

# Sodium Carbonate

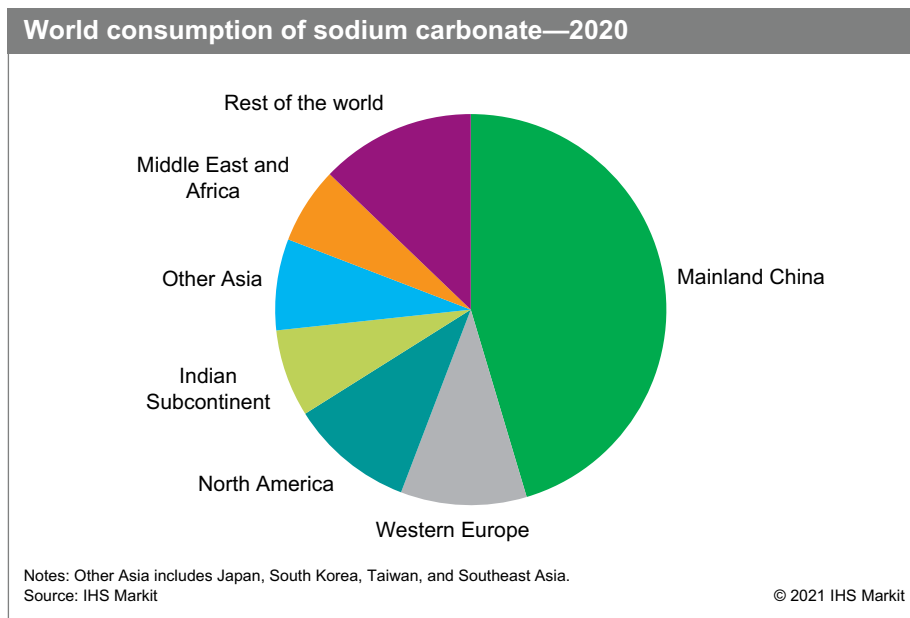
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## Abstract

Sodium carbonate, also known as disodium carbonate or soda ash, is a member of the chlor-alkali chemical family and competes with caustic soda as a source of alkali (sodium oxide) in many processes. Commercial soda ash is highly purified and is sold in various grades that differ primarily in bulk density. Sodium carbonate is produced synthetically and from natural resources (primarily trona). In 2020, synthetic methods accounted for about three-fourths of production, but production from natural resources has recently increased the fastest, led by increased capacity in Turkey.

Northeast Asia (led by mainland China), North America (led by the United States), and the Middle East (led by Turkey) are the world's leading producing regions. Production will increase the fastest in the United States and India in 2020–25, while production in Western Europe and South America will continue to decline.

The following chart shows world consumption of sodium carbonate:



The leading consuming regions are Northeast Asia (led by mainland China), Western Europe, North America, and the Indian Subcontinent (led by India). The Indian Subcontinent is expected to have the highest growth rate during 2020–25, with South America and Southeast Asia following closely.

## Contacts

IHS Markit Customer Care • [CustomerCare@ihsmarkit.com](mailto:CustomerCare@ihsmarkit.com)

The leading applications for sodium carbonate are the production of glass, chemicals, soaps and detergents (including STPP), and alumina and metals mining. Use in the production of lithium carbonate is the fastest-growing application, primarily in the production of lithium-ion batteries. The production of glass accounted for over half of global consumption in 2020; this market was hit hard by the pandemic, as demand for flat glass in automobiles and construction dropped sharply. All applications are forecast to increase during 2020–25, with overall consumption increasing at 3–4% per year.

**For more detailed information, see the table of contents, shown below.**

**IHS Markit's Chemical Economics Handbook – *Sodium Carbonate*** is the comprehensive and trusted guide for anyone seeking information on this industry. This latest report details global and regional information, including



Global summary;  
regional coverage



Producers with  
annual capacities  
and plant sites



Production figures  
and trends



Consumption and  
forecasts by end use  
application



Manufacturing  
processes and  
environmental issues



Trade – imports  
and exports

## Key benefits

**IHS Markit's Chemical Economics Handbook – *Sodium Carbonate*** has been compiled using primary interviews with key suppliers and organizations, and leading representatives from the industry in combination with IHS Markit's unparalleled access to upstream and downstream market intelligence and expert insights into industry dynamics, trade, and economics.

This report can help you

- Identify trends and driving forces influencing chemical markets
- Forecast and plan for future demand
- Understand the impact of competing materials
- Identify and evaluate potential customers and competitors
- Evaluate producers
- Track changing prices and trade movements
- Analyze the impact of feedstocks, regulations, and other factors on chemical profitability

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## IHS Markit Customer Care

CustomerCare@ihsmarkit.com

### **Asia and the Pacific Rim**

Japan: +81 3 6262 1887

Asia Pacific: +604 291 3600

**Europe, Middle East, and Africa: +44 (0) 1344 328 300**

**Americas: +1 800 447 2273**

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