

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Wallace P. Bolen, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20212
Telephone: (703) 648-7727, Fax: (703) 648-7757
Email: wbolen@usgs.gov

Tiffany J. Lin (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7963
Fax: (703) 648-7975
Email: tjlin@usgs.gov

Internet:

www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center

SODA ASH IN NOVEMBER 2021

In November, soda ash production was an estimated 968,000 metric tons (t), a 3% increase compared with the previous month's production and 15% more than that in November 2020. For the first 11 months of 2021, soda ash production was 10.3 million metric tons (Mt), 13% more than the revised total for the same period of 2020 (table 4). Ending stocks in November decreased to an estimated 254,000 metric tons (t), 5% less than the amount for the preceding month (table 1). In recent months, demand for soda ash nearly returned to levels seen before the global COVID-19 pandemic began. As a result, exports and production reported for the first 11 months of the year increased substantially.

Wyoming trona production in November 2021 was 1.49 Mt, essentially unchanged compared with the revised production in October 2021 and 9% more than that in November 2020. For the first 11 months of 2021, trona production was 15.9 Mt, 18% more than the revised total for the same period of 2020 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash increased in November 2021 to 593,000 t, 10% more than those in October 2021 and 34% more than those in November 2020. For the first 11 months of 2021, exports were 6.24 Mt, 23% more than the amount for the same period of 2020 (table 2, 4).

Imports of soda ash in November 2021 were 491 t compared with 585 t in October 2021. For the first 11 months of 2021,

imports were an estimated 49,400 t, 49% less than the estimated total for the same period of 2020. Soda ash import tonnages can differ significantly from month to month, but generally are much smaller than soda ash export tonnages (tables 3, 4).

Apparent consumption for November 2021 was an estimated 390,000 t, 13% more than that of October 2021 and slightly more than the total for November 2020. For the first 11 months of 2021, apparent consumption was an estimated 4.15 Mt, slightly more than the revised estimated total for the same period of 2020. Apparent consumption can change significantly from month to month mostly owing to variation in the quantity of exports but usually stabilizes over the course of the year (table 4).

All percentages in this report were calculated using unrounded data.

List services and web feed subscribers are the first to receive notification of USGS minerals information publications and data releases. For information on how to subscribe, go to <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/minerals-information-publication-list-services>.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2020:			
January–November	9,070 ^r	307 ^r	13,500 ^r
November	838	307	1,370
December	927	305	1,450
January–December	9,990	305	15,000
2021:			
January	952	301	1,510
February	837 ^r	287	1,240
March	969	229	1,440
April	922	276	1,150
May	938	268	1,430
June	966	225	1,510
July	980	261	1,660
August	878	236	1,550
September	936	208	1,450
October	942	268	1,480 ^r
November	968 ^e	254 ^e	1,490
January–November	10,300 ^e	254 ^e	15,900

