



Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JULY 2021

In July, soda ash production was 980,000 metric tons (t), a slight increase compared with the previous month's production and 37% more than that of July 2020. For the first 7 months of 2021, soda ash production was 6.82 million metric tons (Mt), 20% more than the revised total for the same period of 2020. Ending stocks in July increased to 261,000 t, 16% more than those of the preceding month (tables 1, 4). In recent months, demand for soda ash nearly returned to levels seen before the global COVID-19 pandemic began. As a result, apparent consumption, exports, and production reported for the first 7 months of the year increased substantially.

Wyoming trona production in July 2021 was 1.64 Mt, 9% more than the production of June 2021 and more than double that of July 2020. For the first 7 months of 2021, trona production was 9.91 Mt, 16% more than the revised total for the same period of 2020 (table 1).

Exports of soda ash decreased in July 2021 to 507,000 t, 22% less than those of June 2021 but 31% more than those of July 2020. For the first 7 months of 2021, exports were 4.05 Mt, 22% more than for the same period of 2020 (table 2,4).

Imports of soda ash in July 2021 were 373 t compared with 23,500 t for the revised total for June 2021. For the first 7 months of 2021, imports were 46,900 t, 30% less than the revised total 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 July 2021 was 437,000 t, 13% more than the revised total for June 2021 but 24% less than the total for July 2020. For the first 7 months of 2021, apparent consumption was 2.87 Mt, 17% 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).

Table 5 provides reported soda ash consumption statistics for the second quarter of 2021. Reported consumption for the second quarter was 1.16 Mt, a 14% increase compared with the reported consumption for the second quarter of 2020. The reported consumption for the first 6 months of 2021 was 2.29 Mt, a 7% increase compared with the reported consumption for the same period of 2020. During the second quarter of 2021, 578,000 t (50%) went to glassmaking and 311,000 t (27%) was consumed in the production of chemicals.

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–July	5,700 ^r	276 ^r	8,550 ^r
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
July	980	261	1,640
January–July	6,820	261	9,900

^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	June	July			January–July		
							Quantity	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	40	\$26	\$638	80,800	2	\$16,300
Australia	35,000	--	29,500	21,000	14,000	36,700	26,000	5,630	217	162,000	4	36,200
Brazil	88,900	60,000	87,100	6,900	84,600	74,200	--	--	--	402,000	10	59,800
Canada	14,600	14,900	16,700	16,500	15,300	14,300	16,700	3,920	235	109,000	3	26,600
Chile	40,600	32,800	46,500	7,100	79,800	37,200	46,200	11,100	240	290,000	7	67,200
China	11	133	18	--	51,700	21,400	15,200	3,000	197	88,500	2	14,500
Colombia	7,000	10,100	28,000	--	22,800	40,500	13,700	2,650	193	122,000	3	24,200
Guatemala	7,000	--	10,600	--	--	12,500	7,000	1,490	213	37,100	1	7,820
India	15,000	42	40,200	--	25	20,000	--	--	--	75,300	2	14,300
Indonesia	35,000	38,500	24,800	91,900	60,500	36,500	39,700	6,850	173	327,000	8	60,500
Japan	--	30,500	225	29,700	892	35,800	34,800	6,200	178	132,000	3	23,800
Korea, Republic	168	25,600	16,700	19,800	18,100	26,000	50,700	8,290	163	157,000	4	25,700
Malaysia	30,000	36,200	95,300	39,500	36,000	46,800	12,700	2,280	180	297,000	7	51,100
Mexico	111,000	109,000	184,000	110,000	105,000	130,000	121,000	29,400	243	870,000	21	227,000
Peru	10,200	--	11,600	3	16,000	14,000	4,000	781	195	55,700	1	10,600
Saudi Arabia	47,100	99	13,700	--	18,000	13,000	101	52	511	92,000	2	14,200
Taiwan	--	13,000	18,900	22,200	22,900	7,000	25,500	4,560	179	110,000	3	19,200
Thailand	64,800	10,600	23,500	26,400	68,000	8,840	9,420	1,640	174	212,000	5	35,900
United Arab Emirates	29,400	--	10,500	--	14,500	11,100	--	--	--	65,500	2	10,100
Vietnam	26,800	59,500	21,100	62,400	20,300	7,190	63,900	11,900	186	261,000	6	45,500
Other	12,300	1,310	30,600	9,810	14,000	14,400	20,000	4,390	220	102,000	3	20,200
Total	575,000	460,000	719,000	463,000	676,000	646,000	507,000	104,000	206	4,050,000	100	811,000

