

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN MAY 2011

U.S. natural soda ash production in May was 881,000 metric tons (t), which is 7% higher than the previous month's revised production of 823,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for May 2011 were 205,000 t, 13% higher than the preceding month's revised inventories. Wyoming trona production in May 2011 was 1.29 million metric tons.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in April 2011 was 422,000 t, which is 17% lower than that of April 2010.

Exports and imports of soda ash in April 2011 were 433,000 t and 1.13 million metric tons, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for April 2011, compared with those of April 2010, were as follows: production was 6% lower; imports were 249% higher; exports were 14% higher; and apparent consumption, 17% lower. Imports, mainly from Germany, Mexico, and England, increased significantly to supplement soda ash for use in glass container manufacture for the beverage industry for summertime beverage consumption.

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	Stocks, end of period	
2010:			
January–May	4,330 ^r	236	6,600
May	915	236	1,410
June	821	177	1,350
July	874	176	1,270
August	948	182	1,380
September	844	150	1,280
October	918	178	1,330
November	911	201	1,330
December	927	220	1,420
January–December	10,600	220	15,900
2011:			
January	888	223	1,500
February	813	208	1,410
March	904	212	1,480
April	823 ^r	182 ^r	1,270
May	881	205	1,290
January–May	4,310	205	6,960

^rRevised.

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 2011^{1, 2}

Country	January	February	March	April			January–April		
				Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity (metric tons)	% of total	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	78	13,000	23,500	--	--	--	36,600	2	6,950
Australia	29,000	5,850	5,700	--	--	--	40,500	2	8,220
Belgium	18,000	15,000	11,600	--	--	--	44,600	3	6,310
Brazil	32,500	44,100	47,700	77,000	13,200	\$172	201,000	12	34,100
Canada	20,500	23,900	23,600	24,900	5,010	202	92,900	5	19,000
Chile	34,500	--	34,300	14,500	2,400	165	83,300	5	14,100
Colombia	6,350	14,200	14,000	17,200	2,950	172	51,700	3	8,850
Costa Rica	--	5,000	5,000	--	--	--	10,000	1	1,950
Ecuador	--	--	--	9,700	1,950	201	9,700	1	1,950
France	39	--	25	15,000	1,950	130	15,100	1	1,980
Guatemala	--	7,300	--	7,000	1,400	201	14,300	1	2,870
Indonesia	28,000	88,600	42,500	21,100	4,340	206	180,000	11	35,400
Japan	33,700	13,400	38,400	19,500	343	18	105,000	6	18,400
Korea, Republic of	16,100	17,700	16,200	27,900	5,740	206	77,900	5	15,900
Lithuania	--	15,200	--	--	--	--	15,200	1	1,930
Malaysia	--	8,500	6,000	--	--	--	14,500	1	3,220
Mexico	63,400	48,000	72,100	77,400	15,500	200	261,000	15	55,400
Netherlands	8,300	--	810	21,000	3,790	181	30,100	2	5,240
New Zealand	--	5,900	5,700	--	--	--	11,600	1	2,270
Peru	13,500	--	3,500	8,540	1,650	193	25,500	1	4,770
Philippines	10,500	--	7,800	10,500	2,020	192	28,800	2	5,090
Saudi Arabia	--	14,800	--	--	--	--	14,800	1	2,320
South Africa	25,700	8,020	28,800	7,670	975	127	70,100	4	9,230
Spain	--	--	--	21,900	3,210	146	21,900	1	3,210
Taiwan	21,800	399	43,300	17,800	3,270	184	83,300	5	15,100
Thailand	16,500	--	20,800	--	--	--	37,300	2	6,490
Tunisia	--	14,400	--	14,900	2,040	137	29,300	2	4,070
United Arab Emirates	--	10,200	--	--	--	--	10,200	1	1,470
United Kingdom	3,000	--	1,200	7,070	1,340	189	11,300	1	4,190
Venezuela	--	28,400	14,800	--	--	--	43,300	3	9,820
Vietnam	--	9,700	--	--	--	--	9,700	1	1,830
Other	2,350 ^r	5,660	1,760 ^r	12,400	5,000	402	22,200	1	3,490
Total	384,000	417,000	469,000	433,000	78,100	180	1,700,000	100	315,000

^rRevised.

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

²May 2011 data were not available at time of publication.

³Free 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)
2010:		
January–April	2,270	\$955
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
2011:		
January	422	202
February	119	87
March	777	382
April	1,130	315
January–April	2,450	986

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

²May 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 ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2010:						
January–April	3,410,000 ^r	2,270	1,680,000	--	50,900	1,790,000
April	876,000	324	380,000	--	9,610	506,000
May	915,000	628	496,000	70,100	--	350,000
June	821,000	1,490	492,000	--	58,600	389,000
July	874,000	10,600	407,000	--	1,460	479,000
August	948,000	2,420	511,000	6,460	--	433,000
September	844,000	343	434,000	--	32,400	442,000
October	918,000	771	419,000	27,900	--	472,000
November	911,000	649	464,000	23,100	--	425,000
December	927,000	538	492,000	19,200	--	416,000
January–December	10,600,000	19,700	5,390,000	3,520	--	5,190,000
2011:						
January–April	3,430,000	2,450	1,700,000	--	38,600	1,770,000
January	888,000	422	384,000	2,650	--	502,000
February	813,000	119	417,000	--	15,000	410,000
March	904,000	777	469,000	4,150	--	431,000
April	823,000 ^r	1,130	433,000	--	30,400 ^r	422,000
May	881,000	NA	NA	23,600	--	NA

^rRevised. 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.