



Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Wallace P. Bolen, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist
National Minerals Information Center
Telephone: (703) 648-7727
Email: wbohen@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 APRIL 2022

In April, soda ash production was 851,000 metric tons (t), a 16% decrease compared with the previous month's revised production and 8% less than that of April 2021. For the first four months of 2022, soda ash production was 3.7 million metric tons (Mt), essentially unchanged from the revised production for the first four months of 2021 (table 4). Ending stocks in April decreased to 236,000 t, 17% less than the preceding month (table 1).

Wyoming trona production in April 2022 was 1.17 Mt, a 25% decrease compared with the revised trona production in March 2022 and slightly more than the total in April 2021. For the first four months of 2022, trona production was 5.74 Mt, 7% more than the revised total for the first four months of 2021 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash increased in April 2022 to 616,000 t, 19% more than those in March 2022 and 33% more than those in April 2021. For the first four months of 2022, exports were 2.15 Mt, 3% less than the first four months of 2021 (tables 2, 4).

Imports of soda ash in April 2022 were 491 t compared with 272 t in March 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 April 2022 was 285,000 t, 40% less than the revised total for March 2022 and 31% less than the total for April 2021. For the first four months of 2022, apparent consumption was 1.6 Mt, 7% more than the revised estimated apparent consumption for the first four 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–April	3,670 ^r	281 ^r	5,380 ^r
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	286	1,600
February	855	256	1,400
March	1,020 ^r	285	1,570 ^r
April	851	236	1,170
January–April	3,700	236	5,740

^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	March	Quantity	April	Unit value	January–April		
					Value ² (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Argentina	5,000	27,800	--	25,300	\$6,080	\$240	58,100	3	\$13,300
Australia	--	35,000	23,000	--	--	--	58,000	3	16,400
Brazil	84,800	15,200	51,200	31,800	7,350	231	183,000	9	38,700
Canada	13,400	15,800	22,200	19,600	4,470	228	70,900	3	16,300
Chile	10,200	36,700	53,400	109,000	26,700	244	209,000	10	48,700
Colombia	1,500	19,300	9,730	27,900	6,130	220	58,400	3	12,700
Indonesia	68,300	25,700	61,800	54,100	14,300	264	210,000	10	56,300
Japan	31,000	225	438	41,800	9,410	225	73,400	3	16,600
Korea, Republic of	21,500	39,900	28,500	16,600	4,310	260	107,000	5	25,300
Malaysia	31,500	28,700	11,600	38,000	9,710	255	110,000	5	26,700
Mexico	128,000	111,000	161,000	143,000	31,100	218	543,000	25	125,000
Philippines	6,000	--	5,000	10,500	3,670	350	21,500	1	7,140
Saudi Arabia	34,200	--	34,500	--	--	--	68,600	3	16,800
Taiwan	15,000	31,300	7,800	21,500	7,380	343	75,600	4	25,100
Thailand	12,400	60,400	2,430	27,200	6,260	231	102,000	5	26,300
Vietnam	13,200	53,200	21,400	24,400	7,380	303	112,000	5	33,100
Others	5,610 ^r	36,200 ^r	23,800 ^r	25,400	6,130	242	90,900	4	22,700
Total	482,000	536,000	518,000	616,000	150,000	244	2,150,000	100	527,000

^rRevised. -- 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	March	Quantity	April	Unit Value	January–April		
					Value ² (thousand dollars)		Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
France	109	60	180	19	\$18	\$985	368	24	\$479
Germany	45	6	1	(3)	2	--	51	3	100
Italy	--	87	--	162	198	1,230	249	16	250
Mexico	118	213	21	156	69	446	508	33	240
United Kingdom	107	35	35	144	164	1,140	321	21	284
Others	10	7	35	10	47	4,910	62	4	245
Total	388	408	272	491	500	1,020	1,560	100	1,600

-- 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.

³Less than ½ unit.

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	118,000 ^{r, c}	--	27,600	4,490,000 ^c
January–April	3,670,000 ^r	2,220,000	19,600 ^{r, c}	--	23,800 ^r	1,490,000 ^{r, c}
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 ^c	--	42,100	402,000 ^c
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 ^c	--	28,600	389,000 ^c
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 ^c	--	6,920	355,000 ^c
2022:						
January–April	3,700,000	2,150,000	1,560	--	42,100	1,600,000
January	980,000	482,000	388	8,110	--	491,000
February	855,000	536,000	408	--	29,300	349,000
March	1,020,000 ^r	518,000	272	28,900	--	472,000 ^r
April	851,000	616,000	491	--	49,800	285,000

^cEstimated. ^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.