-- 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	July			January–July		
							Quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)	Unit value	Quantity	Percent of total quantity	Value ² (thousand dollars)
China	93	46	121	64	134	72	17	\$14	\$839	546	1	\$369
France	60	103	100	99	139	140	--	--	--	640	1	606
Mexico	116	194	233	233	175	59	99	54	547	1,110	2	458
Turkey	--	--	20,000 ^c	--	--	23,000 ^{r,c}	--	--	--	43,000 ^c	92	7,740 ^c
United Kingdom	93	201	35	229	140	181	145	108	740	1,020	2	715
Other	2	107	59	61	200	51	111	175	1,570	591	1	681
Total	363	651	20,500 ^c	686	788	23,500 ^{r,c}	373	351	941	46,900 ^c	100	10,600 ^c

^cEstimated. ^rRevised. -- 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	
2020:						
January–December	9,990,000	5,590,000	98,100 ^c	15,900	--	4,480,000 ^c
January–July	5,700,000 ^r	3,330,000	66,700 ^r	--	13,800 ^r	2,450,000 ^r
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 ^c	--	110,000	415,000 ^c
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–July	6,820,000	4,050,000	46,900 ^c	--	43,900	2,870,000 ^c
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 ^c	--	58,300	329,000 ^c
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	23,500 ^{r,c}	--	42,500	386,000 ^{r,c}
July	980,000	507,000	373	36,000	--	437,000

^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.

TABLE 5
 REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTER¹

(Thousand metric tons)

NAICS ² code	End use	2020					2021		
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	1st quarter– 2nd quarter
3272	Glass:								
327213	Container	250	259	253	254	1,020	254	268	522
327211	Flat	225	169	241	239	874	239	242	481
327993	Fiber	40	36	41	43	160	42	47	89
327212	Other	22	12	22	18	74	21	20	41
	Total	537	476	557	554	2,120	555	578	1,130
32518	Chemicals	314	291	304	334	1,240	318	311	629
325611	Soaps and detergents	70	64	62	59	255	59	57	116
322	Pulp and paper	9	10	9	10	38	10	7	17
221310	Water treatment ³	10	9	11	10	40	9	10	19
56221	Flue gas desulfurization	33	30	42	44	149	38	37	75
4246	Distributors	66	59	59	57	241	64	60	124
	Other	87	77	95	88	347	84	94	178
	Total domestic consumption ⁴	1,130	1,020	1,140	1,160	4,440	1,140	1,160	2,290
	Exports ⁵	1,740	1,080	1,220	1,400	5,430	1,730	1,650	3,380
	Canada	48	40	40	44	172	38	37	75
	Total industry sales ⁶	2,860	2,090	2,360	2,550	9,860	2,870	2,800	5,670
	Total sales from plants	2,920	1,960	2,320	2,670	9,870	2,640	2,810	5,450
	Total production	2,910	2,070	2,310	2,700	9,990	3,020	2,830	5,840

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²North American Industry Classification System.

³Includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors and purge liquors sold to power plants for water treatment. Sales of mine water are excluded.

⁴Imports reported by the producer/importer have been distributed into appropriate end-use categories listed above.

⁵As reported by producers; includes Canada. Data may not necessarily agree with those reported by the U.S. Census Bureau for the same periods

⁶Represents soda ash from domestic origin (production and inventory changes) and imports and exports. Includes soda ash sold by coproducers and distributed by purchasers into appropriate end-use categories.