

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN SEPTEMBER 2011

U.S. natural soda ash production in September was 849,000 metric tons (t), 12% lower than the previous month's production of 970,000 t.

Ending inventories for September 2011 were 267,000 t, 3% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in September 2011 was 1.30 million metric tons.

Exports and imports of soda ash in August 2011 were 464,000 t and 4,150 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for August 2011, compared with those of August 2010, were as follows: production was slightly higher; imports were 71% higher; exports were 9% lower; and apparent consumption was 16% 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	Stocks, end of period	
2010:			
January–September	7,810 ^r	150	11,900
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	182	1,270
May	881	205	1,290
June	899	204	1,370
July	918	269	1,130
August	970	275	1,450
September	849	267	1,300
January–September	7,950	267	12,200

^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	May	June	July	August			January–August		
								Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity (metric tons)	% of total	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	78	13,000	23,500	--	13,200	--	--	9,950	2,340	\$235	59,700	2	11,500
Australia	29,000	5,850	5,700	--	24,700	7,000	5,700	5,700	1,060	185	83,600	2	17,300
Belgium	18,000	15,000	11,600	--	5,000	3,930	35,500	8,000	960	120	97,000	3	14,700
Brazil	32,500	44,100	47,700	77,000	28,200	51,100	57,900	65,200	10,900	167	404,000	12	67,900
Canada	20,500	23,900	23,600	24,900	23,500	24,100	22,500	24,500	4,790	195	187,000	5	37,400
Chile	34,500	--	34,300	14,500	33,700	24,700	--	22,000	4,020	182	164,000	5	28,600
Colombia	6,350	14,200	14,000	17,200	5,000	6,340	7,000	16,300	2,800	172	86,300	2	14,700
Costa Rica	--	5,000	5,000	--	--	4,600	1,010	3,500	668	191	19,100	1	3,680
France	39	--	25	15,000	--	5,030	8,000	--	--	--	28,100	1	4,070
Guatemala	--	7,300	--	7,000	--	7,100	--	1,850	369	199	23,300	1	4,670
Indonesia	28,000	88,600	42,500	21,100	18,000	38,200	60,300	61,200	13,200	216	358,000	10	71,900
Japan	33,700	13,400	38,400	19,500	756	31,800	583	24,200	5,290	219	162,000	5	30,400
Korea, Republic of	16,100	17,700	16,200	27,900	112	26,900	16,500	18,900	4,570	242	140,000	4	29,900
Lithuania	--	15,200	--	--	--	--	22,700	--	--	--	37,900	1	5,360
Malaysia	--	8,500	6,000	--	--	7,500	--	--	--	--	22,000	1	4,870
Mexico	63,400	48,000	72,100	77,400	79,600	78,100	83,900	76,100	16,700	219	579,000	17	123,000
Netherlands	8,300	--	810	21,000	25,000	11,900	20,500	12,400	2,420	195	99,900	3	16,800
New Zealand	--	5,900	5,700	--	--	6,000	--	--	--	--	17,600	1	3,340
Peru	13,500	--	3,500	8,540	12,700	6,070	--	16,700	3,250	195	61,000	2	11,400
Philippines	10,500	--	7,800	10,500	--	9,000	--	8,500	1,860	219	46,300	1	8,710
Saudi Arabia	--	14,800	--	--	14,500	--	14,800	--	--	--	44,100	1	6,930
South Africa	25,700	8,020	28,800	7,670	--	50,700	7,800	18,700	2,270	121	147,000	4	2,050
Spain	--	--	--	21,900	--	9,560	--	24,600	3,570	145	56,100	2	8,270
Taiwan	21,800	399	43,300	17,800	324	17,700	15,800	21,100	4,400	209	138,000	4	26,000
Thailand	16,500	--	20,800	--	13,500	22,500	15,000	--	--	--	88,300	3	16,300
Tunisia	--	14,400	--	14,900	11,000	16,300	--	11,100	1,450	131	67,700	2	9,070
United Arab Emirates	--	10,200	--	--	4,000	--	10,200	--	--	--	24,400	1	4,150
United Kingdom	3,000	--	1,200	7,070	8,010	--	--	--	--	--	19,300	1	5,810
Venezuela	--	28,400	14,800	--	29,600	34,200	--	--	--	--	107,000	3	24,500
Other	2,350	15,400	1,760	22,100	18,300	11,300	14,000	13,200	2,410	182	98,400	3	35,500
Total	384,000	417,000	469,000	433,000	369,000	511,000	420,000	464,000	89,200	193	3,470,000	100	649,000

--Zero.

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

²September 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–August	17,400	\$4,940
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
May	815	324
June	2,760	515
July	4,070	659
August	4,150	695
January–August	14,200	3,180

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

²September 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–August	6,970,000 ^r	17,400	3,580,000	--	34,300	3,440,000 ^r
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–August	7,100,000	14,200	3,470,000	55,100	--	3,590,000
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	1,130	433,000	--	30,400	422,000
May	881,000	815	369,000	23,600	--	490,000
June	899,000	2,760	511,000	--	1,630	392,000
July	918,000	4,070	420,000	65,200	--	437,000
August	970,000	4,150	464,000	6,510	--	504,000
September	849,000	NA	NA	--	8,350	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.