

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Dennis S. Kostick, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7715, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: dkostick@usgs.gov

Martha L. Jackson (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7944
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: mjackson@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

SODA ASH IN AUGUST 2011

U.S. natural soda ash production in August was 970,000 metric tons (t), 6% higher than the previous month's production of 918,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Ending inventories for August 2011 were 275,000 t, slightly higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in August 2011 was 1.45 million metric tons.

Exports and imports of soda ash in July 2011 were 420,000 t and 4,067 t, respectively.

The changes in soda ash statistics for July 2011, compared with those of July 2010, were as follows: production was 5% higher; imports were 61% lower; exports were 3% higher; and apparent consumption was 9% lower.

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–August | 6,970 ^r | 182 | 10,600 |
| 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 |
| July | 918 | 269 | 1,130 |
| August | 970 | 275 | 1,450 |
| January–August | 7,100 | 275 | 10,900 |

^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 | June | July | | | January–July | | |
|----------------------|---------|----------|---------|---------------------|---------|---------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|---|
| | | | | | | | 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 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 49,800 | 2 | 9,190 |
| Australia | 29,000 | 5,850 | 5,700 | -- | 24,700 | 7,000 | 5,700 | 1,060 | \$185 | 77,900 | 3 | 16,300 |
| Belgium | 18,000 | 15,000 | 11,600 | -- | 5,000 | 3,930 | 35,500 | 6,310 | 178 | 89,000 | 3 | 13,700 |
| Brazil | 32,500 | 44,100 | 47,700 | 77,000 | 28,200 | 51,100 | 57,900 | 9,240 | 160 | 338,000 | 11 | 57,000 |
| Canada | 20,500 | 23,900 | 23,600 | 24,900 | 23,500 | 24,100 | 22,500 | 4,240 | 188 | 163,000 | 5 | 32,600 |
| Chile | 34,500 | -- | 34,300 | 14,500 | 33,700 | 24,700 | -- | -- | -- | 142,000 | 5 | 24,500 |
| Colombia | 6,350 | 14,200 | 14,000 | 17,200 | 5,000 | 6,340 | 7,000 | 1,180 | 168 | 70,000 | 2 | 11,900 |
| Costa Rica | -- | 5,000 | 5,000 | -- | -- | 4,600 | 1,010 | 161 | 160 | 15,600 | 1 | 3,010 |
| France | 39 | -- | 25 | 15,000 | -- | 5,030 | 8,000 | 1,440 | 180 | 28,100 | 1 | 4,070 |
| Guatemala | -- | 7,300 | -- | 7,000 | -- | 7,100 | -- | -- | -- | 21,400 | 1 | 4,300 |
| Indonesia | 28,000 | 88,600 | 42,500 | 21,100 | 18,000 | 38,200 | 60,300 | 12,500 | 207 | 297,000 | 10 | 58,700 |
| Japan | 33,700 | 13,400 | 38,400 | 19,500 | 756 | 31,800 | 583 | 178 | 305 | 138,000 | 5 | 25,100 |
| Korea, Republic of | 16,100 | 17,700 | 16,200 | 27,900 | 112 | 26,900 | 16,500 | 3,870 | 234 | 121,000 | 4 | 25,300 |
| Lithuania | -- | 15,200 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 22,700 | 3,440 | 152 | 37,900 | 1 | 5,360 |
| Malaysia | -- | 8,500 | 6,000 | -- | -- | 7,500 | -- | -- | -- | 22,000 | 1 | 4,870 |
| Mexico | 63,400 | 48,000 | 72,100 | 77,400 | 79,600 | 78,100 | 83,900 | 18,200 | 217 | 502,000 | 17 | 107,000 |
| Netherlands | 8,300 | -- | 810 | 21,000 | 25,000 | 11,900 | 20,500 | 3,440 | 168 | 87,500 | 3 | 14,300 |
| New Zealand | -- | 5,900 | 5,700 | -- | -- | 6,000 | -- | -- | -- | 17,600 | 1 | 3,340 |
| Peru | 13,500 | -- | 3,500 | 8,540 | 12,700 | 6,070 | -- | -- | -- | 44,300 | 1 | 8,140 |
| Philippines | 10,500 | -- | 7,800 | 10,500 | -- | 9,000 | -- | -- | -- | 37,800 | 1 | 6,850 |
| Saudi Arabia | -- | 14,800 | -- | -- | 14,500 | -- | 14,800 | 2,260 | 153 | 44,100 | 1 | 6,930 |
| South Africa | 25,700 | 8,020 | 28,800 | 7,670 | -- | 50,700 | 7,800 | 913 | 117 | 129,000 | 4 | 18,200 |
| Spain | -- | -- | -- | 21,900 | -- | 9,560 | -- | -- | -- | 31,500 | 1 | 4,710 |
| Taiwan | 21,800 | 399 | 43,300 | 17,800 | 324 | 17,700 | 15,800 | 3,100 | 196 | 117,000 | 4 | 21,600 |
| Thailand | 16,500 | -- | 20,800 | -- | 13,500 | 22,500 | 15,000 | 3,150 | 210 | 88,300 | 3 | 16,300 |
| Tunisia | -- | 14,400 | -- | 14,900 | 11,000 | 16,300 | -- | -- | -- | 56,600 | 2 | 7,630 |
| United Arab Emirates | -- | 10,200 | -- | -- | 4,000 | -- | 10,200 | 1,370 | 134 | 24,400 | 1 | 4,150 |
| United Kingdom | 3,000 | -- | 1,200 | 7,070 | 8,010 | -- | -- | -- | -- | 19,300 | 1 | 5,810 |
| Venezuela | -- | 28,400 | 14,800 | -- | 29,600 | 34,200 | -- | -- | -- | 107,000 | 4 | 24,500 |
| Other | 2,350 | 15,400 | 1,760 | 22,100 ^r | 18,300 | 11,300 ^r | 14,000 | 2,280 | 162 | 85,200 | 3 | 14,600 |
| Total | 384,000 | 417,000 | 469,000 | 433,000 | 369,000 | 511,000 | 420,000 | 78,300 | 187 | 3,000,000 | 100 | 560,000 |

^rRevised.

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

²August 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–July | 15,000 | \$3,880 |
| 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 |
| June | 2,760 | 515 |
| July | 4,070 | 659 |
| January–July | 10,100 | 2,490 |

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

²August 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–July | 6,020,000 ^r | 15,000 | 3,070,000 | -- | 40,800 | 3,010,000 ^r |
| 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–July | 6,130,000 | 10,100 | 3,000,000 | 48,500 | -- | 3,080,000 |
| 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 | 2,760 | 511,000 | -- | 1,630 | 392,000 |
| July | 918,000 | 4,070 | 420,000 | 65,200 | -- | 437,000 |
| August | 970,000 | NA | NA | 6,510 | -- | 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.