

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN DECEMBER 2021

In December, soda ash production was an estimated 1.03 million metric tons (Mt), a 6% increase compared with the previous month's estimated production and 11% more than that in December 2020. For 2021, soda ash production was an estimated 11.3 Mt, 13% more than the total for 2020 (table 4). Ending stocks in December increased to an estimated 272,000 metric tons (t), 3% more than the revised estimated 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 2021 increased substantially.

Wyoming trona production in December 2021 was 1.53 Mt, a 3% increase compared with trona production in November 2021 and 6% more than that in December 2020. For 2021, trona production was 17.5 Mt, 17% more than the revised total for 2020 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash increased in December 2021 to 660,000 t, 11% more than those in November 2021 and 32% more than those in December 2020. For 2021, exports were 6.90 Mt, 23% more than the amount for 2020 (tables 2, 4).

Imports of soda ash in December 2021 were 412 t compared with 491 t in November 2021. For 2021, imports were an

estimated 49,800 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 December 2021 was an estimated 361,000 t, 6% less than that of the revised estimated total for November 2021 and 16% less than the total for December 2020. For 2021, apparent consumption was an estimated 4.51 Mt, slightly more than the estimated total for 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.

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TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2020:			
December	927	305 ^r	1,450
January–December	9,990	305 ^r	15,000 ^r
2021:			
January	952	303 ^r	1,510
February	837	293 ^r	1,240
March	969	235 ^r	1,440
April	922	281 ^r	1,150
May	938	274 ^r	1,430
June	984 ^r	231 ^r	1,560 ^r
July	980	269 ^r	1,660
August	878	242 ^r	1,550
September	936	214 ^r	1,450
October	942	274 ^r	1,480
November	968 ^e	264 ^{r, e}	1,490
December	1,030 ^e	272 ^e	1,530
January–December	11,300 ^e	272 ^e	17,500

^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	December			January–December		
												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	38,100	\$7,980	\$209	167,000	2	34,300
Australia	35,000	--	29,500	21,000	14,000	36,700	26,000	--	13,000	39	39,600	29,000	6,260	216	244,000	4	48,700
Brazil	88,900	60,000	87,100	6,900	84,600	74,200	--	97,300	50,200	86,000	32,700	88,200	15,000	170	756,000	11	120,000
Canada	14,600	14,900	16,700	16,500	15,300	14,300	16,700	15,100	14,100	15,100	15,100	21,600	5,160	238	190,000	3	46,500
Chile	40,600	32,800	46,500	7,100	79,800	37,200	46,200	37,700	36,200	64,400	34,000	73,500	18,200	248	536,000	8	125,000
China	11	133	18	--	51,700	21,400	15,200	7,520	39,300	8,250	1,710	42,300	10,900	258	188,000	3	37,100
Colombia	7,000	10,100	28,000	--	22,800	40,500	13,700	--	22,000	35,600	--	24,500	4,200	172	204,000	3	39,600
Guatemala	7,000	--	10,600	--	--	12,500	7,000	--	--	8,780	428	12,200	2,100	172	58,500	1	12,200
India	15,000	42	40,200	--	25	20,000	--	150	76	24	20,000	48	5	110	95,700	1	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	55,400	12,500	225	626,000	9	122,000
Japan	--	30,500	225	29,700	892	35,800	34,800	200	32,400	--	34,700	20,700	3,520	170	220,000	3	40,100
Korea, Republic of	168	25,600	16,700	19,800	18,100	26,000	50,700	25	28,300	24,500	20,400	11,600	2,910	251	242,000	4	41,900
Malaysia	30,000	36,200	95,300	39,500	36,000	46,800	12,700	53,500	26,600	1,980	101,000	17,000	2,920	172	497,000	7	86,600
Mexico	111,000	109,000	184,000	110,000	105,000	130,000	121,000	112,000	143,000	141,000	107,000	140,000	31,100	221	1,510,000	22	375,000
Peru	10,200	--	11,600	3	16,000	14,000	4,000	108	--	18,000	152	6,400	1,100	173	80,300	1	15,900
Saudi Arabia	47,100	99	13,700	--	18,000	13,000	101	--	--	--	13,500	15,500	2,710	174	121,000	2	18,200
Taiwan	--	13,000	18,900	22,200	22,900	7,000	25,500	400	9,700	15,200	17,600	--	--	--	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	13,200	2,900	221	358,000	5	64,700
United Arab Emirates	29,400	--	10,500	--	14,500	11,100	--	--	--	--	9,100	6,750	1,020	151	81,400	1	12,200
Vietnam	26,800	59,500	21,100	62,400	20,300	7,190	63,900	43,300	25,400	25,000	32,200	18,500	3,920	212	406,000	6	71,700
Other	12,300	1,310	30,600	9,810	14,000	14,400	20,000	1,250	15,300	17,000	6,370	25,000	6,000	240	167,000	2	34,600
Total	575,000	460,000	719,000	463,000	676,000	646,000	507,000	452,000	613,000	538,000	593,000	660,000	140,000	213	6,900,000	100	1,390,000

-- 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	November	Quantity	December		January–December		
													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	7	\$13	\$1,890	569	1	\$404
France	60	103	100	99	139	140	--	160	120	71	180	19	9	473	1,190	2	1,120
Mexico	116	194	233	233	175	59	99	368	282	311	20	58	25	424	2,150	4	858
Turkey	--	--	20,000 ^e	--	--	23,000 ^e	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	43,000 ^e	86	7,740 ^e
United Kingdom	93	201	35	229	140	181	145	162	110	53	212	260	203	779	1,820	4	1,280
Other	2	107	59	61	200	51	111	96	111	150	70	68	116	1,710	1,090	2	1,190
Total	363	651	20,500 ^e	686	788	23,500 ^e	373	792	623	585	491	412	365	886	49,800 ^e	100	12,600 ^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 ^e
December	927,000	500,000	808	--	2,160	429,000
2021:						
January–December	11,300,000 ^e	6,900,000	49,800 ^e	--	33,600	4,510,000 ^e
January	952,000	575,000	363	--	2,730 ^r	380,000 ^r
February	837,000	460,000	651	--	10,000 ^r	388,000 ^r
March	969,000	719,000	20,500 ^e	--	57,700 ^r	328,000 ^r
April	922,000	463,000	686	46,700	--	412,000
May	938,000	676,000	788	--	7,870 ^r	270,000
June	984,000 ^r	646,000	23,500 ^e	--	42,100 ^r	404,000 ^r
July	980,000	507,000	373	37,800 ^r	--	436,000 ^r
August	878,000	452,000	792	--	26,900 ^r	454,000 ^r
September	936,000	613,000	623	--	28,600 ^r	352,000
October	942,000	538,000	585	59,800 ^r	--	345,000 ^r
November	968,000 ^e	593,000	491	--	9,350 ^{r, e}	385,000 ^{r, e}
December	1,030,000 ^e	660,000	412	7,420 ^e	--	361,000 ^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.