

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN OCTOBER 2019

U.S. natural soda ash production in October was 1.01 million metric tons (Mt), a 3% increase compared with that of the previous month but nearly the same as that of October 2018. Ending stocks increased for the second consecutive month to 333,000 metric tons (t), 8% more than those of the preceding month (tables 1, 4). Wyoming trona production in October 2019 was 1.52 Mt, slightly less than that of September 2019 but slightly more than that of October 2018.

Exports of soda ash in October 2019 were 549,000 t, 22% more than those of September 2019 but 18% less than those of October 2018 (tables 2, 4).

October 2019 imports of soda ash were 890 t, significantly less than the revised 36,300 t in September and the 1,940 t imported in October 2018. Relatively large quantities of soda ash were imported from Turkey in October 2018, followed by similar quantities in March, June, and September of 2019 (tables 3, 4). Soda ash import tonnages can differ significantly from month to month, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages.

Apparent consumption for October 2019 was 432,000 t, an 11% decrease from that of September 2019 but 15% more than that of October 2018. Apparent consumption can change significantly from month to month mostly owing to changes in the quantity of exports but usually stabilizes over the course of the year. Apparent consumption for January 2019 through October 2019 was 3% less than that during the same time period in 2018 (table 4).

All percentages in this report were calculated using unrounded data.

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TABLE 1  
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Stocks, end of period	
2018:			
January–October	9,840 <sup>r</sup>	237 <sup>r</sup>	14,600
October	1,010	237	1,500
November	997	309	1,490
December	1,060	297	1,580
January–December	11,900	297	17,600
2019:			
January	1,000	300	1,680
February	920	270	1,500
March	941	276	1,680
April	999	337	1,530
May	994	275	1,310
June	946	287	1,610
July	972	250	1,640
August	926	232	1,490
September	977 <sup>r</sup>	308	1,550 <sup>r</sup>
October	1,010	333	1,520
January–October	9,680	333	15,500

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup>Production 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 OR LOCALITY, IN 2019<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October			January–October			
										Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	
Argentina	7,000	7,700	--	16,700	79	80	19,700	4,040	19,200	--	--	--	74,600	1	\$17,200	
Australia	35,000	4,040	34,000	29,000	34,000	--	17,500	45,800	29,500	--	--	--	229,000	4	53,600	
Brazil	94,500	104,000	35,000	60,800	83,400	82,000	50,300	81,100	39,700	94,100	\$20,400	\$217	725,000	13	152,000	
Canada	15,800	17,500	15,200	18,300	18,400	14,700	15,700	15,400	15,600	12,600	2,930	233	159,000	3	38,300	
Chile	13,000	45,200	31,500	14,200	46,800	46,300	32,800	38,700	47,000	--	--	--	315,000	6	73,100	
China	--	61	--	--	36,000	--	--	36,000	--	44	42,000	5,620	134	114,000	2	19,000
Colombia	8,000	21,400	10,500	8,750	8,200	9,000	20,000	27,600	1	21,500	4,850	225	135,000	2	30,600	
Ecuador	9,500	--	10,000	--	--	--	8,000	--	--	6,550	1,460	222	34,100	1	7,650	
Guatemala	4,000	7,000	--	--	11,500	5,000	5,220	--	--	6,000	1,450	241	38,700	1	9,870	
India	--	43,500	--	65,700	12,500	27,000	37,500	12,500	--	36,500	6,940	190	235,000	4	41,800	
Indonesia	88,100	21,300	90,800	19,400	105,000	73,000	46,700	59,800	41,200	64,400	14,600	227	609,000	11	137,000	
Japan	3,000	34,400	15,100	21,500	--	55,300	3,040	20,400	31,500	24,000	4,810	200	208,000	4	43,100	
Korea, Republic of	11,500	18,000	15,700	34,200	26	41,600	23,600	22,100	50	36,200	7,770	215	203,000	4	43,500	
Malaysia	46,100	62,800	52,500	39,300	43,200	39,500	52,100	12,000	55,600	27,000	6,210	230	430,000	8	96,100	
Mexico	144,000	106,000	112,000	114,000	111,000	92,100	112,000	120,000	106,000	90,000	21,800	242	1,110,000	19	260,000	
Peru	17,000	--	16,300	1,280	10,800	75	--	9,720	75	11,000	2,510	228	66,200	1	14,900	
Philippines	7,500	--	--	9,000	14,600	--	13,500	--	10,000	--	--	--	54,600	1	12,000	
Saudi Arabia	98	10,300	39	15,100	536	8,500	60	15,900	80	80	31	386	50,700	1	9,670	
South Africa	--	10,100	--	4,790	--	14,400	--	12,000	15,000	--	--	--	56,300	1	9,970	
Taiwan	16,500	9,500	15,200	38,800	8,000	17,900	10,200	20,600	16,000	21,000	4,820	229	174,000	3	40,000	
Thailand	35,100	26,600	35,600	7,500	10,000	46,100	38,300	12,400	13,300	19,300	4,420	230	244,000	4	56,600	
Tunisia	--	20,000	--	--	15,000	--	20,000	--	--	--	--	--	55,000	1	13,300	
United Arab Emirates	--	15,500	--	6,000	--	11,000	--	10,500	--	--	--	--	43,000	1	8,270	
Vietnam	31,000	15,000	18,500	31,500	35,500	30,000	17,500	36,000	5,110	35,500	7,980	225	256,000	4	58,100	
Other	476	21,600	462	6,540	36,800	324	14,200	5,560	6,360	1,270	143	112	93,600	2	23,500	
Total	587,000	621,000	508,000	562,000	641,000	614,000	557,000	618,000	452,000	549,000	119,000	216	5,710,000	100	1,270,000	

-- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY, IN 2019<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	Quantity	October		January–October		
											Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)
Bulgaria	288	612	432	882	648	810	648	560	486	414	\$238	\$576	5,780	5	\$2,280
China	77	72	180	41	56	99	257	120	88	120	75	619	1,110	1	691
France	44	91	41	91	64	50	99	13	75	94	173	1,850	662	1	1,010
Mexico	304	97	252	150	244	57	19	258	532	1	19	34,400	1,910	2	746
Romania	95	172	38	38	--	--	76	76	38	100	42	423	634	1	282
Turkey	--	--	32,000	--	--	35,000	--	--	34,800 <sup>†</sup>	--	--	--	102,000	90	20,400
United Kingdom	146	197	91	73	143	183	75	108	89	161	101	631	1,260	1	852
Other	24	9	3	10	(3)	1	12	39	186	1	17	23,400	285	(3)	471
Total	978	1,250	33,000	1,280	1,150	36,200	1,190	1,180	36,300 <sup>†</sup>	890	665	747	113,000	100	26,700

<sup>†</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau adjusted by U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 4  
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Exports	Imports	Net stock		Apparent consumption <sup>2</sup>
				Increase	Decrease	
2018:						
January–December	11,900,000	6,960,000	51,300	3,910	--	4,980,000
January–October	9,840,000	5,760,000	49,000 <sup>r</sup>	--	56,900 <sup>r</sup>	4,180,000 <sup>r</sup>
October	1,010,000	670,000	1,940	--	31,800	376,000
November	997,000	506,000	1,720	72,500	--	420,000
December	1,060,000	698,000	627	--	11,700	374,000
2019:						
January–October	9,680,000	5,710,000	113,000	35,900	--	4,050,000
January	1,000,000	587,000	978	2,640	--	415,000
February	920,000	621,000	1,250	--	30,500	331,000
March	941,000	508,000	33,000	6,870	--	459,000
April	999,000	562,000	1,280	60,300	--	378,000
May	994,000	641,000	1,150	--	61,600	416,000
June	946,000	614,000	36,200	12,100	--	356,000
July	972,000	557,000	1,190	--	37,500	453,000
August	926,000	618,000	1,180	--	17,900	327,000
September	977,000 <sup>r</sup>	452,000	36,300 <sup>r</sup>	75,800	--	486,000 <sup>r</sup>
October	1,010,000	549,000	890	25,600	--	432,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

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

<sup>2</sup>Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.