

# 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](mailto:dkostick@usgs.gov)

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

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

## SODA ASH IN NOVEMBER 2011

U.S. natural soda ash production in November was 864,000 metric tons (t), 11% lower than the previous month's production of 969,000 t.

Ending inventories for November 2011 were 256,000 t, 8% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in November 2011 was 1.36 million metric tons.

Exports and imports of soda ash in October 2011 were 502,000 t and 3,570 metric tons, respectively. Beginning with this issue, table 3 shows imports by country.

The changes in soda ash statistics for October 2011, compared with those of October 2010, were as follows: production was 6% higher; imports were about 4 times higher; exports were 20% higher; and apparent consumption was 3% lower.

All percentages in this report were computed using unrounded data.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Stocks, end of period	
2010:			
January–November	9,640 <sup>r</sup>	201	14,500
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	204	1,380
July	942	269	1,180
August	999	275	1,510
September	886	267	1,370
October	969 <sup>r</sup>	279	1,540
November	864	256	1,360
January–November	9,870	256	15,300

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Production 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<sup>1,2</sup>  
(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	October											January–October			
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	Quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit	Quantity	% of total	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
Argentina	78	13,000	23,500	--	13,200	--	--	9,950	59	8,070	1,210	\$150	67,900	2	12,800
Australia	29,000	5,850	5,700	--	24,700	7,000	5,700	5,700	5,700	18,000	4,380	243	107,000	2	22,800
Belgium	18,000	15,000	11,600	--	5,000	3,930	35,500	8,000	11,200	--	--	--	108,000	2	16,900
Brazil	32,500	44,100	47,700	77,000	28,200	51,100	57,900	65,200	48,900	67,600	10,900	161	520,000	12	87,700
Canada	20,500	23,900	23,600	24,900	23,500	24,100	22,500	24,500	24,500	25,500	5,220	205	237,000	5	47,600
Chile	34,500	--	34,300	14,500	33,700	24,700	--	22,000	70,400	24,400	4,290	176	259,000	6	45,500
Colombia	6,350	14,200	14,000	17,200	5,000	6,340	7,000	16,300	15,300	--	--	--	102,000	2	17,400
France	39	--	25	15,000	--	5,030	8,000	--	4,970	10,000	1,410	140	43,100	1	6,130
Guatemala	--	7,300	--	7,000	--	7,100	--	1,850	6,850	--	--	--	30,100	1	6,050
Indonesia	28,000	88,600	42,500	21,100	18,000	38,200	60,300	61,200	11,700	56,000	12,600	226	426,000	10	87,000
Japan	33,700	13,400	38,400	19,500	756	31,800	583	24,200	31,700	18,100	3,240	179	212,000	5	39,600
Korea, Republic of	16,100	17,700	16,200	27,900	112	26,900	16,500	18,900	8,050	37,900	7,950	210	186,000	4	39,700
Lithuania	--	15,200	--	--	--	--	22,700	--	17,500	--	--	--	55,400	1	7,910
Malaysia	--	8,500	6,000	--	--	7,500	--	--	12,500	--	--	--	34,500	1	7,620
Mexico	63,400	48,000	72,100	77,400	79,600	78,100	83,900	76,100	70,300	83,000	18,500	223	732,000	16	158,000
Netherlands	8,300	--	810	21,000	25,000	11,900	20,500	12,400	20,800	16,400	2,950	180	137,000	3	24,400
Peru	13,500	--	3,500	8,540	12,700	6,070	--	16,700	4,350	12,400	2,290	185	77,700	2	14,400
Philippines	10,500	--	7,800	10,500	--	9,000	--	8,500	--	8,000	1,650	206	54,300	1	10,400
Saudi Arabia	--	14,800	--	--	14,500	--	14,800	--	16,000	--	--	--	60,100	1	9,340
South Africa	25,700	8,020	28,800	7,670	--	50,700	7,800	18,700	17,000	19,200	2,330	121	184,000	4	25,100
Spain	--	--	--	21,900	--	9,560	--	24,600	--	6,330	887	140	62,500	1	9,160
Taiwan	21,800	399	43,300	17,800	324	17,700	15,800	21,100	23,600	11,300	2,590	230	173,000	4	33,400
Thailand	16,500	--	20,800	--	13,500	22,500	15,000	--	26,000	18,500	3,980	215	133,000	3	25,600
Tunisia	--	14,400	--	14,900	11,000	16,300	--	11,100	--	16,700	2,610	156	84,400	2	11,700
United Arab Emirates	--	10,200	--	--	4,000	--	10,200	--	9,000	--	--	--	33,400	1	5,350
Venezuela	--	28,400	14,800	--	29,600	34,200	--	--	20,700	28,700	6,410	223	156,000	4	35,400
Other	5,350	26,300	13,700	29,200	26,300	21,900	15,000	16,700	1,080	16,100	2,830	176	172,000	4	32,800
Total	384,000	417,000	469,000	433,000	369,000	511,000	420,000	464,000	478,000	502,000	98,300	196	4,450,000	100	839,000
-- Zero.															

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>November 2011 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2011<sup>1,2</sup>  
(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	October												January–October		
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	Quantity	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit	Quantity	% of total	Value <sup>3</sup> (thousand dollars)
Canada <sup>4</sup>	1	7	--	(5)	95	1,220	2,640	2,690	4,150	1,800	179	\$100	12,600	52	1,370
China	62	1	17	--	452	--	502	--	--	500	209	418	1,530	6	649
Dominican Republic <sup>4</sup>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	131	113	18	159	243	1	49
France	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	(5)	10
Germany	(5)	--	(5)	759	1	--	(5)	269	(5)	(5)	4	44	1,030	4	212
Hong Kong <sup>4</sup>	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	(5)	5
India	--	--	9	--	--	487	1	--	5	--	--	--	501	2	89
Italy	--	37	408	18	--	646	40	784	1,620	631	151	239	4,180	17	1,100
Japan	111	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	2	118	17	144	234	1	59
Mexico	80	--	136	156	157	293	39	252	162	64	23	359	1,340	6	478
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	22	22	240	102	425	285	1	121
United Kingdom	168	70	205	198	110	108	841	128	318	106	59	557	2,250	9	814
Total	422	119	777	1,130	815	2,760	4,070	4,150	6,410	3,570	762	214	24,200	100	4,950

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>November 2011 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Customs, insurance and freight values at U.S. ports.

<sup>4</sup>Not a soda-ash-producing country; material transshipped.

<sup>5</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption <sup>2</sup>
				Increase	Decrease	
2010:						
January–October	8,730,000 <sup>r</sup>	18,600	4,430,000	--	38,800	4,350,000
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–October	9,010,000	24,200	4,450,000	58,500	--	4,530,000
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	2,760	511,000	--	1,630	395,000
July	942,000	4,070	420,000	65,200	--	461,000
August	999,000	4,150	464,000	6,510	--	533,000
September	886,000	6,410	478,000	--	8,350	422,000
October	969,000 <sup>r</sup>	3,570	502,000	11,800	--	459,000
November	864,000	NA	NA	--	22,800	NA

<sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.