

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN MAY 2021

In May, soda ash production was 938,000 metric tons (t), a slight increase compared with the previous month's production and 38% more than that of May 2020. Ending stocks in May decreased to 268,000 t, 3% less than those of the preceding month (tables 1, 4).

Wyoming trona production in May 2021 was 1.43 million metric tons, 24% more than the production of April 2021 and 35% more than that of May 2020 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash increased in May 2021 to 676,000 t, 46% more than those of April 2021 and 59% more than those of May 2020 (table 2,4).

May 2021 imports of soda ash were 788 t, 15% more than those of April 2021 and 18% more than that of May 2020. 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 2021 was 270,000 t, 35% less than the total for April 2021 but 32% more than the total for May 2020. 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	
2020:			
January–May	4,370 ^r	383	6,900 ^r
May	679	383	1,060
June	611	519	935
July	717	276	712
August	846	342	1,010
September	747	232	1,150
October	937	293	1,460
November	838	307	1,370
December	927	305	1,450
January–December	9,990	305	15,000
2021:			
January	952	301	1,510
February	1,100	287	1,240
March	969	229	1,440
April	922	276	1,150
May	938	268	1,430
January–May	4,880	268	6,770

^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 2021¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May			January–May		
					Quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
Argentina	60	18,400	9,520	--	14,000	\$2,970	\$212	42,000	1	\$8,920
Australia	35,000	--	29,500	21,000	14,000	2,840	203	99,500	3	23,100
Brazil	88,900	60,000	87,100	6,900	84,600	13,300	157	328,000	11	47,800
Canada	14,600	14,900	16,700	16,500	15,300	3,760	246	78,000	3	19,200
Chile	40,600	32,800	46,500	7,100	79,800	18,500	232	207,000	7	47,400
China	11	133	18	--	51,700	7,620	147	51,900	2	7,660
Colombia	7,000	10,100	28,000	--	22,800	4,260	187	67,900	2	13,200
Guatemala	7,000	--	10,600	--	--	--	--	17,600	1	3,940
India	15,000	42	40,200	--	25	3	110	55,300	2	10,200
Indonesia	35,000	38,500	24,800	91,900	60,500	10,400	172	251,000	9	45,900
Japan	--	30,500	225	29,700	892	98	110	61,400	2	11,300
Korea, Republic of	168	25,600	16,700	19,800	18,100	2,910	161	80,400	3	12,700
Malaysia	30,000	36,200	95,300	39,500	36,000	6,140	171	237,000	8	40,400
Mexico	111,000	109,000	184,000	110,000	105,000	27,000	257	619,000	21	167,000
Peru	10,200	--	11,600	3	16,000	3,030	190	37,700	1	7,370
Saudi Arabia	47,100	99	13,700	--	18,000	2,100	117	78,900	3	12,100
Taiwan	--	13,000	18,900	22,200	22,900	4,080	178	77,000	3	13,200
Thailand	64,800	10,600	23,500	26,400	68,000	11,600	171	193,000	7	32,600
United Arab Emirates	29,400	--	10,500	--	14,500	1,570	108	54,400	2	8,190
Vietnam	26,800	59,500	21,100	62,400	20,300	3,830	189	190,000	7	32,600
Other	12,300	1,310 [†]	30,600	9,810	14,000	2,520	180	68,000	2	13,100
Total	575,000	460,000	719,000	463,000	676,000	128,000	190	2,890,000	100	578,000

[†]Revised. -- 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 2021¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country or locality	January	February	March	April	May Quantity	May		January–May		
						Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
China	93	46	121	64	134	\$92	\$688	457	15	\$303
France	60	103	100	99	139	151	1,090	500	16	505
Mexico	116	194	233	233	175	72	411	952	31	368
Turkey	--	--	20,000 ^e	--	--	--	--	20,000 ^e	87	3,600 ^e
United Kingdom	93	201	35	229	140	90	643	698	23	456
Other	2	107	59	61	200	140	698	429	14	429
Total	363	651	20,500 ^e	686	788	545	691	23,000 ^e	100	5,660 ^e

^eEstimated. ^rRevised.

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	
2020:						
January–December	9,990,000	5,590,000	98,100 ^e	15,900	--	4,480,000 ^e
January–May	4,370,000 ^r	2,640,000	38,500	93,800	--	1,670,000 ^r
May	679,000	425,000	666	50,500	--	204,000
June	611,000	298,000	27,800 ^e	136,000	--	205,000 ^e
July	717,000	386,000	421	--	243,000	574,000
August	846,000	363,000	687	66,300	--	418,000
September	747,000	471,000	28,900 ^e	--	110,000	415,000 ^e
October	937,000	487,000	465	60,700	--	390,000
November	838,000	442,000	556	14,600	--	382,000
December	927,000	500,000	808	--	2,160	429,000
2021:						
January–May	4,880,000	2,890,000	23,000 ^e	--	37,400	2,040,000 ^e
January	952,000	575,000	363	--	4,370	381,000
February	1,100,000	460,000	651	--	13,400	651,000
March	969,000	719,000	20,500 ^{r,e}	--	58,300	329,000 ^r
April	922,000	463,000	686	46,700	--	412,000
May	938,000	676,000	788	--	8,040	270,000

^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.