

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JULY 2010

U.S. natural soda ash production in July was 853,000 metric tons (t), 7% higher than the previous month's production of 799,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for July 2010 were 176,000 t, slightly lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in July was 1,270,000 t.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in June 2010 was 368,000 t, 19% lower than that of June 2009, and ending stocks were 29% lower. These decreases were because export sales had increased.

Exports and imports of soda ash in June 2010 were 492,000 t and 1,490 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for June 2010, compared with those of June 2009, were as follows: production was 9% higher; imports were 643% higher; exports were 68% higher; and apparent consumption, 19% lower. Imports increased from Italy (60% of total), China (19% of total), and the United Kingdom (12% of total), supplementing domestic soda ash supplies. Exports rose as world economic conditions began to improve. Soda ash consumption decreased because domestic flat glass usage was down as housing starts remained stagnant.

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-July	5,180	XX	8,530 ^r
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	1,530
February	795	196	1,260
March	826	175	1,300
April	856	166	1,100
May	896	236	1,410
June	799	177	1,350
July	853	176	1,270
January-July	5,880	XX	9,220

^rRevised. XX Not applicable.

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

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	February	March	April	May	June			Year to date		
						Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity (metric tons)	% of total	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	--	--	--	--	22,000	7	7	\$1	22,000	1	3,230
Australia	5,850	11,600	--	5,850	11,600	5,850	1,160	197	40,700	2	7,860
Bahrain ⁵	--	--	--	1,280 ^r	--	--	--	--	1,280	(4)	140
Belgium	18,000	--	28,400	25,100	25,000	--	--	--	96,500	4	12,700
Brazil	72,000	80,800	29,800	44,500	66,500	56,900	9,070	159	350,000	13	56,400
Canada	21,000	19,100	25,400	23,400	18,100	18,100	3,690	205	125,000	5	26,200
Chile	7,690	31,400	16,100	43,400	--	3,000	616	205	102,000	4	16,900
Colombia	12,500	11,600	8,000	13,900	--	20,500	2,960	144	66,500	2	10,100
Costa Rica	--	--	4,900	--	--	--	--	--	4,900	(4)	939
Ecuador	--	9,940	806	--	6,420	--	--	--	17,200	1	2,660
Egypt	5,680	--	--	--	6,030	--	--	--	11,700	(4)	1,300
El Salvador	--	--	--	--	--	5,000	809	162	5,000	(4)	809
Equatorial Guinea ⁵	--	3	--	7	177	--	--	--	187	(4)	32
France	--	39	6,320	--	6,000	--	--	--	12,400	(4)	2,120
Guatemala	--	--	6,700	--	--	9,600	1,670	174	16,300	1	2,830
Indonesia	46,600	43,700	45,500	43,000	51,400	54,500	8,530	157	285,000	11	38,600
Japan	3,500	26,300	--	15,200	38,300	22,000	2,970	135	105,000	4	14,900
Korea, Republic of	27,100	28,400	11,100	28,900	6,500	22,200	3,360	151	124,000	5	18,700
Lithuania	--	30,600	--	--	15,700	27,100	3,800	140	73,400	3	10,200
Malaysia	8,000	8,000	--	6,000	--	16,000	2,690	168	38,000	1	6,580
Mexico	68,200	60,000	76,200	65,300	69,100	66,600	13,900	208	405,000	15	87,100
Netherlands	27,600	--	18,200	113	18,700	10,800	1,440	133	75,400	3	10,400
New Zealand	--	--	5,850	--	80	5,700	855	150	11,600	(4)	1,900
Nicaragua	170	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	170	(4)	19
Panama	1,990	--	--	2,000	2	--	--	--	3,990	(4)	713
Peru	--	4,600	--	13,100	--	--	--	--	17,700	1	2,910
Philippines	9,020	--	12,000	--	--	10,100	1,430	142	31,100	1	4,470
Portugal	--	12,000	--	--	6,500	20,000	2,320	116	38,500	1	4,910
Saudi Arabia	--	17,000	--	--	19,400	--	--	--	36,400	1	4,950
South Africa	6,000	12,300	13,600	4,940	11,700	14,700	1,810	124	63,300	2	6,840
Spain	11,900	--	--	7,160	10,000	5,930	919	155	35,000	1	4,510
Taiwan	22,800	12,900	20,800	19,100	19,200	32,500	5,160	159	127,000	5	19,800
Thailand	16,500	22,000	15,300	--	23,000	--	--	--	76,800	3	8,850
Tunisia	10,600	14,400	10,500	9,340	14,900	9,930	1,060	107	69,700	3	7,570
United Arab Emirates	--	10,000	--	--	7,600	--	--	--	17,600	1	4,460
Venezuela	24,200	14,800	24,600	--	21,800	46,700	10,500	225	132,000	5	28,900
Vietnam	8,000	--	--	8,000	--	8,000	1,160	145	24,000	1	3,240
Other	42	64	63	29 ^r	117	180	870	4,830	495	(4)	1,140
Total	435,000	481,000	380,000	380,000	496,000	492,000	82,700	168	2,660,000	100	436,000

^rRevised -- Zero.

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

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

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

⁴Less than ½ unit.

⁵Exports in February and April that were included in "Other" are shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2009:		
January-June	2,530	\$1,100
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
February	887	262
March	488	249
April	324	165
May	628	222
June	1,490	588
January-June	4,380	1,770

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

²July 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-June	4,390,000	2,530	1,960,000	--	10,600	2,440,000
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	--	398,000
February	795,000	887	481,000	--	45,100	359,000
March	826,000	488	380,000	--	20,700	467,000
April	856,000	324	380,000	--	9,610	486,000
May	896,000	628	496,000	70,100	--	331,000
June	799,000	1,490	492,000	--	58,600	368,000
July	853,000	NA	NA	--	1,460	NA
January-June	5,030,000	4,380	2,660,000	--	39,300	2,410,000

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.