

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN MARCH 2022

In March, soda ash production was 983,000 metric tons (t), a 15% increase compared with the previous month's revised production and essentially unchanged from that of March 2021. For the first three months of 2022, soda ash production was 2.82 million metric tons (Mt), 3% more than the revised production for the first three months of 2021 (table 4). Ending stocks in March increased to 285,000 t, 11% more than the preceding month (table 1).

Wyoming trona production in March 2022 was 1.55 Mt, a 10% increase compared with the revised trona production in February 2022 and 6% more than the total in March 2021. For the first three months of 2022, trona production was 4.55 Mt, 8% more than the revised total for the first three months of 2021 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash decreased in March 2022 to 518,000 t, 3% less than those in February 2022 and 28% less than those in March 2021. For the first three months of 2022, exports were 1.54 Mt, 12% less than the first three months of 2021 (tables 2, 4).

Imports of soda ash in March 2022 were 272 t compared with 408 t in February 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 March 2022 was 437,000 t, 25% more than the revised total for February 2022 and 34% more than the revised estimated total for March 2021. For the first three months of 2022, apparent consumption was 1.28 Mt, 18% more than the revised estimated apparent consumption for the first three 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 STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	
2021:			
January–March	2,750 ^r	235 ^r	4,230 ^r
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	980 ^r	286	1,600 ^r
February	855 ^r	256	1,400 ^r
March	983	285	1,540
January–March	2,820	285	4,550

^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 2022¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	Quantity	March		January–March		
				Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Argentina	5,000	27,800	--	--	--	32,800	2	\$7,200
Australia	--	35,000	23,000	\$6,760	\$294	58,000	4	16,400
Brazil	84,800	15,200	51,200	10,800	211	151,000	10	31,300
Canada	13,400	15,800	22,200	5,180	233	51,300	3	11,800
Chile	10,200	36,700	53,400	12,400	232	100,000	7	22,000
Colombia	1,500	19,300	9,730	2,200	226	30,500	2	6,580
Indonesia	68,300	25,700	61,800	18,600	300	156,000	10	42,000
Japan	31,000	225	438	48	110	31,600	2	7,150
Korea, Republic of	21,500	39,900	28,500	8,380	294	89,900	6	21,000
Malaysia	31,500	28,700	11,600	3,440	297	71,800	5	17,000
Mexico	128,000	111,000	161,000	37,500	233	400,000	26	93,800
Saudi Arabia	34,200	--	34,500	8,420	244	68,600	4	16,800
Taiwan	15,000	31,300	7,800	2,710	347	54,100	4	17,800
Thailand	12,400	60,400	2,430	588	242	75,300	5	20,000
Venezuela	--	7,700	995	183	184	8,690	1	2,800
Vietnam	13,200	53,200	21,400	7,170	335	87,700	6	25,700
Others	11,600	28,500	27,800	5,710	205	67,900	4	17,300
Total	482,000	536,000	518,000	130,000	251	1,540,000	100	377,000

-- 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 2022¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	Quantity	March		January–March		
				Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit Value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
France	109	60	180	\$189	\$481	349	33	\$460
Germany	45	6	1	14	21,500	51	5	98
Italy	--	87	--	--	--	87	8	51
Mexico	118	213	21	32	1,510	352	33	170
United Kingdom	107	35	35	23	655	177	17	120
Others	10	7	35	135	3,820	53	5	198
Total	388	408	272	393	1,440	1,070	100	1,100

-- 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.

TABLE 4
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Exports	Imports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2021:						
January–December	11,300,000	6,900,000	119,000 ^{r, e}	--	27,600	4,490,000 ^{r, e}
January–March	2,750,000 ^r	1,750,000	19,600 ^{r, e}	--	70,400 ^r	1,080,000 ^{r, e}
March	969,000	719,000	18,500 ^{r, e}	--	57,700	326,000 ^{r, e}
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	21,500 ^{r, e}	--	42,100	402,000 ^{r, e}
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 ^{r, e}	--	28,600	389,000 ^{r, e}
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 ^{r, e}	--	6,920	355,000 ^{r, e}
2022:						
January–March	2,820,000	1,540,000	1,070	7,710	--	1,280,000
January	980,000 ^r	482,000	388	8,110	--	491,000 ^r
February	855,000 ^r	536,000	408	--	29,300	349,000 ^r
March	983,000	518,000	272	28,900	--	437,000

^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.