

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN MAY 2022

In May, soda ash production was an estimated 959,000 metric tons (t), a 13% increase compared with the previous month's production and slightly more than that of May 2021. For the first five months of 2022, soda ash production was an estimated 4.66 million metric tons (Mt), essentially unchanged from the revised production for the first five months of 2021 (table 4). Ending stocks in May increased to an estimated 272,000 t, 16% more than the preceding month (table 1).

Wyoming trona production in May 2022 was 1.46 Mt, a 25% increase compared with the trona production in April 2022 and slightly more than the total in May 2021. For the first five months of 2022, trona production was 7.2 Mt, 6% more than the revised total for the first five months of 2021 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash decreased in May 2022 to 569,000 t, 8% less than those in April 2022 and 16% less than those in May 2021. For the first five months of 2022, exports were 2.72 Mt, 6% less than the first five months of 2021 (tables 2, 4).

Imports of soda ash in May 2022 were 397 t compared with the revised 490 t in April 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 May 2022 was an estimated 354,000 t, 24% more than the total for April 2022 and 31% more than the total for May 2021. For the first five months of 2022, apparent consumption was an estimated 1.98 Mt, 12% more than the revised estimated apparent consumption for the first five 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.

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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–May	4,600 <sup>r</sup>	274 <sup>r</sup>	6,810 <sup>r</sup>
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	980	286	1,600
February	855	256	1,400
March	1,020	285	1,570
April	851	236	1,170
May	959 <sup>e</sup>	272 <sup>e</sup>	1,460
January–May	4,660 <sup>e</sup>	272 <sup>e</sup>	7,200

<sup>e</sup>Estimated <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	January	February	March	April	Quantity	May		January–May		
						Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)
Argentina	5,000	27,800	--	25,300	5,560	\$1,570	\$282	63,700	2	\$14,800
Australia	--	35,000	23,000	--	35,000	9,630	275	93,000	3	26,000
Brazil	84,800	15,200	51,200	31,800	102,000	21,600	211	285,000	10	60,300
Canada	13,400	15,800	22,200	19,600	15,500	3,750	241	86,500	3	20,000
Chile	10,200	36,700	53,400	109,000	54,100	13,300	246	264,000	10	62,000
Colombia	1,500	19,300	9,730	27,900	12,300	2,860	233	70,600	3	15,600
Indonesia	68,300	25,700	61,800	54,100	84,300	21,700	258	294,000	11	78,000
Japan	31,000	225	438	41,800	277	31	110	73,700	3	16,600
Korea, Republic of	21,500	39,900	28,500	16,600	14,600	4,490	306	121,000	4	29,800
Malaysia	31,500	28,700	11,600	38,000	42,400	11,600	274	152,000	6	38,300
Mexico	128,000	111,000	161,000	143,000	121,000	28,900	239	664,000	24	154,000
Saudi Arabia	34,200	--	34,500	--	--	--	--	68,600	3	16,800
Taiwan	15,000	31,300	7,800	21,500	11,000	3,910	355	86,600	3	29,100
Thailand	12,400	60,400	2,430	27,200	4,930	1,220	247	107,000	4	27,500
Vietnam	13,200	53,200	21,400	24,400	33,000	11,100	335	145,000	5	44,100
Others	11,600 <sup>r</sup>	36,200	28,800 <sup>r</sup>	35,900 <sup>r</sup>	32,400	7,960	246	145,000	5	37,800
Total	482,000	536,000	518,000	616,000	569,000	144,000	253	2,720,000	100	670,000

<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	February	March	April	Quantity	May	Unit Value	January–May		
						Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)
France	109	60	180	19	20	\$39	\$1,960	388	1	\$518
Italy	--	87	--	162	36	27	747	285	1	277
Mexico	118	213	21	156	59	30	513	567	2	270
Turkey	--	26,500 <sup>e</sup>	--	--	--	--	--	26,500 <sup>e</sup>	93	5,040 <sup>e</sup>
United Kingdom	107	35	35	144	193	150	775	514	2	434
Others	55 <sup>r</sup>	13 <sup>r</sup>	36 <sup>r</sup>	10	90	111	1,230	203	1	456
Total	388	26,900 <sup>r,e</sup>	272	490 <sup>r</sup>	397	357	897	28,500 <sup>e</sup>	100	6,990 <sup>e</sup>

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <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>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	118,000 <sup>e</sup>	--	27,600	4,490,000 <sup>e</sup>
January–May	4,610,000 <sup>r</sup>	2,890,000	20,400 <sup>r, e</sup>	--	31,600 <sup>r</sup>	1,760,000 <sup>r, e</sup>
May	938,000	676,000	788	--	7,870	270,000
June	984,000	646,000	21,500 <sup>e</sup>	--	42,100	402,000 <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	37,600 <sup>e</sup>	--	28,600	389,000 <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	36,400 <sup>e</sup>	--	6,920	355,000 <sup>e</sup>
2022:						
January–May	4,660,000 <sup>e</sup>	2,720,000	28,500 <sup>e</sup>	--	5,530 <sup>e</sup>	1,980,000 <sup>e</sup>
January	980,000	482,000	388	8,110	--	491,000
February	855,000	536,000	26,900 <sup>r, e</sup>	--	29,300	375,000 <sup>r</sup>
March	1,020,000	518,000	272	28,900	--	472,000
April	851,000	616,000	490 <sup>r</sup>	--	49,835	285,000
May	959,000 <sup>e</sup>	569,000	397	36,600 <sup>e</sup>	--	354,000 <sup>e</sup>

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <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.