

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JUNE 2021

In June, soda ash production was 966,000 metric tons (t), a 3% increase compared with the previous month's production and 58% more than that of June 2020. For the first 6 months of 2021, soda ash production was 5.84 million metric tons (Mt), 17% more than the revised total for the same period of 2020. Ending stocks in June decreased to 225,000 t, 16% less than those of the preceding month (tables 1, 4). Demand for soda ash returned to near pre-pandemic levels in recent months and resulted in the large increases in consumption, exports, and production reported for the first 6 months of the year.

Wyoming trona production in June 2021 was 1.5 Mt, 5% more than the production of May 2021 and 60% more than that of June 2020. For the first 6 months of 2021, trona production was 8.27 million metric tons (Mt), 6% more than the revised total for the same period of 2020 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash decreased in June 2021 to 646,000 t, 4% less than those of May 2021 but more than double those of June 2020. For the first 6 months of 2021, exports were 3.54 Mt, 20% more than for the same period of 2020 (table 2,4).

June 2021 imports of soda ash were 503 t, 36% less than those of May 2021 and 98% less than that of June 2020. For the

first 6 months of 2021, imports were 23,500 t, 64% less than for the same period of 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 June 2021 was 363,000 t, 34% more than the total for May 2021 and 77% more than the total for June 2020. For the first 6 months of 2021, apparent consumption was 2.41 Mt, 28% more than the revised total for the same period of 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–June | 4,980 ^r | 519 ^r | 7,840 ^r |
| 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 |
| June | 966 | 225 | 1,500 |
| January–June | 5,840 | 225 | 8,270 |

^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 | Quantity | June | | January–June | | |
|----------------------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---|---------------|--------------|---------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | | Value ² (thousand dollars) | Unit value | Quantity | Percent of total quantity | Value ² (thousand dollars) |
| Argentina | 60 | 18,400 | 9,520 | -- | 14,000 | 38,800 | \$7,320 | \$189 | 80,800 | 2 | \$16,200 |
| Australia | 35,000 | -- | 29,500 | 21,000 | 14,000 | 36,700 | 7,410 | 202 | 136,000 | 4 | 30,600 |
| Brazil | 88,900 | 60,000 | 87,100 | 6,900 | 84,600 | 74,200 | 12,000 | 162 | 402,000 | 11 | 59,800 |
| Canada | 14,600 | 14,900 | 16,700 | 16,500 | 15,300 | 14,300 | 3,550 | 248 | 92,300 | 3 | 22,700 |
| Chile | 40,600 | 32,800 | 46,500 | 7,100 | 79,800 | 37,200 | 8,780 | 236 | 244,000 | 7 | 56,100 |
| China | 11 | 133 | 18 | -- | 51,700 | 21,400 | 3,880 | 182 | 73,200 | 2 | 11,500 |
| Colombia | 7,000 | 10,100 | 28,000 | -- | 22,800 | 40,500 | 8,390 | 207 | 108,000 | 3 | 21,600 |
| Guatemala | 7,000 | -- | 10,600 | -- | -- | 12,500 | 2,390 | 191 | 30,100 | 1 | 6,330 |
| India | 15,000 | 42 | 40,200 | -- | 25 | 20,000 | 4,160 | 208 | 75,300 | 2 | 14,300 |
| Indonesia | 35,000 | 38,500 | 24,800 | 91,900 | 60,500 | 36,500 | 7,740 | 212 | 287,000 | 8 | 53,600 |
| Japan | -- | 30,500 | 225 | 29,700 | 892 | 35,800 | 6,240 | 175 | 97,100 | 3 | 17,600 |
| Korea, Republic of | 168 | 25,600 | 16,700 | 19,800 | 18,100 | 26,000 | 4,660 | 179 | 106,000 | 3 | 17,400 |
| Malaysia | 30,000 | 36,200 | 95,300 | 39,500 | 36,000 | 46,800 | 8,380 | 179 | 284,000 | 8 | 48,800 |
| Mexico | 111,000 | 109,000 | 184,000 | 110,000 | 105,000 | 130,000 | 30,100 | 231 | 749,000 | 21 | 198,000 |
| Peru | 10,200 | -- | 11,600 | 3 | 16,000 | 14,000 | 2,420 | 173 | 51,700 | 1 | 9,790 |
| Saudi Arabia | 47,100 | 99 | 13,700 | -- | 18,000 | 13,000 | 2,030 | 156 | 91,900 | 3 | 14,100 |
| Taiwan | -- | 13,000 | 18,900 | 22,200 | 22,900 | 7,000 | 1,450 | 207 | 84,000 | 2 | 14,600 |
| Thailand | 64,800 | 10,600 | 23,500 | 26,400 | 68,000 | 8,840 | 1,700 | 192 | 202,000 | 6 | 34,300 |
| United Arab Emirates | 29,400 | -- | 10,500 | -- | 14,500 | 11,100 | 1,950 | 176 | 65,500 | 2 | 10,100 |
| Vietnam | 26,800 | 59,500 | 21,100 | 62,400 | 20,300 | 7,190 | 1,090 | 152 | 197,000 | 6 | 33,700 |
| Other | 12,300 | 1,310 | 30,600 | 9,810 | 14,000 | 14,400 | 2,710 | 188 | 82,400 | 2 | 15,800 |
| Total | 575,000 | 460,000 | 719,000 | 463,000 | 676,000 | 646,000 | 128,000 | 199 | 3,540,000 | 100 | 707,000 |

-- 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 2021¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

| Country or locality | January | February | March | April | May | June | | | January–June | | |
|---------------------|---------|----------|---------------------|-------|-----|----------|--|------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--|
| | | | | | | Quantity | Value ² (thousand dollars) | Unit value | Quantity | Percent of total quantity | Value ² (thousand dollars) |
| China | 93 | 46 | 121 | 64 | 134 | 72 | \$52 | \$725 | 529 | 2 | \$355 |
| France | 60 | 103 | 100 | 99 | 139 | 140 | 100 | 716 | 640 | 3 | 606 |
| Mexico | 116 | 194 | 233 | 233 | 175 | 59 | 36 | 606 | 1,010 | 4 | 403 |
| Turkey | -- | -- | 20,000 ^e | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 20,000 ^e | 85 | 3,600 ^e |
| United Kingdom | 93 | 201 | 35 | 229 | 140 | 181 | 152 | 839 | 879 | 4 | 608 |
| Other | 2 | 107 | 59 | 61 | 200 | 51 | 77 | 1,520 | 480 | 2 | 506 |
| Total | 363 | 651 | 20,500 ^e | 686 | 788 | 503 | 417 | 829 | 23,500 ^e | 100 | 6,080 ^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.

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–June | 4,980,000 ^r | 2,940,000 | 66,200 ^r | 230,000 ^r | -- | 1,870,000 ^r |
| 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–June | 5,840,000 | 3,540,000 | 23,500 ^e | -- | 79,900 | 2,410,000 ^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 ^e | -- | 58,300 | 329,000 ^e |
| April | 922,000 | 463,000 | 686 | 46,700 | -- | 412,000 |
| May | 938,000 | 676,000 | 788 | -- | 8,040 | 270,000 |
| June | 966,000 | 646,000 | 503 | -- | 42,500 | 363,000 |

^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.