

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN AUGUST 2022

In August, soda ash production was 947,000 metric tons (t), a 5% decrease compared with the previous month's production and 7% more than that of August 2021. For the first eight months of 2022, soda ash production was 7.45 million metric tons (Mt), essentially unchanged from the revised production for the first eight months of 2021 (table 4). Ending stocks in August decreased to 237,000 t, 23% less than the ending stocks from the preceding month (table 1).

Wyoming trona production in August 2022 was 1.54 Mt, a 4% increase compared with the revised trona production in July 2022 and essentially unchanged compared to the revised total in August 2021. For the first eight months of 2022, trona production was 11.7 Mt, essentially unchanged compared with the revised total for the first eight months of 2021 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash increased in August 2022 to 547,000 t, 14% more than those in July 2022 and 21% more than those in August 2021. For the first eight months of 2022, exports were 4.31 Mt, 4% less than the first eight months of 2021 (tables 2, 4). Imports of soda ash in August 2022 were 605 t compared with 283 t in July 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 August 2022 was 471,000 t, 9% more than the total for July 2022 and 3% more than the total for August 2021. For the first eight months of 2022, apparent

consumption was an estimated 3.21 Mt, 5% more than the revised estimated apparent consumption for the first eight 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).

Table 5 provides reported U.S. soda ash consumption statistics for the second quarter of 2022. Reported consumption for the second quarter was 1.16 Mt, essentially unchanged compared with the reported consumption for the second quarter of 2021. During the second quarter, 559,000 t (48%) went to glassmaking and 335,000 t (29%) was consumed in the production of chemicals. Total reported consumption for the first six months of 2022 was 2.3 Mt, essentially unchanged from the same period in 2021.

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–August	7,450 <sup>r</sup>	242 <sup>r</sup>	11,600 <sup>r</sup>
August	882	242	1,550 <sup>r</sup>
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	983	285	1,570
April	851	236	1,170
May	944	260	1,470
June	895	227	1,500 <sup>r</sup>
July	992	308	1,480 <sup>r</sup>
August	947	237	1,540
January–August	7,450	237	11,700

<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	May	June	July	Quantity	August	Unit value	January–August		
									Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)
Argentina	5,000	27,800	--	25,300	5,560	17,300	--	40	25	\$625	81,100	2	19,100
Australia	--	35,000	23,000	--	35,000	--	28,000	23,300	7,040	302	144,000	3	41,100
Brazil	84,800	15,200	51,200	31,800	102,000	74,100	8,110	51,500	11,700	227	419,000	10	92,300
Canada	13,400	15,800	22,200	19,600	15,500	17,500	15,000	18,100	4,270	236	137,000	3	31,700
Chile	10,200	36,700	53,400	109,000	54,100	31,300	47,600	98,700	26,100	264	441,000	10	108,000
Colombia	1,500	19,300	9,730	27,900	12,300	23,000	11,500	17,700	3,470	196	123,000	3	26,400
Indonesia	68,300	25,700	61,800	54,100	84,300	43,600	42,200	49,200	16,300	331	429,000	10	120,000
Japan	31,000	225	438	41,800	277	20,200	40,200	4,080	965	236	138,000	3	32,800
Korea, Republic of	21,500	39,900	28,500	16,600	14,600	45,700	32,100	28,100	8,620	307	227,000	5	61,300
Malaysia	31,500	28,700	11,600	38,000	42,400	35,600	35,500	31,100	9,310	300	254,000	6	69,100
Mexico	128,000	111,000	161,000	143,000	121,000	138,000	145,000	121,000	30,300	251	1,070,000	25	255,000
Saudi Arabia	34,200	--	34,500	--	--	--	34,400	--	--	--	103,000	2	25,200
Taiwan	15,000	31,300	7,800	21,500	11,000	20,000	--	31,000	11,900	383	138,000	3	48,000
Thailand	12,400	60,400	2,430	27,200	4,930	31,500	14,100	15,900	4,520	284	169,000	4	44,500
Vietnam	13,200	53,200	21,400	24,400	33,000	20,400	15,600	1,420	267	188	182,000	4	56,500
Other	11,600	35,600	28,200	35,400	32,400	41,500	11,100	56,700	17,900	315	252,000	6	74,700
Total	482,000	536,000	517,000	615,000	569,000	560,000	480,000	547,000	153,000	279	4,310,000	100	1,100,000

-- 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.

