

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Dennis S. Kostick, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7715, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: dkostick@usgs.gov

Martha L. Jackson (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7944
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: mjackson@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

SODA ASH IN JANUARY 2011

U.S. natural soda ash production in January was 873,000 metric tons (t), 5% lower than the previous month's production of 915,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The preliminary total of soda ash production in 2010 was 10.4 million tons (Mt).

Ending inventories of soda ash for January 2011 were 223,000 t, slightly higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in January was 1.5 Mt.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in December 2010 was 404,000 t, which was slightly lower than that of December 2009. Apparent consumption in 2010 was 4.98 Mt which was slightly higher than the 2009 total of 4.95 Mt. Reported

consumption data for 2010 were incomplete, and ending stocks were slightly higher than those at yearend 2009.

Exports and imports of soda ash in December 2010 were 492,000 t and 538 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for December 2010, compared with those of December 2009, were as follows: production was 7% higher; imports were 49% lower; exports were 12% higher; and apparent consumption, slightly lower.

The soda ash end use data for the first 3 quarters of 2010 are shown in table 5.

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	
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
November	898	201	1,330
December	915	220	1,420
January-December	10,400	XX	15,900
2011, January	873	223	1,500

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	October	November	December			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	--	18,700	39	--	--	--	81,600	2	13,100
Belgium	18,000	--	28,400	25,100	25,000	--	--	23,100	17,400	--	15,500	22,700	2,720	120	175,000	3	22,300
Brazil	72,000	80,800	29,800	44,500	66,500	56,900	48,800	87,500	42,500	32,200	59,000	80,500	12,600	157	701,000	13	113,000
Canada	21,000	19,100	25,400	23,400	18,100	18,100	17,900	16,700	24,000	23,500	24,100	21,400	4,480	209	253,000	5	52,400
Chile	7,690	31,400	16,100	43,400	--	3,000	34,500	33,900	14,000	38,400	34,700	15,400	2,620	171	272,000	5	45,300
Colombia	12,500	11,600	8,000	13,900	--	20,500	24,000	114	14,800	6,000	13,100	3,500	611	175	128,000	2	19,100
Guatemala	--	--	6,700	--	--	9,600	18	10,500	--	5,900	--	1,800	336	187	34,500	1	6,080
Indonesia	46,600	43,700	45,500	43,000	51,400	54,500	23,000	12,100	54,600	19,100	25,500	38,500	5,800	151	457,000	8	64,100
Japan	3,500	26,300	--	15,200	38,300	22,000	16,900	8,420	16,300	28,800	30,600	23,100	3,980	172	229,000	4	33,200
Korea, Republic of	27,100	28,400	11,100	28,900	6,500	22,200	20,000	13,700	15,100	4,000	32,000	20,400	3,340	164	229,000	4	35,900
Lithuania	--	30,600	--	--	15,700	27,100	--	--	--	26,300	--	22,000	2,970	135	122,000	2	16,700
Malaysia	8,000	8,000	--	6,000	--	16,000	--	--	--	6,300	--	5,000	878	176	49,300	1	8,540
Mexico	68,200	60,000	76,200	65,300	69,100	66,600	88,700	67,600	57,400	65,000	68,400	70,400	14,700	209	823,000	15	175,000
Netherlands	27,600	--	18,200	113	18,700	10,800	18,400	32,000	33	11,000	--	102	29	284	137,000	3	18,700
Peru	--	4,600	--	13,100	--	--	3,500	8,300	2,000	9,800	15,300	--	--	--	56,600	1	9,010
Philippines	9,020	--	12,000	--	--	10,100	9,400	--	15,000	6,200	--	--	--	--	61,700	1	9,070
Portugal	--	12,000	--	--	6,500	20,000	--	--	10,000	--	--	--	--	--	48,500	1	5,960
Saudi Arabia	--	17,000	--	--	19,400	--	18,900	17,500	--	13,300	15,000	15,000	1,940	129	116,000	2	15,200
South Africa	6,000	12,300	13,600	4,940	11,700	14,700	5,500	18,700	27,800	12,700	25,100	8,810	996	113	162,000	3	18,100
Spain	11,900	--	--	7,160	10,000	5,930	--	6,980	32	16,400	--	3,000	555	185	61,400	1	8,440
Taiwan	22,800	12,900	20,800	19,100	19,200	32,500	21,000	22,800	32,800	--	30,300	18,100	3,000	166	252,000	5	39,600
Thailand	16,500	22,000	15,300	--	23,000	--	18,300	--	18,500	--	18,500	10,000	1,450	145	142,000	3	18,800
Tunisia	10,600	14,400	10,500	9,340	14,900	9,930	10,100	14,000	9,920	13,900	--	31,000	4,070	131	149,000	3	17,900
United Arab Emirates	--	10,000	--	--	7,600	--	7,600	11,400	--	12,200	11,800	11,000	1,420	129	71,600	1	11,400
Venezuela	24,200	14,800	24,600	--	21,800	46,700	--	26,800	37,400	23,300	24,700	7,140	1,660	232	252,000	5	55,500
Vietnam	8,000	--	--	8,000	--	8,000	--	8,000	--	--	--	6,000	928	155	38,000	1	5,370
Other	13,700 ^r	21,600	17,900	9,160	30,400 ^r	16,700	20,300 ^r	29,500 ^r	25,100	26,600	20,000	57,500	9,420	164	289,000	5	48,400
Total	435,000	481,000	380,000	380,000	496,000	492,000	407,000	511,000	434,000	419,000	464,000	492,000	80,500	164	5,390,000	100	886,000

^rRevised -- Zero.

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

²January 2011 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:		
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
October	771	255
November	649	198
December	538	175
January-December	19,700	5,770

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

²January 2011 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 ASH ¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2009:						
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	771	419,000	27,900	--	457,000
November	898,000	649	464,000	23,100	--	412,000
December	915,000	538	492,000	19,200	--	404,000
January-December	10,400,000	19,700	5,390,000	3,520	--	4,980,000
2011, January	873,000	NA	NA	2,640	--	NA

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.

TABLE 5
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTER¹

(Thousand metric tons)

NAICS ² code	End use	2009	2010				Total
			First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	
3272	Glass:						
327213	Container	1,270	325	324	329	NA	978
327211	Flat	759	207	229	245	NA	681
327993	Fiber	139	35	36	35	NA	106
327212	Other	129	26	28	31	NA	85
	Total	2,300	593	617	640	NA	1,850
32518	Chemicals	1,470	384	377	398	NA	1,160
325611	Soaps and detergents	482	132	124	133	NA	389
322	Pulp and paper	103	22	23	22	NA	67
221310	Water treatment ³	54	13	13	12	NA	38
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	138	48	40	54	NA	142
422	Distributors	308	66	72	66	NA	204
	Other	165	36	47	36	NA	119
	Total domestic consumption ⁴	5,010	1,290	1,320	1,360	NA	3,970
	Exports ⁵	4,520	1,340	1,400	1,370	NA	4,110
	Canada	252	58	51	51	NA	160
	Total industry sales ⁶	9,530	2,640	2,710	2,730	NA	8,080
	Total sales from plants	9,450	2,550	2,630	2,660	2,730	10,600
	Total production	9,310	2,480	2,550	2,610	2,720	10,400

NA Not available.

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

²North American Industry Classification System.

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

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

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

⁶Represents 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.