

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN FEBRUARY 2022

In February, soda ash production was 882,000 metric tons (t), a 13% decrease compared with the previous month's revised production but 5% more than that of February 2021. For the first two months of 2022, soda ash production was 1.9 Mt, 7% more than the revised production for the first two months of 2021 (table 4). Ending stocks in February decreased to 256,000 t, 10% less than the preceding month (table 1).

Wyoming trona production in February 2022 was an estimated 1.41 million metric tons (Mt), a 14% increase compared with the revised trona production in January 2022 and 13% more than the total in February 2021. For the first two months of 2022, trona production was 2.64 Mt, 5% less than the revised total for the first two months of 2021 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash increased in February 2022 to 537,000 t, 11% more than those in January 2022 and 16% more than those in February 2021. For the first two months of 2022, exports were 1.02 Mt, slightly less than the first two months of 2021 (tables 2, 4).

Imports of soda ash in February 2022 were 408,000 t compared with a 388,000 t in January 2022. 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 February 2022 was 376,000 t, 28% less than the revised estimated total for January 2022 and 3% less than the revised total for February 2021. For the first two months of 2022, apparent consumption was 899,000 t, 19% more than the revised apparent consumption for the first two months of 2021. 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.

**Note:** The annual average value of U.S. soda ash production for 2021 was \$120.99 per short ton (\$133.37 per metric ton), a 5% decrease compared with the revised 2020 average value of \$127.64 per short ton (\$140.70 per metric ton).

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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	
2021:			
January–February	1,780 <sup>r</sup>	293 <sup>r</sup>	2,770 <sup>r</sup>
February	837	293	1,240
March	969	235	1,460
April	921	281	1,150
May	938	274	1,430
June	984	231	1,550
July	980	269	1,660
August	882	242	1,540
September	936	214	1,520
October	942	274	1,480
November	950	285	1,490
December	972	278	1,530
January–December	11,300	278	17,600
2022:			
January	1,010 <sup>r</sup>	286	1,240 <sup>r</sup>
February	882	256	1,410
January–February	1,900	256	2,640

<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 2022<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	February				January–February		
	January	Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)
Argentina	5,000	27,800	\$6,400	\$230	32,800	3	\$7,200
Australia	--	35,000	9,620	275	35,000	3	9,620
Brazil	84,800	15,200	3,460	228	100,000	10	20,500
Canada	13,400	15,800	3,640	231	29,100	3	6,640
Chile	10,200	36,700	7,870	214	47,000	5	9,630
Colombia	1,500	19,300	4,130	214	20,800	2	4,380
Indonesia	68,300	25,700	6,080	237	94,000	9	23,500
Japan	31,000	225	25	110	31,200	3	7,100
Korea, Republic of	21,500	39,900	8,960	224	61,400	6	12,600
Malaysia	31,500	28,700	8,020	279	60,200	6	13,500
Mexico	128,000	111,000	25,700	232	239,000	23	56,300
Saudi Arabia	34,200	--	--	--	34,200	3	8,410
Taiwan	15,000	31,300	11,000	350	46,300	5	15,100
Thailand	12,400	60,400	17,100	283	72,800	7	19,400
Venezuela	--	7,700	2,610	339	7,700	1	2,610
Vietnam	13,200	53,200	16,000	301	66,400	7	18,500
Others	11,600 <sup>r</sup>	28,500	7,580	266	40,100	4	11,600
Total	482,000	536,000	138,000	258	1,020,000	100	247,000

<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>Free 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 2022<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	Quantity	February		January–February		
			Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)
France	109	60	\$110	\$183	169	21	\$271
Germany	45	6	48	827	50	6	84
Italy	--	87	51	59	87	11	51
Mexico	118	213	85	40	332	42	139
United Kingdom	107	35	23	66	142	18	97
Others	10	7	39	556	17	2	63
Total	388	408	357	87	796	100	705

--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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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	
2021:						
January–December	11,300,000	6,900,000	130,000 <sup>r,e</sup>	--	27,600	4,510,000
January–February	1,780,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,040,000	1,010	--	12,700 <sup>r</sup>	756,000 <sup>r</sup>
February	837,000	460,000	651	--	10,000	388,000
March	969,000	719,000	20,500 <sup>e</sup>	--	57,700	328,000 <sup>e</sup>
April	921,000	463,000	686	46,700	--	412,000
May	938,000	676,000	788	--	7,870	270,000
June	984,000	646,000	23,500 <sup>e</sup>	--	42,100	404,000 <sup>e</sup>
July	980,000	507,000	373	37,800	--	436,000
August	882,000	452,000	792	--	26,900	458,000
September	936,000	613,000	40,600 <sup>e</sup>	--	28,600	392,000 <sup>e</sup>
October	942,000	538,000	585	59,800	--	345,000
November	950,000	593,000	491	11,000	--	346,000
December	972,000	660,000	40,400 <sup>e</sup>	--	6,920	359,000 <sup>e</sup>
2022:						
January–February	1,900,000	1,020,000	796	--	21,200	899,000
January	1,010,000 <sup>r</sup>	482,000	388	8,110	--	523,000 <sup>r</sup>
February	882,000	536,000	408	--	29,300	376,000

<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.