

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Wallace P. Bolen, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
Telephone: (703) 648-7727
Email: wbolen@usgs.gov

Tiffany J. Lin (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7963
Email: tjlin@usgs.gov

Internet:

www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/mineral-industry-surveys

SODA ASH IN JANUARY 2022

In January, soda ash production was an estimated 995,000 metric tons (t), a slight increase compared with the previous month's revised production and 6% more than the revised production in January 2021 (table 4). Ending stocks in January increased to 286,000 t, 3% more than the revised amount for the preceding month (table 1). Wyoming trona production in January 2022 was an estimated 1.74 million metric tons (Mt), a 13% increase compared with trona production in December 2021 and 14% more than the revised total in January 2021 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash decreased in January 2022 to 482,000 t, 27% less than those in December 2021 and 16% less than those in January 2021 (tables 2, 4). Imports of soda ash in January 2022 were 388 t compared with a revised estimated 40,400 t in December 2021. 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 January 2022 was an estimated 505,000 t, 41% more than that of the revised estimated total for December 2021 and 37% more than the revised total for January 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 each quarter of 2021 and includes most of the soda ash imported from Turkey during the year. Reported consumption for the fourth quarter was 1.18 Mt, a slight increase compared with the reported consumption for the fourth quarter of 2020. The reported consumption for 2021 was 4.64 Mt, a 5% increase compared with the reported consumption for 2020. For 2021, 2.28 Mt (49%) went to glassmaking and 1.26 Mt (27%) was consumed in the production of chemicals.

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		
	Production ²	Stocks, end of period	Wyoming trona production
2021:			
January	940 ^r	303	1,530 ^r
February	837	293	1,240
March	969	235	1,460 ^r
April	921 ^r	281	1,150
May	938	274	1,430
June	984	231	1,550 ^r
July	980	269	1,660
August	882 ^r	242	1,540 ^r
September	936	214	1,520 ^r
October	942	274	1,480
November	950 ^r	285 ^r	1,490
December	972 ^r	278 ^r	1,530
January–December	11,300	278 ^r	17,600 ^r
2022, January	995 ^e	286	1,740 ^e

^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 2022¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	Quantity	January		
		Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Percent of total quantity
Brazil	84,800	\$17,100	\$202	18
Canada	13,400	3,000	224	3
Chile	10,200	1,760	172	2
Indonesia	68,300	17,400	255	14
Japan	31,000	7,080	229	6
Korea, Republic of	21,500	3,620	168	4
Malaysia	31,500	5,510	175	7
Mexico	128,000	30,600	238	27
Saudi Arabia	34,200	8,410	246	7
Taiwan	15,000	4,100	273	3
Thailand	12,400	2,340	188	3
Vietnam	13,200	2,520	191	3
Others	18,100	5,030	277	4
Total	482,000	108,000	225	100

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	Quantity	January		
		Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Percent of total quantity
France	109	\$161	\$1,480	28
Germany	45	35	778	12
Mexico	118	54	458	30
United Kingdom	107	74	695	27
Others	10	24	2,360	3
Total	388	348	897	100

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	130,000 ^{r, e}	--	27,600 ^r	4,510,000 ^e
January	940,000 ^r	575,000	363	--	2,730	368,000 ^r
February	837,000	460,000	651	--	10,000	388,000
March	969,000	719,000	20,500 ^e	--	57,700	328,000
April	921,000 ^r	463,000	686	46,700	--	412,000
May	938,000	676,000	788	--	7,870	270,000
June	984,000	646,000	23,500 ^e	--	42,100	404,000
July	980,000	507,000	373	37,800	--	436,000
August	882,000 ^r	452,000	792	--	26,900	458,000 ^r
September	936,000	613,000	40,600 ^{r, e}	--	28,600	392,000 ^{r, e}
October	942,000	538,000	585	59,800	--	345,000
November	950,000 ^r	593,000	491	11,000	-- ^r	346,000 ^r
December	972,000 ^r	660,000	40,400 ^{r, e}	--	6,920 ^r	359,000 ^{r, e}
2022, January	995,000 ^e	482,000	388	8,110	--	505,000 ^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.

TABLE 5
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTER¹

(Thousand metric tons)

NAICS ² code	End use	2020					2021				
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter
3272	Glass:										
327213	Container	250	259	253	254	1,020	254	268	262	254	1,040
327211	Flat	225	169	241	239	874	239	242	257	252	989
327993	Fiber	40	36	41	43	160	42	47	40	43	172
327212	Other	22	12	22	18	74	21	20	18	19	78
	Total	537	476	557	554	2,120	555	578	577	568	2,280
32518	Chemicals	314	291	304	334	1,240	318	311	298	331	1,260
325611	Soaps and detergents	70	64	62	59	255	59	57	55	59	230
322	Pulp and paper	9	10	9	10	38	10	7	9	10	36
221310	Water treatment ³	10	9	11	10	40	9	10	10	9	39
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	33	30	42	44	149	38	37	47	36	157
4246	Distributors	66	59	59	57	241	64	60	65	65	255
	Other	87	77	95	88	347	84	94	112	98	388
	Total domestic consumption ⁴	1,130	1,020	1,140	1,160	4,440	1,140	1,160	1,170	1,180	4,640
	Exports ⁵	1,740	1,080	1,220	1,400	5,430	1,730	1,650	1,600	1,630	6,610
	Canada	48	40	40	44	172	38	37	40	46	162
	Total industry sales ⁶	2,860	2,090	2,360	2,550	9,860	2,870	2,800	2,770	2,810	11,300
	Total sales from plants	2,920	1,960	2,320	2,670	9,870	2,820 ^r	2,770 ^r	2,800	2,760	11,200
	Total production	2,910	2,070	2,310	2,700	9,990	2,750 ^r	2,840 ^r	2,800	2,860	11,300

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²North American Industry Classification System.

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

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

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

⁶Represents 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.