

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN OCTOBER 2012

U.S. natural soda ash production in October was 982,000 metric tons (t), slightly higher than the previous month's production of 962,000 t.

Ending inventories for October 2012 were 324,000 t, 4% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in October 2012 was 1.54 million metric tons.

Exports and imports of soda ash in September 2012 were 570,000 t and 1.460 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for September 2012, compared with those of September 2011, were as follows: production was 13% higher; imports were about 77% lower; exports were 19% higher; and apparent consumption was 5% higher. Imports fluctuate widely and are insignificant relative to exports.

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	
2011:			
January–October	8,890 ^r	279	13,700 ^r
October	941	279	1,480
November	864	256	1,360
December	975	282	1,420
January–December	10,700	282	16,500
2012:			
January	929	341	1,520
February	833	306	1,410
March	964	317	1,560
April	861	298	1,380
May	833	243	1,330
June	952	265	1,470
July	933	312	1,320
August	1,020	350	1,460
September	962	339	1,130
October	982	324	1,540
January–October	9,270	324	14,100

^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 2012^{1, 2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Quantity	September	Unit value	January–September ³		
										Value ⁴ (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ⁴ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	--	21,500	--	25,400	8,000	27,600	49	19,400	4,210	\$217	102,000	2	20,800
Australia	12,300	14,500	5,800	12,000	15,200	7,500	--	7,030	14,500	3,100	213	88,800	2	19,400
Belgium	13,800	11,100	12,000	--	19,500	78	10,000	11,100	10,000	1,200	120	87,700	2	11,800
Brazil	36,900	46,500	98,900	30,200	83,900	39,600	42,500	73,200	70,500	14,000	199	522,000	12	106,000
Canada	24,600	24,300	25,200	19,700	25,700	22,800	22,900	26,100	22,900	4,390	192	214,000	5	40,700
Chile	52,000	9,990	41,300	8,850	29,600	40,100	22,200	34,400	51,900	11,200	215	290,000	6	62,100
Colombia	6,710	11,000	10,200	29,400	--	6,130	24,300	40,500	--	--	--	128,000	3	23,900
France	15,200	--	--	16,000	--	--	--	5,090	--	--	--	36,300	1	5,380
India	--	--	22,000	--	22,000	--	--	--	--	--	--	44,000	1	6,750
Indonesia	17,000	74,500	16,500	74,500	32,500	76,000	33,000	66,000	103,000	20,300	196	493,000	11	104,000
Japan	31,600	13,400	19,100	24,900	234	44,300	496	29,800	13,600	1,720	126	177,000	4	34,400
Korea, Republic of	15,000	29,700	24,500	11,800	--	40,800	12,500	17,000	5,000	1,020	204	156,000	3	36,300
Mexico	81,700	86,800	101,000	78,700	89,700	98,000	76,800	93,500	72,900	16,500	227	779,000	17	176,000
Netherlands	22,700	14,300	26,500	23,000	16,100	39,000	56,000	25	12,600	2,430	193	210,000	5	33,800
Peru	3,840	17,100	7,500	5,000	13,700	5,610	--	8,220	83	9	108	61,000	1	13,600
Philippines	--	8,500	--	11,500	--	8,500	8,500	--	36	4	111	37,000	1	8,140
Saudi Arabia	--	15,000	18,000	--	--	14,600	14,300	333	18,700	3,670	196	81,000	2	16,600
South Africa	15,000	--	14,000	37,400	4,970	12,000	11,100	--	28,600	4,760	166	123,000	3	18,400
Spain	10,200	--	16,000	7,950	5,000	--	65	--	520	57	110	39,700	1	6,590
Taiwan	15,700	68	28,800	26,100	--	20,500	19,500	17,600	13,300	2,720	205	141,000	3	30,800
Thailand	21,000	--	404	22,500	20,500	13,000	--	23,000	22,500	4,550	202	123,000	3	26,800
Tunisia	25,100	--	12,200	--	25,800	20,000	--	22,000	29,900	5,260	176	135,000	3	23,300
United Arab Emirates	--	10,800	7,000	--	--	11,000	12,000	--	12,000	2,430	203	52,800	1	10,900
Venezuela	4,810	--	37,600	--	17,200	25,900	--	11,300	11,100	2,650	238	108,000	2	27,400
Other	28,800 ^r	15,000	36,400 ^r	33,100	17,800 ^r	14,900	36,800 ^r	26,400	36,700	7,810	213	246,000	5	49,300
Total	454,000	403,000	602,000	473,000	465,000	568,000	431,000	513,000	570,000	114,000	200	4,480,000	100	913,000

^rRevised. -- Zero.

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

²October 2012 data were not available at time of publication.

³May include revisions to previously published data.

⁴Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2012^{1,2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Quantity	September	Unit value	January–September		
										Value ³ (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Canada ⁴	(5)	1	425	874	866	--	--	--	3	3	1,000	2,170	22	260
China	--	--	229	8	444	18	--	--	20	9	450	719	7	272
Dominican Republic ⁴	--	225	252	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	477	5	74
France	208	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	211	2	49
Germany	1	210	3	(5)	(5)	(5)	3	--	144	31	215	361	4	151
Greece ⁴	60	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	60	1	23
Italy	701	54	760	36	61	54	36	325	870	124	143	2,900	29	644
Japan	--	--	--	346	1	3	--	--	--	--	--	349	3	68
Mexico	19	19	--	51	173	78	256	275	153	49	320	1,020	10	310
Poland	22	22	--	--	22	--	22	--	22	9	409	111	1	44
Turkey	--	--	--	--	--	300	--	--	--	--	--	300	3	111
United Kingdom	108	90	57	145	160	55	128	165	193	71	368	1,100	11	576
Other	1	--	3	--	3	--	--	164	52	23	442	225	2	89
Total	1,120	622	1,730	1,460	1,730	508	445	929	1,460	318	218	10,000	100	2,670

-- Zero.

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

²October 2012 data were not available at time of publication.

³Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

⁴Not a soda-ash-producing country, material transshipped or possible erroneous data, according to the Journal of Commerce PIERS trade data.

⁵Less than ½ unit.

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	
2011:						
January–December	10,700,000	26,900	5,470,000	61,800	--	5,220,000
January–September	7,950,000 ^r	20,600	3,940,000	46,700	--	3,970,000 ^r
September	849,000	6,410	478,000	--	8,350	386,000
October	941,000	3,570	502,000	11,800	--	430,000
November	864,000	1,120	507,000	--	22,800	381,000
December	975,000	1,560	517,000	26,100	--	434,000
2012:						
January–September	8,280,000	10,000	4,480,000	56,800	--	3,760,000
January	929,000	1,120	454,000	58,600	--	418,000
February	833,000	622	403,000	--	34,600	465,000
March	964,000	1,730	602,000	11,100	--	352,000
April	861,000	1,460	473,000	--	19,100	409,000
May	833,000	1,730	465,000	--	55,000	425,000
June	952,000	508	568,000	22,000	--	362,000
July	933,000	445	431,000	47,100	--	455,000
August	1,020,000	929	513,000	38,400	--	468,000
September	962,000	1,460	570,000	--	11,700	406,000
October	982,000	NA	NA		14,800	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.