

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN MARCH 2011

U.S. natural soda ash production in March was 904,000 metric tons (t), which is 11% higher than the previous month's revised production of 813,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Soda ash production and apparent consumption data for 2010 have been revised. The total soda ash production for 2010 was 10.6 million metric tons (Mt).

Ending inventories for March 2011 were 212,000 t, slightly higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in March was 1.48 Mt.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in February 2011 was 410,000 t, 8% higher than that of February 2010, and ending stocks were 6% higher.

Exports and imports of soda ash in February 2011 were 417,000 t and 119 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for February 2011, compared with those of February 2010, were as follows: production was slightly lower; imports were 87%, an abnormal fluctuation; exports were 13% lower; and apparent consumption was 8% higher.

Revised end use data for 2009 and 2010 are shown in tables 5 and 6, respectively.

Note: The average value for U.S. soda ash in 2010, f.o.b. plant, was \$116.47 per short ton (\$128.39 per metric ton).

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2010:			
January-March	2,540 ^r	175	4,090
March	845 ^r	175	1,300
April	876 ^r	166	1,100
May	915 ^r	236	1,410
June	821 ^r	177	1,350
July	874 ^r	176	1,270
August	948 ^r	182	1,380
September	844 ^r	150	1,280
October	918 ^r	178	1,330
November	911 ^r	201	1,330
December	927 ^r	220	1,420
January-December	10,600 ^r	220	15,900
2011:			
January	888 ^r	223	1,500
February	813 ^r	208	1,410
March	904	212	1,480
January-March	2,610	212	4,390

^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			Year to date		
		Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity (metric tons)	% of total	Value ³ (thousand dollars)
Argentina	78	13,000	2,220	\$170	13,100	2	2,250
Australia	29,000	5,850	1,480	252	34,800	4	7,160
Belgium	18,000	15,000	2,120	142	33,000	4	4,530
Brazil	32,500	44,100	7,400	168	76,600	10	12,600
Canada	20,500	23,900	4,770	199	44,400	6	9,060
Chile	34,500	--	--	--	34,500	4	5,790
Colombia	6,350	14,200	2,450	173	20,500	3	3,330
Costa Rica	--	5,000	981	196	5,000	1	981
Guatemala	--	7,300	1,470	201	7,300	1	1,470
Indonesia	28,000	88,600	17,400	196	117,000	15	22,400
Japan	33,700	13,400	2,370	176	47,100	6	8,060
Korea, Republic of	16,100	17,700	3,540	200	33,800	4	6,590
Lithuania	--	15,200	1,930	127	15,200	2	1,930
Malaysia	--	8,500	1,890	222	8,500	1	1,890
Mexico	63,400	48,000	10,600	221	111,000	14	24,400
Netherlands	8,300	--	--	--	8,300	1	1,360
New Zealand	--	5,900	1,220	207	5,900	1	1,220
Peru	13,500	--	--	--	13,500	2	2,520
Philippines	10,500	--	--	--	10,500	1	1,700
Portugal	--	5,500	869	158	5,500	1	869
Saudi Arabia	--	14,800	2,320	157	14,800	2	2,320
South Africa	25,700	8,020	1,070	133	33,700	4	4,920
Taiwan	21,800	399	162	406	22,200	3	4,050
Thailand	16,500	--	--	--	16,500	2	2,500
Tunisia	--	14,400	2,020	140	14,400	2	2,020
United Arab Emirates	--	10,200	1,470	144	10,200	1	1,470
Venezuela	--	28,400	6,770	238	28,400	4	6,770
Vietnam	--	9,700	1,830	189	9,700	1	1,830
Other	5,380 ^r	161	36	224	5,550	1	1,030
Total	384,000	417,000	78,400	188	801,000	100	147,000

^rRevised.

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

²March 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-February	1,460	\$541
February	887	262
March	488	249
April	324	165
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
January-February	541	289

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

²March 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-February	1,690,000 ^r	1,460	916,000	--	20,600	796,000 ^r
February	814,000 ^r	887	481,000	--	45,100	379,000 ^r
March	845,000 ^r	488	380,000	--	20,700	486,000 ^r
April	876,000 ^r	324	380,000	--	9,610	506,000 ^r
May	915,000 ^r	628	496,000	70,100	--	350,000 ^r
June	821,000 ^r	1,490	492,000	--	58,600	389,000 ^r
July	874,000 ^r	10,600	407,000	--	1,460	479,000 ^r
August	948,000 ^r	2,420	511,000	6,460	--	433,000 ^r
September	844,000 ^r	343	434,000	--	32,400	442,000 ^r
October	918,000 ^r	771	419,000	27,900	--	472,000 ^r
November	911,000 ^r	649	464,000	23,100	--	425,000 ^r
December	927,000 ^r	538	492,000	19,200	--	416,000 ^r
January-December	10,600,000 ^r	19,700	5,390,000	3,520	--	5,190,000 ^r
2011:						
January	888,000 ^r	422	384,000	2,650 ^r	--	502,000 ^r
February	813,000 ^r	119	417,000	--	15,000	410,000
March	904,000	NA	NA	4,150	--	NA
January-February	1,700,000	541	801,000	--	12,400	913,000

^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.

