

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN DECEMBER 2022

In December, soda ash production was 968,000 metric tons (t), a 4% decrease compared with the previous month's production but unchanged from that of December 2021. For 2022, soda ash production was 11.3 million metric tons (Mt), unchanged from the production for 2021 (table 4). Ending stocks in December were 364,000 metric tons (t), 5% more than the ending stocks from the preceding month (table 1).

Wyoming trona production in December 2022 was 1.52 Mt, a 5% increase compared with the trona production in November 2022 but essentially unchanged from the total in December 2021. For 2022, trona production was 17.5 Mt, essentially unchanged compared with the total for 2021 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash increased in December 2022 to 577,000 t, 7% more than those in November 2022 but 13% less than those in December 2021. For 2022, exports were 6.49 Mt, 6% less than the total for 2021 (tables 2, 4). Imports of soda ash in December 2022 were 608 t compared with 624 t in November 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 December 2022 was 374,000 t, 10% less than the total for November 2022 but 5% more than the estimated total for December 2021. For 2022, apparent consumption was an estimated 4.74 Mt, 6% more than the estimated apparent consumption for 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:			
December	972	278	1,540
January–December	11,300	278	17,600
2022:			
January	980	286	1,610
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
July	992	308	1,490
August	947	237	1,540
September	805	236	1,260
October	1,030	298	1,530
November	1,010	346	1,440
December	968	364	1,520
January–December	11,300	364	17,500

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	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December			January–December		
												Quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Argentina	5,000	27,800	--	25,300	5,560	17,300	--	40	1,500	32,200	31,100	19,000	7,100	\$374	165,000	3	48,800
Australia	--	35,000	23,000	--	35,000	--	28,000	23,300	48	35,000	32,000	20,500	4,620	225	232,000	4	68,000
Brazil	84,800	15,200	51,200	31,800	102,000	74,100	8,110	51,500	431	56,700	91,200	8,000	3,230	404	575,000	9	133,000
Canada	13,400	15,800	22,200	19,600	15,500	17,500	15,000	18,100	16,600	12,500	15,900	13,800	3,550	257	196,000	3	46,000
Chile	10,200	36,700	53,400	109,000	54,100	31,300	47,600	98,700	41,800	55,700	75,500	92,100	20,800	225	706,000	11	174,000
Colombia	1,500	19,300	9,730	27,900	12,300	23,000	11,500	17,700	18,300	--	10,000	26,500	6,610	250	177,000	3	41,300
Indonesia	68,300	25,700	61,800	54,100	84,300	43,600	42,200	49,200	41,600	58,400	35,100	66,500	21,200	319	631,000	10	184,000
Japan	31,000	225	438	41,800	277	20,200	40,200	4,080	22,500	28,400	988	37,900	10,100	267	228,000	4	58,200
Korea, Republic of	21,500	39,900	28,500	16,600	14,600	45,700	32,100	28,100	30,700	29,000	16,100	18,000	4,580	255	321,000	5	89,300
Malaysia	31,500	28,700	11,600	38,000	42,400	35,600	35,500	31,100	37,300	18,800	8,500	16,500	6,480	392	335,000	5	95,000
Mexico	128,000	111,000	161,000	143,000	121,000	138,000	145,000	121,000	126,000	119,000	133,000	125,000	32,100	256	1,570,000	24	381,000
Peru	128	13,900	--	3,130	15,800	450	322	14,800	13,400	36	14,100	47	14	298	76,000	1	20,600
Saudi Arabia	34,200	--	34,500	--	--	--	34,400	--	3,980	35,000	--	57	56	982	142,000	2	35,400
Taiwan	15,000	31,300	7,800	21,500	11,000	20,000	--	31,000	21,800	8,700	13,600	6,440	2,530	393	188,000	3	67,900
Thailand	12,400	60,400	2,430	27,200	4,930	31,500	14,100	15,900	39,300	31,800	2,530	43,900	12,400	282	286,000	4	79,500
Vietnam	13,200	53,200	21,400	24,400	33,000	20,400	15,600	1,420	54,000	23,000	26,100	18,700	5,740	308	304,000	5	96,000
Other	11,500	21,700	28,200	32,200	16,700	41,000	10,800	41,900	26,000	24,400	35,700	64,000	19,000	297	354,000	5	111,000
Total	482,000	536,000	517,000	615,000	569,000	560,000	480,000	547,000	496,000	569,000	541,000	577,000	160,000	278	6,490,000	100	1,730,000

-- 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	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	Quantity	December		January–December		
													Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
France	109	60	180	19	20	100	76	60	100	179	201	80	156	\$1,950	1,180	2	1,770
Italy	--	87	--	162	36	--	18	--	--	152	54	72	61	1,130	581	1	528
Mexico	118	213	21	156	59	77	59	59	20	160	56	59	25	438	1,060	2	518
Turkey	--	26,500 ^e	--	--	--	10,000 ^e	--	19,500 ^e	--	--	--	--	--	--	56,000 ^e	91 ^e	15,500 ^e
United Kingdom	107	35	35	144	193	55	54	283	123	70	53	264	291	5,490	1,410	2	1,250
Other	55	13	36	10	90	36	77	204	215	125	261	133	129	495	1,250	2	1,260
Total	388	26,900 ^e	272	491	397	10,300 ^e	283	20,100 ^e	458	686	624	608	661	1,090	61,500 ^e	100 ^e	20,800 ^e

^eEstimated. -- 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 as adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

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 ^e	--	27,600	4,490,000 ^e
December	972,000	660,000	36,400 ^e	--	6,920	355,000 ^e
2022:						
January–December	11,300,000	6,490,000	61,500 ^e	85,900	--	4,740,000 ^e
January	980,000	482,000	388	8,110	--	491,000
February	855,000	536,000	26,900 ^e	--	29,300	376,000 ^e
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	10,300 ^e	--	32,800	378,000 ^e
July	992,000	480,000	283	80,900	--	431,000
August	947,000	547,000	20,100 ^e	--	70,900	490,000 ^e
September	805,000	496,000	458	--	1,200	311,000
October	1,030,000	569,000	686	62,200	--	402,000
November	1,010,000	541,000	624	48,300	--	416,000
December	968,000	577,000	608	17,100	--	374,000

^eEstimated. -- 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.