sup>r</sup>	2,770 <sup>r</sup>	2,860 <sup>r</sup>	11,100 <sup>r</sup>
	Total sales from plants	11,200	2,770	2,800	2,760	2,870	11,200
	Total production	11,100	2,760	2,810	2,820	2,880	11,300

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>North American Industry Classification System.

<sup>3</sup>Include

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

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

<sup>6</sup>Represents 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.

TABLE 6  
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTER<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

NAICS <sup>2</sup> code	End use	2008	2009				Total
			First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	
3272	Glass:						
327213	Container	1,400 <sup>r</sup>	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	140 <sup>r</sup>	24	27	39	38	129
	Total	2,740 <sup>r</sup>	546	574	605	572	2,300
32518	Chemicals	1,670 <sup>r</sup>	335	365	387 <sup>r</sup>	378	1,470 <sup>r</sup>
325611	Soaps and detergents	501 <sup>r</sup>	113	105	129	135	482
322	Pulp and paper	93 <sup>r</sup>	30	26	24 <sup>r</sup>	23 <sup>r</sup>	103 <sup>r</sup>
221310	Water treatment <sup>3</sup>	58 <sup>r</sup>	12	13	14	15	54
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	131	34	28	35	40	138
422	Distributors	317 <sup>r</sup>	84 <sup>r</sup>	95 <sup>r</sup>	68 <sup>r</sup>	61 <sup>r</sup>	308 <sup>r</sup>
	Other	187 <sup>r</sup>	36	40	36	53	165 <sup>r</sup>
	Total domestic consumption <sup>4</sup>	5,700 <sup>r</sup>	1,190	1,250 <sup>r</sup>	1,300	1,280 <sup>r</sup>	5,010 <sup>r</sup>
	Exports <sup>5</sup>	5,420 <sup>r</sup>	967 <sup>r</sup>	974 <sup>r</sup>	1,220 <sup>r</sup>	1,360 <sup>r</sup>	4,520 <sup>r</sup>
	Canada	326 <sup>r</sup>	62	56	70	64	252
	Total industry sales <sup>6</sup>	11,100 <sup>r</sup>	2,160 <sup>r</sup>	2,220 <sup>r</sup>	2,510 <sup>r</sup>	2,640 <sup>r</sup>	9,530 <sup>r</sup>
	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

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>North American Industry Classification System.

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

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

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

<sup>6</sup>Represents 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.