TABLE 5
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTER¹

(Thousand metric tons)

NAICS ² code	End use	2008	2009				Total
			First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	
3272	Glass:						
327213	Container	1,400	322 ^r	345 ^r	345 ^r	306 ^r	1,320 ^r
327211	Flat	1,020	189 ^r	190 ^r	208 ^r	214 ^r	800 ^r
327993	Fiber	186	35 ^r	30	38 ^r	38 ^r	141 ^r
327212	Other	140	26 ^r	29 ^r	28 ^r	29 ^r	111 ^r
	Total	2,740	572 ^r	593 ^r	619 ^r	586 ^r	2,370 ^r
32518	Chemicals	1,670	326 ^r	361 ^r	379 ^r	368 ^r	1,430 ^r
325611	Soaps and detergents	501	123 ^r	121 ^r	129	135	508 ^r
322	Pulp and paper	93	30	26	24 ^r	23 ^r	103 ^r
221310	Water treatment ³	58	11 ^r	11 ^r	13 ^r	14 ^r	49 ^r
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	131	38 ^r	32 ^r	40 ^r	42 ^r	152 ^r
422	Distributors	317	62 ^r	64 ^r	65 ^r	57 ^r	249 ^r
	Other	187	35 ^r	36 ^r	34 ^r	52 ^r	156 ^r
	Total domestic consumption ⁴	5,700	1,200 ^r	1,250 ^r	1,300	1,280 ^r	5,020 ^r
	Exports ⁵	5,420	967 ^r	974 ^r	1,220 ^r	1,360 ^r	4,520 ^r
	Canada	326	62	56	70	64	252
	Total industry sales ⁶	11,100	2,160 ^r	2,220 ^r	2,520 ^r	2,640 ^r	9,540 ^r
	Total sales from plants	11,200	2,200	2,190	2,510	2,550	9,450
	Total production	11,300	2,210	2,170	2,440	2,490	9,310

^rRevised.

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

²North American Industry Classification System.

³Includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors and purge liquors sold to powerplant for water treatment. Sales of mine water are excluded.

⁴Imports reported by the producer/importer have been distributed into appropriate end-use categories listed above.

⁵As reported by producers; includes Canada. Data may not necessarily agree with those reported by the U.S. Census Bureau for the same periods.

⁶Represents soda ash from domestic origin (production and inventory changes) and imports and exports. Includes soda ash sold by coproducers and distributed by purchasers into appropriate end-use categories.

TABLE 6
 REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTER¹

(Thousand metric tons)

NAICS ² code	End use	2009	2010				Total
			First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	
3272	Glass:						
327213	Container	1,320	323 ^r	323 ^r	325 ^r	312	1,280
327211	Flat	800	219 ^r	241 ^r	259 ^r	247	965
327993	Fiber	141	34 ^r	36	35	34	139
327212	Other	111	26	30 ^r	31	32	119
	Total	2,370	602 ^r	629 ^r	650 ^r	625	2,510
32518	Chemicals	1,430	371 ^r	367 ^r	385 ^r	396	1,520
325611	Soaps and detergents	508	132	125 ^r	133	124	513
322	Pulp and paper	103	22	23	22	21	89
221310	Water treatment ³	49	12 ^r	13	11 ^r	10	46
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	152	48	42 ^r	54	47	191
422	Distributors	249	67 ^r	68 ^r	67 ^r	70	271
	Other	156	34 ^r	36 ^r	34 ^r	35	138
	Total domestic consumption ⁴	5,020	1,290 ^r	1,300 ^r	1,360 ^r	1,330	5,270
	Exports ⁵	4,520	1,310 ^r	1,350 ^r	1,310 ^r	1,400	5,360
	Canada	252	63 ^r	54 ^r	51	64	231
	Total industry sales ⁶	9,540	2,590 ^r	2,650 ^r	2,670 ^r	2,730	10,600
	Total sales from plants	9,450	2,610 ^r	2,690 ^r	2,720 ^r	2,770	10,800
	Total production	9,310	2,540 ^r	2,610 ^r	2,670 ^r	2,760	10,600

^rRevised.

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

²North American Industry Classification System.

³Includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors and purge liquors sold to powerplant for water treatment. Sales of mine water are excluded.

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