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	May	June	July	Quantity	August	Unit Value	January–August		
									Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)
France	109	60	180	19	20	100	76	60	119	\$198	624	2	903
Italy	--	87	--	162	36	--	18	--	--	--	303	1	295
Mexico	118	213	21	156	59	77	59	59	40	68	761	3	373
Turkey	--	26,500 <sup>e</sup>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	26,500 <sup>e</sup>	89	5,040 <sup>e</sup>
United Kingdom	107	35	35	144	193	55	54	283	228	81	905	3	733
Other	55	13	36	10	90	36	77	204	44	22	520	2	821
Total	388	26,900 <sup>e</sup>	272	491	397	267	283	605	431	71	29,600 <sup>e</sup>	100	8,160 <sup>e</sup>

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. -- 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>	--	38,100 <sup>r</sup>	4,500,000 <sup>r</sup>
January–August	7,450,000 <sup>r</sup>	4,500,000	43,000 <sup>r,e</sup>	--	73,800 <sup>r</sup>	3,070,000 <sup>r,e</sup>
August	882,000	452,000	792	--	26,900	458,000
September	936,000	613,000	37,600 <sup>e</sup>	--	28,200 <sup>r</sup>	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–August	7,450,000	4,310,000	29,600 <sup>e</sup>	--	40,500	3,210,000 <sup>e</sup>
January	980,000	482,000	388	8,110	--	491,000 <sup>r</sup>
February	855,000	536,000	26,900 <sup>e</sup>	--	29,300	376,000 <sup>e</sup>
March	983,000	517,000	272	28,900	--	438,000
April	851,000	615,000	491	--	49,800	286,000
May	944,000	569,000	397	24,400	--	352,000
June	895,000	560,000	267	--	32,800	368,000
July	992,000	480,000	283	80,900	--	431,000
August	947,000	547,000	605	--	70,900	471,000

<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.

TABLE 5  
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTER<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

NAICS <sup>2</sup> code	End use	2021					2022		
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter- 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	1st quarter- 2d quarter
3272	Glass:								
327213	Container	254	268	262	254	1,040	240	253	493
327211	Flat	239	242	257	252	990	246	249	495
327993	Fiber	42	47	40	43	172	44	39	83
327212	Other	21	20	18	19	78	17	18	35
	Total	556	578	577	568	2,280	547	559	1,110
32518	Chemicals	318	311	298	331	1,260	306	335	641
325611	Soaps and detergents	59	57	55	59	230	56	59	115
322	Pulp and paper	10	7	9	10	36	8	8	16
221310	Water treatment <sup>3</sup>	9	10	10	9	38	10	10	20
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	38	37	47	36	158	42	38	80
4246	Distributors	64	60	65	65	254	61	62	123
	Other	84	94	112	98	388	116	86	202
	Total domestic consumption <sup>4</sup>	1,140	1,160	1,170	1,180	4,640	1,150	1,160	2,300
	Exports <sup>5</sup>	1,730	1,650	1,600	1,630	6,610	1,620	1,550	3,170
	Canada	38	37	40	46	161	49	44	93
	Total industry sales <sup>6</sup>	2,870	2,800	2,770	2,810	11,200	2,770	2,720	5,480
	Total sales from plants	2,820	2,770	2,800	2,760	11,200	2,780 <sup>r</sup>	2,530	5,310
	Total production	2,750	2,840	2,800	2,860	11,300	2,820	2,690	5,510

<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>North American Industry Classification System.

<sup>3</sup>Includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors and purge liquors sold to power plants for water treatment. Sales of mine water are excluded.

<sup>4</sup>Imports reported by the producer/importer have been distributed into appropriate end-use categories listed above.

<sup>5</sup>As reported by producers; includes Canada. Data may not necessarily agree with those reported by the U.S. Census Bureau for the same periods.

<sup>6</sup>Represents soda ash from domestic origin (production and inventory changes) and imports and exports. Includes soda ash sold by coproducers and distributed by purchasers into appropriate end-use categories.