

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN MAY 2023

In May, soda ash production was 991,000 metric tons (t), a 9% increase compared with the previous month's production, and a 5% increase compared with that of May 2022 (tables 1 and 4). For the first five months of 2023, soda ash production was 4.48 million metric tons (Mt), 3% less than the revised production for the first five months 2022. Ending stocks in May were 297,000 t, 19% more than the ending stocks from the preceding month.

Wyoming trona production in May 2023 was 1.52 Mt, a 14% increase compared with the trona production in April 2023 and 3% more than the total in May 2022. For the first five months of 2023, trona production was 6.96 Mt, 3% less than the amount for same period of 2022 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash increased by 37% in May 2023 to 616,000 t, compared with those in April 2023 and 8% more than those in May 2022 (tables 2, 4). For the first five months of 2023, exports were 2.74 Mt, essentially unchanged compared with the amount for the same period of 2022 (table 1). Imports of soda ash in May 2023 were 757 t compared with the revised total of 538 t in April 2023. 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 May 2023 was 329,000 t, 25% less than the total for April 2023 and 7% less than the total for May 2022. For the first five months of 2023, apparent consumption was 1.81 Mt, 7% less than the revised estimated total for the same period of 2022 (table 4). 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 STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production <sup>2</sup>	Stocks, end of period	
2022:			
January-May	4,610 <sup>r</sup>	260 <sup>r</sup>	7,210 <sup>r</sup>
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
2023:			
January	884	303	1,240
February	831	309	1,340
March	868	231	1,520
April	906	250	1,340
May	991	297	1,520
January-May	4,480	297	6,960

<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 2023<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	Quantity	May		January–May		
						Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value <sup>2</sup> (thousand dollars)
Argentina	17,000	17,500	16,500	30,100	24,500	10,700	\$436	106,000	4	40,700
Australia	28,000	--	35,000	9	35,000	14,100	403	98,000	4	38,700
Brazil	122,000	32,800	59,300	24,000	74,500	28,900	388	312,000	11	114,000
Canada	15,500	18,300	16,800	16,600	14,500	3,870	267	81,800	3	21,500
Chile	38,100	82,100	64,900	47,300	74,300	24,100	324	307,000	11	93,400
China	14	4,800	61,900	--	20,000	5,900	295	86,700	3	20,400
Colombia	18,300	40,300	11,900	500	8,000	2,530	316	78,900	3	24,700
India	31,100	3,050	1,920	5,110	43,200	12,600	291	84,300	3	24,700
Indonesia	22,500	53,200	13,700	55,200	47,900	17,300	361	192,000	7	68,600
Japan	15,500	22,700	10,100	4,800	34,400	13,200	385	87,600	3	33,400
Korea, Republic of	15,000	32,000	10,900	7,220	40,100	14,300	357	105,000	4	36,200
Malaysia	19,800	22,200	26,800	--	27,500	11,200	406	96,200	4	33,800
Mexico	133,000	121,000	153,000	142,000	117,000	32,300	276	666,000	24	179,000
Peru	7,500	11,000	5,250	17,300	300	97	322	41,400	2	14,400
Taiwan	13,000	15,000	14,000	221	42,500	15,900	374	84,700	3	31,000
Thailand	28,500	15,500	10,200	24,100	507	163	322	78,700	3	27,900
United Arab Emirates	12,000	676	27	676	--	--	--	13,300	(3)	3,120
Vietnam	14,800	69,200	2,500	59,900	2,000	729	365	148,000	5	47,300
Other	25,600	11,800 <sup>†</sup>	8,150	13,400	9,910	2,740	276	68,800	3	20,500
Total	577,000	573,000	523,000	448,000	616,000	211,000	342	2,740,000	100	874,000

<sup>†</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>Free alongside ship values at U.S. ports.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY, IN 2023<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May			January–May		
					Quantity	Value <sup>2</sup>	Unit value	Quantity	Percent	Value <sup>2</sup>
						(thousand dollars)			of total quantity	(thousand dollars)
Canada	173	175	239	167	171	28	\$165	925	26	150
France	20	241	139	100	20	56	2,790	519	15	813
Germany	80	51	2	(3)	2	34	19,400	135	4	356
India	56	30	6	26	1	17	16,500	118	3	158
Italy	72	72	60	72	36	32	897	312	9	286
Japan	5	1	20	2	22	132	5,880	50	1	282
Mexico	98	116	200	20	236	106	450	669	19	371
Turkey	--	70	--	70	70	23	330	211	6	74
United Kingdom	89	71	72	52	154	122	793	437	12	419
Other	10	20	48	29	45	36	812	151	4	167
Total	603	846 <sup>r</sup>	785	538 <sup>r</sup>	757	586	774	3,530	100	3,080

<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>Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

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	
2022:						
January–December	11,300,000	6,490,000	61,500 <sup>e</sup>	85,900	--	4,740,000 <sup>e</sup>
January–May	4,610,000 <sup>r</sup>	2,720,000	28,500 <sup>r</sup>	--	17,800 <sup>r</sup>	1,940,000 <sup>r, e</sup>
May	944,000	569,000	397	24,400	--	352,000
June	895,000	560,000	10,300 <sup>e</sup>	--	32,800	378,000 <sup>e</sup>
July	992,000	480,000	283	80,900	--	431,000
August	947,000	547,000	20,100 <sup>e</sup>	--	70,900	490,000 <sup>e</sup>
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
2023:						
January–May	4,480,000	2,740,000	3,530	--	66,100	1,810,000
January	884,000	577,000	603	--	60,200	368,000
February	831,000	573,000	846 <sup>r</sup>	6,050	--	253,000
March	868,000	523,000	785	--	77,900	424,000
April	906,000	448,000	538 <sup>r</sup>	18,600	--	439,000
May	991,000	616,000	757	47,300	--	329,000

<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.