

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN OCTOBER 2011

U.S. natural soda ash production in October was 969,000 metric tons (t), 9% higher than the previous month's production of 886,000 t.

Ending inventories for October 2011 were 279,000 t, 4% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in October 2011 was 1.54 million metric tons.

Exports and imports of soda ash in September 2011 were 478,000 t and 6,410 metric tons, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for September 2011, compared with those of September 2010, were as follows: production was 5% higher; imports were 19 times higher; exports were 10% higher; and apparent consumption was 4% 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–October	8,730 ^r	178	13,200
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	902 ^r	204	1,380 ^r
July	942 ^r	269	1,180 ^r
August	999 ^r	275	1,510 ^r
September	886 ^r	267	1,370 ^r
October	972	279	1,540
January–October	9,010	279	13,900

^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	September			January–September		
									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	59	27	\$458	59,800	2	11,500
Australia	29,000	5,850	5,700	--	24,700	7,000	5,700	5,700	5,700	1,060	185	89,300	2	18,400
Belgium	18,000	15,000	11,600	--	5,000	3,930	35,500	8,000	11,200	2,220	198	108,000	3	16,900
Brazil	32,500	44,100	47,700	77,000	28,200	51,100	57,900	65,200	48,900	8,900	182	452,000	11	76,800
Canada	20,500	23,900	23,600	24,900	23,500	24,100	22,500	24,500	24,500	5,040	206	212,000	5	42,400
Chile	34,500	--	34,300	14,500	33,700	24,700	--	22,000	70,400	12,700	180	234,000	6	41,200
Colombia	6,350	14,200	14,000	17,200	5,000	6,340	7,000	16,300	15,300	2,630	173	102,000	3	17,400
France	39	--	25	15,000	--	5,030	8,000	--	4,970	646	130	33,100	1	4,720
Guatemala	--	7,300	--	7,000	--	7,100	--	1,850	6,850	1,380	201	30,100	1	6,050
Indonesia	28,000	88,600	42,500	21,100	18,000	38,200	60,300	61,200	11,700	2,490	213	370,000	9	74,400
Japan	33,700	13,400	38,400	19,500	756	31,800	583	24,200	31,700	5,950	188	194,000	5	36,300
Korea, Republic of	16,100	17,700	16,200	27,900	112	26,900	16,500	18,900	8,050	1,920	238	148,000	4	31,800
Lithuania	--	15,200	--	--	--	--	22,700	--	17,500	2,550	146	55,400	1	7,910
Malaysia	--	8,500	6,000	--	--	7,500	--	--	12,500	2,750	220	34,500	1	7,620
Mexico	63,400	48,000	72,100	77,400	79,600	78,100	83,900	76,100	70,300	15,700	224	649,000	16	139,000
Netherlands	8,300	--	810	21,000	25,000	11,900	20,500	12,400	20,800	4,690	226	121,000	3	21,400
Peru	13,500	--	3,500	8,540	12,700	6,070	--	16,700	4,350	740	170	65,300	2	12,100
Philippines	10,500	--	7,800	10,500	--	9,000	--	8,500	--	--	--	46,300	1	8,710
Saudi Arabia	--	14,800	--	--	14,500	--	14,800	--	16,000	2,110	132	60,100	2	9,340
South Africa	25,700	8,020	28,800	7,670	--	50,700	7,800	18,700	17,000	2,320	136	164,000	4	22,800
Spain	--	--	--	21,900	--	9,560	--	24,600	--	--	--	56,100	1	8,270
Taiwan	21,800	399	43,300	17,800	324	17,700	15,800	21,100	23,600	4,820	204	162,000	4	30,800
Thailand	16,500	--	20,800	--	13,500	22,500	15,000	--	26,000	5,360	206	114,000	3	21,700
Tunisia	--	14,400	--	14,900	11,000	16,300	--	11,100	--	--	--	67,700	2	9,070
United Arab Emirates	--	10,200	--	--	4,000	--	10,200	--	9,000	1,210	134	33,400	1	5,350
Venezuela	--	28,400	14,800	--	29,600	34,200	--	--	20,700	4,540	220	128,000	3	29,000
Other	5,350 ^r	26,300 ^r	13,700 ^r	29,200 ^r	26,300 ^r	21,900 ^r	15,000 ^r	16,700 ^r	1,080	430	397	156,000	4	30,000
Total	384,000	417,000	469,000	433,000	369,000	511,000	420,000	464,000	478,000	92,200	193	3,940,000	100	741,000

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²October 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–September	17,800	\$5,150
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
September	6,410	1,010
January–September	20,600	4,190

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

²October 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–September	7,810,000 ^r	17,800	4,020,000	--	66,700	3,880,000 ^r
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–September	8,040,000	20,600	3,940,000	46,700	--	4,070,000
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	902,000 ^r	2,760	511,000	--	1,630	395,000 ^r
July	942,000 ^r	4,070	420,000	65,200	--	461,000 ^r
August	999,000 ^r	4,150	464,000	6,510	--	533,000 ^r
September	886,000 ^r	6,410	478,000	--	8,350	422,000
October	972,000	NA	NA	11,800	--	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.