

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JUNE 2011

U.S. natural soda ash production in June was 899,000 metric tons (t), slightly higher than the previous month's production of 881,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for June 2011 were 204,000 t, slightly lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in June 2011 was 1.37 million metric tons.

Exports and imports of soda ash in May 2011 were 369,000 t and 815 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for May 2011, compared with those of May 2010, were as follows: production was 4% lower; imports were 30% higher; exports were 26% lower; and apparent consumption was 40% 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–June	5,150 ^r	177	7,940
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	182	1,270
May	881	205	1,290
June	899	204	1,370
January–June	5,210	204	8,330

^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			January–May		
					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	2,240	\$169	49,800	2	9,190
Australia	29,000	5,850	5,700	--	24,700	5,470	221	65,200	3	13,700
Belgium	18,000	15,000	11,600	--	5,000	600	120	49,600	2	6,910
Brazil	32,500	44,100	47,700	77,000	28,200	4,540	161	230,000	11	38,600
Canada	20,500	23,900	23,600	24,900	23,500	4,430	189	116,000	6	23,400
Chile	34,500	--	34,300	14,500	33,700	6,090	181	117,000	6	20,200
Colombia	6,350	14,200	14,000	17,200	5,000	840	168	56,700	3	9,690
France	39	--	25	15,000	--	--	--	15,100	1	1,980
Guatemala	--	7,300	--	7,000	--	--	--	14,300	1	2,870
Indonesia	28,000	88,600	42,500	21,100	18,000	3,620	201	198,000	10	39,000
Japan	33,700	13,400	38,400	19,500	756	233	308	106,000	5	18,600
Korea, Republic of	16,100	17,700	16,200	27,900	112	33	295	78,000	4	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	79,600	16,800	211	340,000	16	72,200
Netherlands	8,300	--	810	21,000	25,000	3,840	154	55,100	3	9,080
New Zealand	--	5,900	5,700	--	--	--	--	11,600	1	2,270
Peru	13,500	--	3,500	8,540	12,700	2,350	185	38,200	2	7,120
Philippines	10,500	--	7,800	10,500	--	--	--	28,800	1	5,090
Saudi Arabia	--	14,800	--	--	14,500	2,340	161	29,300	1	4,670
South Africa	25,700	8,020	28,800	7,670	--	--	--	70,100	3	9,230
Spain	--	--	--	21,900	--	--	--	21,900	1	3,210
Taiwan	21,800	399	43,300	17,800	324	100	309	83,600	4	15,200
Thailand	16,500	--	20,800	--	13,500	2,490	185	50,800	2	8,980
Tunisia	--	14,400	--	14,900	11,000	1,430	131	40,300	2	5,500
United Arab Emirates	--	10,200	--	--	4,000	1,310	328	14,200	1	2,780
United Kingdom	3,000	--	1,200	7,070	8,010	1,620	202	19,300	1	5,810
Venezuela	--	28,400	14,800	--	29,600	7,070	239	72,900	4	16,900
Other	2,350	20,400 ^r	6,760 ^r	22,100 ^r	18,300	2,700	147	69,900	3	11,900
Total	384,000	417,000	469,000	433,000	369,000	70,100	190	2,070,000	100	385,000

^rRevised.

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

²June 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–May	2,900	\$1,180
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
May	815	324
January–April	3,260	1,310

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

²June 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–May	4,330,000 ^r	2,900	2,170,000	19,300	--	2,140,000 ^r
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–May	4,310,000	3,260	2,070,000	--	15,000	2,260,000
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	NA	NA	--	1,630	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.