

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN MARCH 2010

U.S. natural soda ash production in March was 826,000 metric tons (t), 4% higher than the previous month's production of 795,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for March 2010 were 175,000 t, 11% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in March was 1,300,000 t.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in February 2010 was 359,000 t, 3% lower than that of February 2009, and ending stocks were 3% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in February 2010 were 481,000 t and 887 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for February 2010, compared with those of February 2009, were as follows: production was 19% higher; imports were 79% higher; exports were 68% higher; and apparent consumption, 3% lower. Soda ash production is forecast to increase in the next few months because increased foreign demand for U.S. soda ash is likely to raise export sales.

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-March	2,210	XX	4,160
March	739	285	983
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
January-March	2,480	XX	4,090

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			Year to date		
		Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity (metric tons)	% of total	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Australia	5,850	11,600	2,150	\$186	17,400	2	3,510
Belgium	18,000	--	--	--	18,000	2	2,400
Brazil	72,000	80,800	12,500	155	153,000	17	24,200
Canada	21,000	19,100	4,470	234	40,100	4	8,600
Chile	7,690	31,400	5,330	170	39,100	4	6,540
Colombia	12,500	11,600	1,600	138	24,100	3	3,960
Ecuador	--	9,940	1,590	160	9,940	1	1,590
Egypt	5,680	--	--	--	5,680	1	605
Indonesia	46,600	43,700	5,030	115	90,300	10	10,500
Japan	3,500	26,300	3,650	139	29,800	3	4,220
Korea, Republic of	27,100	28,400	4,230	149	55,500	6	8,390
Lithuania	--	30,600	3,820	125	30,600	3	3,820
Malaysia	8,000	8,000	1,560	195	16,000	2	2,880
Mexico	68,200	60,000	12,900	215	128,000	14	28,600
Netherlands	27,600	--	--	--	27,600	3	3,690
Nicaragua	170	--	--	--	170	(4)	19
Panama	1,990	--	--	--	1,990	(4)	356
Peru	--	4,600	769	167	4,600	1	769
Philippines	9,020	--	--	--	9,020	1	1,300
Portugal	--	12,000	1,440	120	12,000	1	1,440
Saudi Arabia	--	17,000	2,370	139	17,000	2	2,370
South Africa	6,000	12,300	873	71	18,300	2	1,880
Spain	11,900	--	--	--	11,900	1	1,580
Taiwan	22,800	12,900	2,010	157	35,600	4	5,450
Thailand	16,500	22,000	2,040	93	38,500	4	4,210
Tunisia	10,600	14,400	1,490	103	25,000	3	2,680
United Arab Emirates	--	10,000	3,400	340	10,000	1	3,400
Venezuela	24,200	14,800	3,240	218	39,100	4	8,160
Vietnam	8,000	--	--	--	8,000	1	1,120
Other (7 countries)	42	107	53	495	148	(4)	76
Total	435,000	481,000	76,500	159	916,000	100	148,000

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

²March 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)
2009:		
January-February	664	\$349
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
2010:		
January	568	279
February	887	262
January-February	1,460	541

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

²March 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-February	1,480,000	664	710,000	13,700	--	752,000
February	670,000	495	287,000	14,900	--	369,000
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	NA	NA	--	20,700	NA
January-February	1,650,000	1,460	916,000	--	20,600	757,000

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.