

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN JUNE 2022

In June, soda ash production was an estimated 911,000 metric tons (t), a 4% decrease compared with the previous month's revised estimated production and 7% less than that of June 2021. For the first six months of 2022, soda ash production was an estimated 5.53 million metric tons (Mt), essentially unchanged from the revised production for the first six months of 2021 (table 4). Ending stocks in June decreased to an estimated 254,000 t, 7% less than the preceding month (table 1).

Wyoming trona production in June 2022 was 1.52 Mt, a 3% increase compared with the revised trona production in May 2022 and 3% less than the total in June 2021. For the first six months of 2022, trona production was 8.73 Mt, 4% more than the revised total for the first six months of 2021 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash decreased in June 2022 to 560,000 t, essentially unchanged from those in May 2022 and 13% less than those in June 2021. For the first six months of 2022, exports were 3.28 Mt, 7% less than the first six months of 2021 (tables 2, 4). Imports of soda ash in June 2022 were 267 t compared with 397 t in May 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 June 2022 was an estimated 371,000 t, 7% more than the revised estimated total for May

2022 but 8% less than the estimated total for June 2021. For the first six months of 2022, apparent consumption was an estimated 2.3 Mt, 6% more than the revised estimated apparent consumption for the first six 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 first quarter of 2022. Reported consumption for the first quarter was 1.15 Mt, essentially unchanged compared with the reported consumption for the first quarter of 2021. During the first quarter, 547,000 t (48%) went to glassmaking and 306,000 t (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 STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Stocks, end of period	
2021:			
January–June	5,590 <sup>r</sup>	231 <sup>r</sup>	8,360 <sup>r</sup>
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	983 <sup>r</sup>	285	1,570
April	851	236	1,170
May	952 <sup>r, e</sup>	273 <sup>r, e</sup>	1,470 <sup>r</sup>
June	911 <sup>e</sup>	254 <sup>e</sup>	1,520
January–June	5,530 <sup>e</sup>	254 <sup>e</sup>	8,730

<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	May	Quantity	June	Unit value	January–June		
							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	\$4,190	\$242	81,000	2	\$19,000
Australia	--	35,000	23,000	--	35,000	--	--	--	93,000	3	26,000
Brazil	84,800	15,200	51,200	31,800	102,000	74,100	17,900	241	359,000	11	78,100
Canada	13,400	15,800	22,200	19,600	15,500	17,500	3,970	227	104,000	3	24,000
Chile	10,200	36,700	53,400	109,000	54,100	31,300	8,340	266	295,000	9	70,300
Colombia	1,500	19,300	9,730	27,900	12,300	23,000	5,210	227	93,600	3	20,800
Indonesia	68,300	25,700	61,800	54,100	84,300	43,600	12,500	286	338,000	10	90,500
Japan	31,000	225	438	41,800	277	20,200	5,150	255	93,900	3	21,700
Korea, Republic of	21,500	39,900	28,500	16,600	14,600	45,700	14,800	324	167,000	5	44,600
Malaysia	31,500	28,700	11,600	38,000	42,400	35,600	10,500	294	188,000	6	48,700
Mexico	128,000	111,000	161,000	143,000	121,000	138,000	33,200	241	802,000	24	187,000
Saudi Arabia	34,200	--	34,500	--	--	--	--	--	68,600	2	16,800
Taiwan	15,000	31,300	7,800	21,500	11,000	20,000	7,070	354	107,000	3	36,100
Thailand	12,400	60,400	2,430	27,200	4,930	31,500	9,190	292	139,000	4	36,700
Vietnam	13,200	53,200	21,400	24,400	33,000	20,400	5,620	276	165,000	5	49,800
Others	11,600	36,200	28,800	35,900	32,400	42,000	13,200	314	187,000	6	51,000
Total	482,000	536,000	518,000	616,000	569,000	560,000	151,000	269	3,280,000	100	821,000

-- 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	Quantity	June		January–June		
							Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit Value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)
France	109	60	180	19	20	100	\$64	\$64	488	2	\$582
Italy	--	87	--	162	36	--	--	--	285	1	277
Mexico	118	213	21	156	59	77	33	43	644	2	303
Turkey	--	26,500 <sup>e</sup>	--	--	--	--	--	--	26,500 <sup>e</sup>	92	5,040 <sup>e</sup>
United Kingdom	107	35	35	144	193	55	38	71	569	2	472
Others	55	13	36	10	90	36	87	243	238	1	542
Total	388	26,900 <sup>e</sup>	272	491 <sup>r</sup>	397	267	223	83	28,700 <sup>e</sup>	100	7,210 <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>	--	27,600	4,490,000 <sup>e</sup>
January–June	5,590,000 <sup>r</sup>	3,540,000	41,900 <sup>r,e</sup>	--	73,800 <sup>r</sup>	2,160,000 <sup>r,e</sup>
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–June	5,530,000 <sup>e</sup>	3,280,000	28,700 <sup>e</sup>	--	24,100 <sup>e</sup>	2,300,000 <sup>e</sup>
January	980,000	482,000	388	8,110	--	491,000
February	855,000	536,000	26,900 <sup>e</sup>	--	29,300	375,000 <sup>e</sup>
March	983,000 <sup>r</sup>	518,000	272	28,900	--	437,000 <sup>r</sup>
April	851,000	616,000	491 <sup>r</sup>	--	49,835	285,000
May	952,000 <sup>r,e</sup>	569,000	397	37,300 <sup>r,e</sup>	--	346,000 <sup>r,e</sup>
June	911,000 <sup>e</sup>	560,000	267	--	19,304 <sup>e</sup>	371,000 <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.

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
3272	Glass:						
327213	Container	254	268	262	254	1,040	240
327211	Flat	239	242	257	252	990 <sup>r</sup>	246
327993	Fiber	42	47	40	43	172	44
327212	Other	21	20	18	19	78	17
	Total	556 <sup>r</sup>	578	577	568	2,280	547
32518	Chemicals	318	311	298	331	1,260	306
325611	Soaps and detergents	59	57	55	59	230	56
322	Pulp and paper	10	7	9	10	36	8
221310	Water treatment <sup>3</sup>	9	10	10	9	38 <sup>r</sup>	10
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	38	37	47	36	158 <sup>r</sup>	42
4246	Distributors	64	60	65	65	254 <sup>r</sup>	61
	Other	84	94	112	98	388	116
	Total domestic consumption <sup>4</sup>	1,140	1,160	1,170	1,180	4,640	1,150
	Exports <sup>5</sup>	1,730	1,650	1,600	1,630	6,610	1,620
	Canada	38	37	40	46	161 <sup>r</sup>	49
	Total industry sales <sup>6</sup>	2,870	2,800	2,770	2,810	11,200 <sup>r</sup>	2,770
	Total sales from plants	2,820	2,770	2,800	2,760	11,200	4,880
	Total production	2,750	2,840	2,800	2,860	11,300	2,820

<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.