

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN OCTOBER 2010

U.S. natural soda ash production in October was 904,000 metric tons (t), 9% higher than the previous month's production of 828,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for October 2010 were 178,000 t, 19% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in October was 1,330,000 t.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in September 2010 was 427,000 t, 12% higher than that of September 2009, and ending stocks were 26% lower. Stocks decreased because export sales had increased.

Exports and imports of soda ash in September 2010 were 434,000 t and 343 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for September 2010, compared with those of September 2009, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were 46% lower; exports were 3% lower; and apparent consumption, 12% 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:			
January-October	7,630	XX	12,400
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
September	828	150	1,280
October	904	178	1,330
January-September	8,540	XX	13,200

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			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	--	--	--	63,000	2	9,970
Australia	5,850	11,600	--	5,850	11,600	5,850	--	5,700	11,600	2,010	\$174	57,900	1	10,700
Belgium	18,000	--	28,400	25,100	25,000	--	--	23,100	17,400	2,000	115	137,000	3	17,400
Brazil	72,000	80,800	29,800	44,500	66,500	56,900	48,800	87,500	42,500	7,170	169	529,000	13	86,100
Canada	21,000	19,100	25,400	23,400	18,100	18,100	17,900	16,700	24,000	4,940	206	184,000	5	38,300
Chile	7,690	31,400	16,100	43,400	--	3,000	34,500	33,900	14,000	2,250	161	184,000	5	30,700
Colombia	12,500	11,600	8,000	13,900	--	20,500	24,000	114	14,800	2,140	145	105,000	3	15,700
Ecuador	--	9,940	806	--	6,420	--	--	--	5,200	784	151	22,400	1	3,450
Egypt	5,680	--	--	--	6,030	--	6,980	6,000	--	--	--	24,700	1	2,690
France	--	39	6,320	--	6,000	--	--	11,000	--	--	--	23,400	1	3,590
Guatemala	--	--	6,700	--	--	9,600	18	10,500	--	--	--	26,800	1	4,690
Indonesia	46,600	43,700	45,500	43,000	51,400	54,500	23,000	12,100	54,600	8,590	157	374,000	9	51,400
Japan	3,500	26,300	--	15,200	38,300	22,000	16,900	8,420	16,300	2,170	133	147,000	4	20,600
Korea, Republic of	27,100	28,400	11,100	28,900	6,500	22,200	20,000	13,700	15,100	2,460	164	173,000	4	26,600
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	67,600	57,400	11,900	208	619,000	15	132,000
Netherlands	27,600	--	18,200	113	18,700	10,800	18,400	32,000	33	32	970	126,000	3	17,400
Peru	--	4,600	--	13,100	--	--	3,500	8,300	2,000	264	132	31,500	1	4,940
Philippines	9,020	--	12,000	--	--	10,100	9,400	--	15,000	2,370	158	55,500	1	8,160
Portugal	--	12,000	--	--	6,500	20,000	--	--	10,000	1,050	105	48,500	1	5,960
Saudi Arabia	--	17,000	--	--	19,400	--	18,900	17,500	--	--	--	72,800	2	9,660
South Africa	6,000	12,300	13,600	4,940	11,700	14,700	5,500	18,700	27,800	3,790	136	115,000	3	12,700
Spain	11,900	--	--	7,160	10,000	5,930	--	6,980	32	3	94	42,000	1	5,480
Taiwan	22,800	12,900	20,800	19,100	19,200	32,500	21,000	22,800	32,800	5,360	164	204,000	5	31,600
Thailand	16,500	22,000	15,300	--	23,000	--	18,300	--	18,500	2,780	150	114,000	3	14,400
Tunisia	10,600	14,400	10,500	9,340	14,900	9,930	10,100	14,000	9,920	1,120	113	104,000	3	11,500
United Arab Emirates	--	10,000	--	--	7,600	--	7,600	11,400	--	--	--	36,600	1	6,920
Venezuela	24,200	14,800	24,600	--	21,800	46,700	--	26,800	37,400	8,790	235	197,000	5	43,400
Vietnam	8,000	--	--	8,000	--	8,000	--	8,000	--	--	--	32,000	1	4,450
Other	2,200 ^r	67 ^r	10,800 ^r	3,310 ^r	376 ^r	10,900 ^r	13,400 ^r	6,780 ^r	8,310	1,770	213	56,100	1	10,300 ^r
Total	435,000	481,000	380,000	380,000	496,000	492,000	407,000	511,000	434,000	73,800	170	4,020,000	100	658,000

^rRevised -- Zero.

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

²October 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-September	3,780	\$1,710
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
August	2,420	1,060
September	343	208
January-September	17,800	5,150

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

²October 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-September	6,820,000	3,780	3,130,000	--	55,400	3,750,000
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	2,420	511,000	6,460	--	409,000
September	828,000	343	434,000	--	32,400	427,000
October	904,000	NA	NA	27,900	--	NA
January-September	7,630,000	17,800	4,020,000	--	66,700	3,700,000

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.