

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN FEBRUARY 2010

U.S. natural soda ash production in February was 795,000 metric tons (t), 7% lower than the previous month's production of 857,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The adjusted preliminary production total for 2009 was 9,310,000 t. This represents a decrease of 18% from that of 2008.

Ending inventories for February 2010 were 196,000 t, 19% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in February was 1,260,000 t.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in January 2010 was 398,000 t, 4% higher than that of January 2009, and ending stocks were 7% lower.

Exports and imports of soda ash in January 2010 were 435,000 t and 568 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for January 2010, compared with those of January 2009, were as follows: production was 6% higher; imports were 236% higher; exports were 3% higher; and apparent consumption, 4% higher. Soda ash imports for January 2010 were significantly higher than the corresponding time period in 2009 because imports were exceptionally low in January 2009, lower than for any month in 2008.

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	Ending stocks	
2009:			
January	805	258	1,160
February	670	273	2,020
March	739	285	983
April	670	246	1,080
May	767	260	1,180
June	734	249	1,140
July	794	219	971
August	827	216	1,220
September	814	204	1,250
October	812	212	1,360
November	826	210	1,340
December	854	217	1,380
January-December	9,310	XX	15,100
2010:			
January	857	241 ^r	1,530
February	795	196	1,260
January-February	1,650	XX	2,790

^rRevised. XX Not applicable.

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 2010^{1,2}

Country	January			Year to date		
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity (metric tons)	% of total	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Australia	5,850	1,360	\$232	5,850	1	1,360
Belgium	18,000	2,400	133	18,000	4	2,400
Brazil	72,000	11,800	163	72,000	17	11,800
Canada	21,000	4,130	197	21,000	5	4,130
Chile	7,690	1,220	158	7,690	2	1,220
Colombia	12,500	2,360	188	12,500	3	2,360
Egypt	5,680	605	107	5,680	1	605
Indonesia	46,600	5,470	117	46,600	11	5,470
Japan	3,500	577	165	3,500	1	577
Korea, Republic of	27,100	4,150	153	27,100	6	4,150
Malaysia	8,000	1,320	165	8,000	2	1,320
Mexico	68,200	15,700	231	68,200	16	15,700
Netherlands	27,600	3,690	134	27,600	6	3,690
Nicaragua	170	19	112	170	(4)	19
Panama	1,990	356	179	1,990	(4)	356
Philippines	9,020	1,300	145	9,020	2	1,300
South Africa	6,000	1,000	167	6,000	1	1,000
Spain	11,900	1,580	133	11,900	3	1,580
Taiwan	22,800	3,440	151	22,800	5	3,440
Thailand	16,500	2,170	131	16,500	4	2,170
Tunisia	10,600	1,190	113	10,600	2	1,190
Venezuela	24,200	4,920	203	24,200	6	4,920
Vietnam	8,000	1,120	140	8,000	2	1,120
Other (2 countries)	42	24	571	42	(4)	24
Total	435,000	71,900	165	435,000	100	71,900

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

²February 2010 data were not available at time of publication.

³Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH^{1,2}

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2009:		
January	169	\$108
February	495	241
March	666	238
April	513	214
May	482	170
June	200	129
July	309	156
August	307	182
September	638	268
October	754	242
November	373	172
December	1,060	227
January-December	5,970	2,350
2010, January	568	279

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

²February 2010 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	
2009:						
January	805,000	169	423,000	--	1,160	383,000
February	670,000	495	287,000	14,900	--	369,000
March	739,000	666	329,000	11,800	--	399,000
April	670,000	513	295,000	--	39,000	415,000
May	767,000	482	336,000	13,900	--	418,000
June	734,000	200	292,000	--	11,000	453,000
July	794,000	309	331,000	--	30,100	494,000
August	827,000	307	388,000	--	3,050	443,000
September	814,000	638	446,000	--	11,600	380,000
October	812,000	754	424,000	8,270	--	381,000
November	826,000	373	419,000	--	2,660	410,000
December	854,000	1,060	439,000	7,200	--	409,000
January-December	9,310,000	5,970	4,410,000	--	42,600	4,950,000
2010:						
January	857,000	568	435,000	24,600 ^r	--	398,000
February	795,000	NA	NA	--	45,100	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.