

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN APRIL 2011

U.S. natural soda ash production in April was 769,000 metric tons (t), 15% lower than the previous month's production of 904,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for April 2011 were 149,000 t, 30% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in April 2011 was 1.3 million metric tons.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in March 2011 was 431,000 t, 11% lower than that of March 2010, and ending stocks were 21% higher.

Exports and imports of soda ash in March 2011 were 469,000 t and 777 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for March 2011, compared with those of March 2010, were as follows: production was 7% higher; imports were 59% higher; exports were 23% higher; and apparent consumption was 11% lower.

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-April	3,410	166	5,190
April	876	166	1,100
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	769	149	1,270
January-April	3,370	149	5,670

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			Year to date		
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity (metric tons)	% of total	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	78	13,000	23,500	4,710	\$200	36,600	3	6,950
Australia	29,000	5,850	5,700	1,060	185	40,500	3	8,220
Belgium	18,000	15,000	11,600	1,780	154	44,600	4	6,310
Brazil	32,500	44,100	47,700	8,230	173	124,000	10	20,800
Canada	20,500	23,900	23,600	4,910	208	68,000	5	14,000
Chile	34,500	--	34,300	5,920	173	68,800	5	11,700
Colombia	6,350	14,200	14,000	2,570	184	34,500	3	5,900
Costa Rica	--	5,000	5,000	971	194	10,000	1	1,950
Guatemala	--	7,300	--	--	--	7,300	1	1,470
Indonesia	28,000	88,600	42,500	8,620	203	159,000	13	31,100
Japan	33,700	13,400	38,400	6,840	178	85,600	7	14,900
Korea, Republic of	16,100	17,700	16,200	3,520	217	50,000	4	10,100
Lithuania	--	15,200	--	--	--	15,200	1	1,930
Malaysia	--	8,500	6,000	1,330	222	14,500	1	3,220
Mexico	63,400	48,000	72,100	15,500	215	183,000	14	39,900
Netherlands	8,300	--	810	89	110	9,110	1	1,450
New Zealand	--	5,900	5,700	1,060	185	11,600	1	2,270
Peru	13,500	--	3,500	592	169	17,000	1	3,110
Philippines	10,500	--	7,800	1,380	177	18,300	1	3,070
Saudi Arabia	--	14,800	--	--	--	14,800	1	2,320
South Africa	25,700	8,020	28,800	3,330	116	62,500	5	8,260
Taiwan	21,800	399	43,300	7,790	180	65,500	5	11,800
Thailand	16,500	--	20,800	3,990	192	37,300	3	6,490
Tunisia	--	14,400	--	--	--	14,400	1	2,020
United Arab Emirates	--	10,200	--	--	--	10,200	1	1,470
Venezuela	--	28,400	14,800	3,050	206	43,300	3	9,820
Vietnam	--	9,700	--	--	--	9,700	1	1,830
Other	5,380	5,660 ^r	2,990	2,570	860	14,000	1	4,470
Total	384,000	417,000	469,000	89,800	191	1,270,000	100	237,000

^rRevised.

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

²April 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-March	1,940	\$790
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
2011:		
January	422	202
February	119	87
March	777	382
January-March	1,320	671

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

²April 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-March	2,540,000	1,940	1,300,000	--	41,300	1,280,000
March	845,000	488	380,000	--	20,700	486,000
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	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	769,000	NA	NA		62,800	NA
January-March	2,600,000	1,320	1,270,000	--	8,250	1,340,000

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.