^eEstimated. ^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 OR LOCALITY, IN 2021¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November			January–November		
											Quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Argentina	60	18,400	9,520	--	14,000	38,800	40	17,700	--	23,000	7,000	\$776	\$111	128,000	2	\$26,400
Australia	35,000	--	29,500	21,000	14,000	36,700	26,000	--	13,000	39	39,600	3,550	90	215,000	3	42,500
Brazil	88,900	60,000	87,100	6,900	84,600	74,200	--	97,300	50,200	86,000	32,700	5,690	174	668,000	11	105,000
Canada	14,600	14,900	16,700	16,500	15,300	14,300	16,700	15,100	14,100	15,100	15,100	3,670	243	168,000	3	41,300
Chile	40,600	32,800	46,500	7,100	79,800	37,200	46,200	37,700	36,200	64,400	34,000	7,730	227	462,000	7	106,000
China	11	133	18	--	51,700	21,400	15,200	7,520	39,300	8,250	1,710	507	296	145,000	2	26,200
Colombia	7,000	10,100	28,000	--	22,800	40,500	13,700	--	22,000	35,600	--	--	--	180,000	3	35,400
Guatemala	7,000	--	10,600	--	--	12,500	7,000	--	--	8,780	428	80	186	46,300	1	10,100
India	15,000	42	40,200	--	25	20,000	--	150	76	24	20,000	4,170	208	95,600	2	18,500
Indonesia	35,000	38,500	24,800	91,900	60,500	36,500	39,700	44,800	108,000	18,400	72,900	16,500	226	571,000	9	110,000
Japan	--	30,500	225	29,700	892	35,800	34,800	200	32,400	--	34,700	7,020	202	199,000	3	36,600
Korea, Republic of	168	25,600	16,700	19,800	18,100	26,000	50,700	25	28,300	24,500	20,400	3,500	171	231,000	4	39,000
Malaysia	30,000	36,200	95,300	39,500	36,000	46,800	12,700	53,500	26,600	1,980	101,000	18,500	183	480,000	8	83,700
Mexico	111,000	109,000	184,000	110,000	105,000	130,000	121,000	112,000	143,000	141,000	107,000	25,800	241	1,370,000	22	344,000
Peru	10,200	--	11,600	3	16,000	14,000	4,000	108	--	18,000	152	17	110	73,900	1	14,800
Saudi Arabia	47,100	99	13,700	--	18,000	13,000	101	--	--	--	13,500	1,330	98	105,000	2	15,500
Taiwan	--	13,000	18,900	22,200	22,900	7,000	25,500	400	9,700	15,200	17,600	3,680	209	152,000	2	27,600
Thailand	64,800	10,600	23,500	26,400	68,000	8,840	9,420	20,500	49,900	35,600	27,100	5,260	194	345,000	6	61,800
United Arab Emirates	29,400	--	10,500	--	14,500	11,100	--	--	--	--	9,100	1,070	118	74,600	1	11,200
Vietnam	26,800	59,500	21,100	62,400	20,300	7,190	63,900	43,300	25,400	25,000	32,200	5,050	157	387,000	6	67,800
Other	12,300	1,310	30,600	9,810	14,000	14,400	20,000	1,250	15,300	17,000	6,370	944	148	142,000	2	28,600
Total	575,000	460,000	719,000	463,000	676,000	646,000	507,000	452,000	613,000	538,000	593,000	115,000	194	6,240,000	100	1,250,000

-- Zero.

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

²Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY, IN 2021¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Quantity	November		January–November		
												Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
China	93	46	121	64	134	72	17	6	--	--	10	\$16	\$1,570	562	1	\$391
France	60	103	100	99	139	140	--	160	120	71	180	190	1,060	1,170	2	1,110
Mexico	116	194	233	233	175	59	99	368	282	311	20	24	1,230	2,090	4	833
Turkey	--	--	20,000 ^e	--	--	23,000 ^e	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	43,000 ^e	87	7,740 ^e
United Kingdom	93	201	35	229	140	181	145	162	110	53	212	130	616	1,560	3	1,080
Other	2	107	59	61	200	51	111	96	111	150	70	62	895	1,020	2	1,070
Total	363	651	20,500 ^e	686	788	23,500 ^e	373	792	623	585	491	423	861	49,400 ^e	100	12,200 ^e

^eEstimated. -- Zero.

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

²Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

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

TABLE 4
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Exports	Imports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2020:						
January–December	9,990,000	5,590,000	98,100 ^e	15,900	--	4,480,000
January–November	9,070,000 ^r	5,090,000	97,300 ^e	18,100 ^r	--	4,050,000 ^{r, e}
November	838,000	442,000	556	14,600	--	382,000
December	927,000	500,000	808	--	2,160	429,000
2021:						
January–November	10,300,000 ^e	6,240,000	49,400 ^e	--	51,200	4,150,000 ^e
January	952,000	575,000	363	--	4,370	381,000
February	837,000 ^r	460,000	651	--	13,400	391,000 ^r
March	969,000	719,000	20,500 ^e	--	58,300	329,000 ^e
April	922,000	463,000	686	46,700	--	412,000
May	938,000	676,000	788	--	8,040	270,000
June	966,000	646,000	23,500 ^e	--	42,500	386,000 ^e
July	980,000	507,000	373	36,000	--	437,000
August	878,000	452,000	792	--	25,400	453,000
September	936,000	613,000	623	--	28,000	352,000
October	942,000	538,000	585	60,200	--	344,000
November	968,000 ^e	593,000	491	--	14,100 ^e	390,000 ^e

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. -- 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.